

LANCASTER JUDGES' LODGINGS

UPDATE

Newsletter of the Friends of Lancaster Judges' Lodgings

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The Judges' Lodgings in August

With the real holiday season in full swing, Manager Lynda has been able to report both good footfall in the building and good takings in the shop. At the beginning of the month the JL intended to be a participant in the Lancaster BID event Witches and Wizards Weekend, running a Witches' Academy in the garden – but alas the weather was not responsive to magic spells and the JL part of the event had to be moved elsewhere. The good visitor numbers have unfortunately coincided with some staffing difficulties, with room stewards having to absent themselves from time to time for Covid-related reasons – but volunteers have filled in where they could and JL staff have provided cover. Many thanks to all those people working extra hours to make sure the JL is there and open for its visitors.

August in the Garden

The hard work of Jenny (site manager) and her team of volunteer gardeners has certainly paid off, with brilliantly flowering borders and a grassy space where children can play with the garden games. It's good to see parents being coaxed into playing croquet with children not much bigger than the croquet mallet, standing patiently watching their offspring only infrequently connecting with the ball, until it finally reached them, and then obviously restraining the desire to give the ball a really hard wallop. And croquet is supposed to be such a vicious game. There were plenty of bees hard at work among the flowers – who knows how far away they are from their hives, but the JL flowers are certainly worth flying for.



Trip to Hornby Castle

There is a lovely early painting of Hornby Castle hanging in the Reception Area of the JL which has inspired one of the reception staff to organise a trip to the Castle for Friends and their spouses and other friends. The Castle is a private residence so visitors cannot look round inside, but the trip which has been organised for Thursday 16 September will include a guided tour of the beautiful extensive grounds, a talk on the Castle's history and afternoon tea in a marquee – cost £13.00, payable in advance.



The garden tour is quite long, so for visitors with mobility difficulties there is a shortened version – but the same amount of afternoon tea.

If you would like to come please can you contact Susan Batternay who has made the arrangements (susan.batternay@lancashire.gov.uk) with the following details –

- full name and email address
- daytime contact telephone number
- any special dietary requirements (as regards tea/coffee and cakes)
- how many people you could offer to take in your car

Susan needs to have this information asap, and at latest by this weekend (5 Sept), and asks that you call in to the JL with payment on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, when she is usually on duty, or the payment can be left with one of the Museum staff.

New Publication

One of our room stewards, Suzanne Bradshaw, while working at the JL, has given much thought, not just to the Judges who stayed here, but more importantly to the staff who looked after the Judges' Lodgings from 1826 until the 1930s, and made it possible for the Judges and their retinue to live comfortably during their visits three times a year to the Lancaster Assizes. These thoughts inspired Suzanne to investigate what she could about the lives of the housekeepers and caretakers who were appointed as soon as the Judges' Lodgings was officially declared the residence of the Assize judges. She has written a book – **They Walked These Floors** – to provide the histories of the full-time residents of the JL.

They Walked These Floors

A History of the Forgotten

Keepers of the Judges' Lodgings



Suzanne Bradshaw

Suzanne has very kindly made her book available to the Friends to publish and sell through the JL shop, with all profits going to the Friends of the JL. The Friends are very grateful to Suzanne for this most generous donation. The book is on sale at the JL shop, price £7.99 and makes a very special souvenir of a visit to the JL, filling in some

of the blanks about the people who helped to bring us the modern-day Judges' Lodgings. Please buy to enjoy, learn and help further development of the JL.

Victorian Tea Room

Our pop-up Victorian Tea Room has popped up twice in the last couple of months, and has been a great success, raising well over £100 on each occasion. We had planned to open up on Saturday 11 September, but this will now not be possible, due to shortage of personnel. We are hoping instead to arrange the next one for the Heritage Open Days weekend, on Sunday 19 September, but it depends very much on the number of Friends who can offer help. We will particularly need waiting staff but will also need washers-up and donations of cakes and bakes (it would be great to have Lancashire-themed recipes if you have any – one of the themes for the event is Edible England – celebrating local and regional delicacies).

The Tea Room will be open from 11-3, and volunteers can come along for half or all the time. Please let me know if you can help as soon as possible, so that we can confirm that the Tea Room will open.

Events

Heritage Open Days – The JL is one of Lancaster's venues for the Heritage Open days weekends, open as a Heritage site 17-19 September. There will be **Behind the Scenes** tours, with a maximum of 6 people per tour. These will probably be every hour depending on how long each tour takes. There will be steep steps, low ceilings, uneven floors and low light levels – hard hats will be offered to all. Visitors are requested to wear masks in the enclosed spaces. Please email judgeslodgings@lancashire.gov.uk to book a space with what time and day you want and a time will be confirmed. AND, it's all free...(though donations are always appreciated)

Buzzing Bees – A Day in the Life of a Bee-Keeper – The Friends hosted a very successful day in the JL garden on Sunday 29 August, with the sun shining and an excellent presentation, with fun for all the family throughout the day. There was a



glassed-in case with bees inside going about their daily affairs, so that the onlooker could see the cells which they were creating for eggs, some honey on the comb, and the

Queen Bee marked out with a gold spot. Children could don protective bee suits (as could adults),



wearing which, together with croquet mallets, they invented a new game. Visitors could colour and create their own Bee-masks, and there was local honey for sale.



Many thanks to Helen and Roger



Jump and their bee- for putting on such a interesting day.



keeping colleagues fascinating and

Volunteering at the Judges' Lodgings

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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