

# LANCASTER JUDGES' LODGINGS

## UPDATE

Newsletter of the Friends of Lancaster Judges' Lodgings

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### August at the Judges' Lodgings

With the summer holidays in full swing, the events and activities offered by Lancaster Judges' Lodgings have been well supported. Visitor numbers have been well up on the same period last year, with Dino-fest at the beginning of the month attracting 415 people over the weekend, and the Friday lectures have been sold out. Two of these are to be repeated in September (see attached flier) if you missed them first time round, one on this Friday 1 September and the other the following Friday 8 September. Be sure to catch them while you can. The children's workshops on Dragons and Treasure Maps have attracted many young creatives.



There was a visit by the Regional Furniture Society which helped fund the development of the new Gillow Gallery, and it is very welcome news that the Facing the Past project has continued to spread its influence widely around the country. Blackburn Diocese filmed Facing the Past to promote to 180 Lancashire schools and the Association of Independent Museums (AIM) are using it as a national case study.

We are sorry to learn that Susan Baternay, one of the Museum Assistants, is leaving us. Susan has always been very active in promoting the activities of the Friends, arranging trips (Hornby Castle, Lytham Hall) and providing





information about local grants, which the Friends have followed up. We wish Susan all the best and thank her for all her support.



The good news is that a new Museum Assistant will be appointed, to work throughout the year rather than seasonally – we shall be pleased to welcome the new appointee.

During the month a surprise donation arrived at the Judges' Lodgings when Gillows cues from the Georgian billiard table arrived from France. The cues are being cleaned by the County conservation team and will be on display soon.

Gillows were famous for making billiard

tables – see the drawing of an early billiard table on this first known trade card by Gillows of Lancaster. The card advertises that 'Richard and Robert Gillow, cabinet-makers at Lancaster, make and sell all sorts of cabinet works, chairs, tables, looking glasses, picture frames gilt or plain, also all manner of billiard tables large or portable in the completest manner and at the lowest prices.' The family knew marketing was key and sent the copperplate design to Thomas Bensley in London, requesting '2 hundred cards printed from it and "send 'em by the very first case as we are in great want of 'em."

*The card has been lent by Lancashire Archives and Local History*

Find out more at the Gillows of Lancaster: A Global Story exhibition at Judges' Lodgings. <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk> in the newly refurbished Gillow Gallery,

The Barbie Dolls in the Toy collection were thrilled to see themselves in a major new film and came out with Ken to promote the venture. No pink dresses on these dolls, I'm afraid, but smartly dressed, nonetheless.



## August in the Garden

The mixed weather over August has perhaps limited the use of the Garden, but the Friends hosted a major event at the end of the month when the Lancaster Bee-Keepers brought their equipment (and lots of honey) to talk about the busy and productive lives of the Bee. This is becoming an annual event, we're pleased to say, and some of the visitors had come along especially for the occasion. There were activities for children and a chance



to look into the inspection box to watch the bees going about their daily business.



return

## Events in September

Heritage Days – September sees the of National Heritage Days and the Judges' Lodgings will be open free of charge for the weekend of 9-10 September with tours of the building. The Judges' Lodgings has developed amazingly over the past couple of years and the exhibitions of **Facing the Past** portraits and **The Gillows of Lancaster: a Global Story** in the new Gillow Gallery are examples of that – both open until the end of the season.

Georgian and Regency Tours of Lancaster – these will be available throughout September with coachman Johnny Eccleston. All Georgian & Regency Tours will be pre-bookable two days in advance, Monday-Friday, through Web Ticket Manager via our website [www.historiographersheritage.com](http://www.historiographersheritage.com). Tell your friends and family to support local business and do something different by meeting a coachman of ill repute for a tour of a truly beautiful city in the north west.

Friday Lunchtime Lectures – if you missed two of the popular lectures given in August, there will be a chance to



hear them again in September – 1 September and 8 September – please see attached flier.

For the regular Lecture on the last Friday of the month, 29<sup>th</sup> September, Penny Blackburn will be using her historical research to uncover life at the Judges' Lodgings – **Life with the Judges**. Charge £4.00 to cover house admission and tea/coffee at the talk. Booking advised, please call 01524 581241 or email

[judgeslodgings@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:judgeslodgings@lancashire.gov.uk)

**Raffle** – the Friends Raffle for a tailored tour of the JL is still open – see attached flier. Now's your chance to invite your friends and family to a tour of your own design with Jack our specialist guide. You have to be in it to win. Have a go now.

### Victorian Pop-up Tea Room

We were very sorry to have had to cancel the Tea Room in August – our usual team of volunteers was much reduced partly due to well-deserved holidays for some, and less well-deserved attacks of Covid for others. We shall be popping up with the September Tea Room Saturday 9 September (not first Saturday as usual) to coincide with the Heritage Day, offering our lovely range of cakes and bakes, teas, coffees and soft drinks, to keep you going while you explore all that the Judges' Lodgings has in store for you. There's no charge but we do ask for a donation (card or cash) which all goes towards the promotion and support of the Judges' Lodgings and its treasures. Please give generously. The Tea Room is open from 12.00-3.00 and we look forward to seeing you there.



Extra volunteers to bake or serve or wash up are always welcome – if you'd like to help in any way please get in touch me, Sue Widden, through the email below.

### 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.

Sue Widden  
Newsletter Editor  
[sue.widden@outlook.com](mailto:sue.widden@outlook.com)