

# LANCASTER JUDGES' LODGINGS

## UPDATE

Newsletter of the Friends of Lancaster Judges' Lodgings

Issue no 76

December 2022



**Happy New Year to all Friends and supporters of the Judges' Lodgings. May 2023 bring Peace and Prosperity to all, especially where it is most needed**

### The Judges' Lodgings in December

Although the JL Museum closed in early November until March, it came alive again for a wonderful Victorian Christmas weekend, full of light and sound and Christmas elves to assist Father Christmas – who of course was also present. Children from various local schools had helped with the decorations and local groups of musicians provided the festive sound. Lynda, Museum Manager, describes the event –

“Victorian Christmas was a great success with almost 20 classes visiting in the week and 590 people visiting over the two days at the weekend. The house was full of music with performances by Martin Widden, Eleanor Servante, Batala, Bay Singers, University Clarinet Choir, University Brass Quintet, Lancaster Priory Choir and many more. A very jolly Santa gave out sweets on the top floor and hundreds of cornucopia were made.



Thanks to all the volunteers and

Friends for a lovely tea room, festive craft and room stewarding. Many families commented how affordable their visit was and how much it was a family tradition since they had come as children and were now bringing their own families.”

Although closed to the public, life goes on all during the winter within the building. Apart from general maintenance, work on the Gillows Gallery goes on apace. An update from Lynda tells us –

“As the old displays have been stripped out, the team have discovered some original features including the window and shutters in excellent condition and evidence of the original stone hearth on the floor. There's even a packet of cigarettes found between the

floorboards – perhaps evidence of the last junior judge that stayed there! Many objects have gone for conservation work and there will be a range of items on display for the first time, including an 18th century piece rate book showing the agreed payment rates for different aspects of furniture making.”

It is anticipated that the Gillows Gallery in its new form will be open to the public when the Museum reopens for the 2023 season. There will be more updates as the work progresses.



### The Garden in December

Winter in the garden is quiet as elsewhere, but the cold snap during the month brought its own responses, with frost covering the grass and barely melting when the low sun hit it, and outlining the fallen leaves, producing an art work all of its own.



We'll look forward to watching for the bulbs and other spring flowers coming up and transforming this chilly looking space.

### Appeal for toys

Rachel Jackson from the County Museum Loan Service is putting out an appeal for any unwanted toys which can form part of their “toy” themed loan boxes. Rachel writes – “We've been having a lot of enquiries from schools, and particularly reception teachers, for 'Toy' themed loan boxes. Specifically toys from the past, but within living memory. We already have three loan boxes on '1970s, 80s & 90s Toys' which are so popular they're booked out for all of 2022/23, so we'd love to increase our stock.

So, with that in mind, does anyone have any toys at home that you would be willing to part with and donate to the service? Anything from the 1970s onwards would be massively appreciated and put to good use inspiring school children across Lancashire!" If you are able to respond to this call for toys (clear out the once loved old friends?) please contact Rachel directly – [rachel.jackson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.jackson@lancashire.gov.uk)

## Friends of Judges' Lodgings Christmas Appeal 2022

At the Victorian Christmas Weekend the Friends of Lancaster Judges' Lodgings launched an appeal to raise money for replica food to adorn the magnificent table in the Dining Room of the Judges' Lodgings. We're hoping to raise £1000 by the end of January so that we can order the pieces and put them in place to beautify the table settings for next year's visitors.



Here's how to donate –

To make a donation by post:

Please make your cheque payable to Lancaster Judges' Lodgings Museum Trust and send to: Roger Jump, 6 Lonsdale Road, Hest Bank, LA2 6DS

Gift Aiding your donation will enormously help our Appeal. If you are able to do so, please complete the Gift Aid form below and return it with your donation

To donate by BACS, the details are as follows:

Account name: Lancaster Judges' Lodgings Museum Trust

Bank: Virgin Money, Lancaster

Sort code: 05-05-55

Account no. 19259189

If paying by BACS please post or email your completed Gift Aid form to Roger Jump, as above, or to [roger@rhjump.co.uk](mailto:roger@rhjump.co.uk)

I wish Gift Aid to apply to the donation attached/enclosed. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income tax and/or capital gains tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on my donation it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR), the information provided on this form will be used only by The Lancaster Judges' Lodgings Museum Trust or by the Friends of Lancaster Judges' Lodgings and those directly involved in the processing of your donation through Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs.

Please print clearly:

Full name.....

Address.....

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Postcode.....Date.....

Please donate generously and help us reach our target – don't delay, do it today.

## 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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