

LANCASTER JUDGES' LODGINGS

UPDATE

Newsletter of the Friends of Lancaster Judges' Lodgings

Issue no 78

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The Judges' Lodgings in February

With only one month left before the Judges' Lodgings reopens for the new season work has been going on apace to freshen the interior of the building up after the winter.



Walls are being painted and more progress made on the Gillows Gallery. Time also to reflect on 2022 successes (and on where things didn't go so well – not too many of these), with over 10.500 visitors during the open season (April to October) and almost 2.500 young people



and teachers through the popular school visits. The JL has gained over £73,000 in funding for the Gillows Gallery project and for the Facing the Past – Lancaster Black History project – congratulations to Lynda and her team. The portraits of imagined enslaved Black Lancastrians by Lela Harris should be on display in time for the new opening 30 March and the work done by school children will also go on display, in the Education Room.

The JL has also recruited two new members of staff – an Assistant Manager and a Museum Assistant. You may meet both of these relative newcomers whilst visiting the JL.

Don't Forget – LANCASTER JUDGES' LOGINGS OPENS THURSDAY 30 MARCH. BE THERE

Friends of JL Annual General Meeting

It was good to be able to welcome members of the Judges' Lodgings Friends group at the AGM earlier in the month, for our first in-person AGM since before lock-down. Now was the opportunity to renew membership and many people have already done so. If you have not renewed your membership yet and wish to do so, or if you would like to

join us for the first time, you can still do this. See details for joining at the end of this newsletter. If you are rejoining, you can pay your subscription fee directly to our Treasurer Roger Jump by BACs – details as follows:

Sort code 16-52-21; **Account** 54106246; **Account name** Friends of Lancaster Judges Lodgings; **Bank** The Cumberland

Membership fees remain the same as last year - £10 single; £20 couple or family; £5 unwaged – but we always welcome donations from anyone who is able and willing to add that on.

At the AGM the committee for the coming year was voted on – those who served on the committee last year plus some new faces – Margaret Stebbing and Liz Feather (strictly speaking Liz isn't a new face as she was on the committee for a term and stepped down at the end of her previous term of office). We can only assume that Liz enjoyed her earlier stint on the committee enough to make her want to have another go. Catherine Fatkin remains the Chair for this year with Nick Smith as her deputy. We wish the whole committee a successful year.

Tribute and grateful acknowledgments were paid to Garth Lindrup, a founding member of the Friends, whose legal experience guided the group through the processes of becoming a Charitable Trust and establishing a good working relationship with the County Council. Thank you Garth. Garth has not left the Friends altogether, so we look forward to meeting up again with him at future events during the year.

Stephen Sartin

Many of you will have known Stephen and remember him as a stalwart of the Lancashire Museum scene. During his career he was involved in one way or another with the history of Lancashire, including a spell as Keeper of Lancaster Judges' Lodgings. Stephen died at the beginning of February after a short illness and will be much missed.

Events

Lancaster Litfest and the JL

In the final Litfest history event of Saturday 25th March, 5pm at The Judge's Lodgings, Lela Harris will be discussing with @ProfImogenTyler the fascinating and complex process of creating a set of portraits of real Black individuals from Lancaster's history whose given names alone we know...creating paintings without the benefit of any visual references, using only contemporary written sources such as descriptions in contemporary advertisements for 'runaways' escaping enslavement. For this unique event, The Judges' Lodgings Museum has kindly allowed an early viewing of one of the six portraits, which from 30 March will hang in the museum alongside portraits of those

Imogen Tyler



who profited from slavery, the slave trade or West Indies trade by renowned contemporary artists, including George Romney and Joseph Wright of Derby.

Lunchtime Talks

The popular monthly lunchtime talks on the last Friday of each month will start up on Friday 28 April with the always interesting Colin Penny speaking about William Calcraft, England's longest serving hangman – more details later, but put the date in your diary – one not to be missed.

The Wild Escape Project – events connected with this project will run through March and early April. Through art and creative writing families will explore how biodiversity underpins our life on earth and discover the many beautiful paintings and objects depicting nature at Judges' Lodgings Museum in Lancaster. It will encourage them to pause, take a closer look, be inspired to create a painting, poem, or story. The JL has engaged an artist and a writer who will work creatively with families and their children aged between 7 and 11 in three workshops, culminating with an activity being delivered on Earth Day – **22nd April 2023**.



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 – 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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