

# LANCASTER JUDGES' LODGINGS

## UPDATE

Newsletter of the Friends of Lancaster Judges' Lodgings

Issue no 80

April 2023



### News from The Chair of The Friends

Another month and another committee meeting. We met on Friday 31st March and it was good to welcome Liz Feather back to the committee.

Since our previous meeting:

- Paul has redone the Friends Promotional Leaflet and you can view this on the website or in Reception at the JL
- Unfortunately, the weather has not been good enough to paint the garden furniture but hopefully this may happen soon
- Nick and Helen have obtained a stall at the Volunteer's Fair later in the summer at The University, so there may be some new volunteers and Friends as a result
- I have researched prices at local cafes and produced a poster comparing prices to try and get customers at the Tearoom to donate more!
- Mandy and Helen highlighted the Friends at the Volunteers training

#### Moving forward:

- Catherine is going to produce a handout on Food Hygiene for the cake bakers of the Tearoom
- The Summer Fair on 3rd June was discussed and the sub committee fed back ideas. We will be looking for volunteers for this event and also donations for the Tombola
- The Tearoom now has a phone for card payments thanks to Nick and the china sorted again!
- Website viewings have increased dramatically as the JL reopens with Facing the Past Exhibition receiving a lot of interest

Catherine Fatkin, Chair

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### The Judges' Lodgings in April

Activities at the Judges' Lodgings have really taken over now that the season has started. The Wild Escape project offered workshops during the month and there are more planned for later in the year with Lela Harris, whose portraits of Black Lancastrians in the JL are arousing so much interest this season. The Oxford

Architectural Group has paid a visit – some of them seemed more interested in the dough trough in the Servants Hall than in the architecture.

The popular Lunchtime Lectures began on Friday 28 April with a talk by Colin Penny on William Calcroft, England's longest serving hangman. Despite the gruesomeness of the subject matter, the talk was sold out and no doubt the audience learnt about many aspects of the profession which they didn't know before – such as the fact that a hangman was obliged, if the situation arose, to hang his own relatives.

The Gillow Gallery is entering its final stages of refurbishment and we expect to see it opened to the public towards the end of June. Its themes will be



more wide-ranging than in its previous life, but there will still be a celebration of the renowned crafts and the people who practised them in the furniture making profession.

*Gillows' staff in 1940s and 1950s  
Lancaster Guardian*

The staff welcomed a new member, Naomi, as Museum Assistant – we're sure she will find everyone very friendly and supportive.

### The Garden in April



The Courtyard is now looking particularly bright and colourful, as the new plants in the giant pots settle in and begin to bloom. With the (slightly) warmer weather the games are taking over the lawn, with children challenging parents to games of quoits, skittles etc, and often winning, thanks either to skill and experience or through tact on



the part of Mum and Dad.

## Events in May

To contribute towards the celebration of the king's coronation the JL is offering a craft session on Saturday 6 May, from 11.00am to 4.00pm. Make a crown to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Using simple folding techniques, have a royally good time making your own bejewelled paper crown. The craft activity is free and is a drop-in activity with no booking required. Normal admission charges apply if also visiting the museum: Adults £3, Concessions £2, Children free.



The May Lunchtime Lecture will be given by Nick from Lancashire Police Museum 12.00-1.00 on Friday 26 May – The Brewery Street Siege of 1958. “Ta-ta. You won’t see me again” he said. “You’ll read about it in tomorrow’s papers”. Learn about the shocking double murder in Blackburn. £4.00 including admission to the JL plus tea/coffee and biscuit. Booking advised – tel: 01524 581241 or email [judgeslodgings@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:judgeslodgings@lancashire.gov.uk)

## The Victorian Pop-up Tea Room

The Pop-up Tea Room popped up twice in April, to take account of the Coronation weekend – the first Saturday in May would have been our normal session, but another event of national interest was already scheduled. Our first session of the season was early in April and was very successful. Visitors were rather more reticent on the last Saturday of the month, despite the allure



of home made goodies.



*The alternative tea-time treat in the nursery*

The next Pop-up Tea Room session will be on the first Saturday in June – 3 June – to coincide with a major Friends’ event – a Family

Summer Fair in the garden (weather permitting). More details of this fun-packed day, with games, competitions and prizes, in our May newsletter.

### **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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