

# LANCASTER JUDGES' LODGINGS

## UPDATE

Newsletter of the Friends of Lancaster Judges' Lodgings

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### July at the Judges' Lodgings

Another incredibly busy month for happenings as the school holidays get into their stride. Events kicked off in early July with a celebration of Dino Fest, featuring a dinosaur trail around the house and garden, and a dino-poo and dino-slime making workshop – as always the poo and slime were very popular, with the children at least – perhaps not so much with parents having to carry them home.



The middle of the month brought a classical music concert to the magnificent Dining Room, hosted by the Friends of JL – with a trio (keyboard, violin and cello) offering a very diverse programme including two women composers, one of them Black, another Black composer from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and Anton Dvorak's Sonatina for violin and keyboard. The works chosen helped to complement the Facing the Past exhibition, bringing to the forefront composers of colour who traditionally have been overlooked. The Dining

Room made a wonderful setting for what was generally agreed to have been an excellent concert – audience feedback was all very positive. The Friends hope to be able to host another such concert next year

A visit to Lytham Hall was arranged for volunteers, staff and Friends – Lytham Hall is another great treasure house of Gillow furniture with beautiful gardens.

Susan Baternay writes – “Lytham Hall put on a



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special guided tour that was tailor-made for our group of staff, volunteers and Friends from the Judges' Lodgings. After an introductory talk we toured the building with knowledgeable and enthusiastic guides, who pointed out the Gillow furniture and fittings that were of particular interest to us - as well as relating a host of stories about colourful members of the Clifton family who lived at Lytham Hall for more than three centuries. We were all impressed with how beautifully the rooms were set out, noting an attention to detail that in some rooms gave the impression that the occupants had just stepped out for a moment! Over refreshments later we enjoyed a second chat with the property manager before patronising the plant sale area and then departing. My only regret was not having enough time to explore the grounds - especially the rose garden - but that gives me the perfect excuse for a more leisurely visit very soon. PS. What makes the beautiful formal area of lawn and paths so impressive is that it was previously - ie when owned by the Guardian insurance company - the car park!"



As part of the Facing the Past project, The Judges' Lodgings team hosted a Symposium and Exhibition Catalogue launch as a special celebration of the Facing the Past – Black Lancastrians exhibition with five speakers looking at artistic depictions of Haitian women revolutionaries; work at Les Anneaux de la Mémoire in Nantes, France; the overlooked legacies of the Lancaster slave trade and Morecambe's Black entertainers; the Facing the Past digital trail and archive; and one of the essays from the exhibition catalogue, entitled 'Fingerprints in the House Museum'. There was also a tour of Lela Harris' newly commissioned portraits and a

panel discussion by artists.

The Facing the Past exhibition was made possible by the Art Fund, The Association of Independent Museums and the National Heritage Lottery Fund. The catalogue launch and Symposium have been funded by the Research Centre for Migration, Diaspora and Exile at UCLan.



Finally the links between Lancaster and Black Lancastrians of the past were brought to life by the Friday lunchtime talk **The Curious Case of Ephraim Montgomery – Convict for Australia**. Ephraim Montgomery, a Black man held in Lancaster Castle was one of 200 convicts transported to Australia in October 1816. Henry Holborn related more about his intriguing story.

### July in the Garden



The summer flowers are flourishing and the Friends are delighted to announce a successful application to the Eric Wright Charitable Trust, administered by Lancaster District CVS, for a grant to buy some new gardening tools and other equipment for the garden. Our gardening volunteers and the JL staff will be pleased to christen the new equipment, thanks to the funders. Join the team now and have fun with a new trowel or garden fork.



### Events in August

#### Craft Sessions



Throughout August the Judges' Lodgings team will be running craft events for young (and not so young) people.

Swoop down to Judges' Lodgings Museum this summer for a fantastic craft workshop to make



your very own dragon  
Drop-in anytime, Friday 11 August and  
Friday 25 August  
11am to 12.30pm and 1pm to 3.30pm  
Just £2 per child

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Enjoy feeling the crinkle of our aged paper and experience the excitement of choosing your own magic wand, creating a beautiful scroll case and a mysterious map that conceals secrets only revealed with the power of the wand!

Friday 4 and Friday 18 August, and Friday 1 September, 11am to 12.30pm and 1pm – 3.30pm  
£2 per child

Normal admission charges apply.

### Victorian Pop-up Tea Room

The Friends will be offering their ever-popular Victorian Tea Room on Saturday 5 August, 12.00-3.00, with a range of hot and cold beverages and the usual fantastic array of home-made cakes and bakes. All the profits from the Tea Room go towards the development and maintenance of the Judges' Lodgings so please show your appreciation of the wonderful fare on offer with a handsome donation (cash or card) – you won't get better value anywhere else in Lancaster.



### Friday lecture

On Friday 25 August popular speaker Mike Winstanley is back with this story of money made from the West Indian trade including the intrigue of legal wrangles and family secrets which prompted the estate's executor to write a biting "A Vindication" of his actions. £4 which includes tea/coffee and a biscuit and entrance to the museum.

Booking is advised: please call 01524 581241 or email

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

### Honey Bee Information Day

The Lancaster Beekeepers will be in the Garden at the Judges' Lodgings on Sunday 27 August 11.00-3.30. Come and see live bees in the observation hive and meet the beekeepers who can tell you all you need to know about beekeeping and what to plant in your own gardens to make them insect friendly. Activities include crafts and games, with honey tasting and sales of local honey (cash only). Please see attached poster for more information.



## 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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