

LANCASTER JUDGES' LODGINGS

UPDATE

Newsletter of the Friends of Lancaster Judges' Lodgings

Issue no 85

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News from The Chair of The Friends

The recent committee meeting was held at the end of August and we were pleased to welcome David Redmore to the meeting. David is a well-known local garden designer and horticulturalist. He had come to share his ideas for developing the garden to reflect the historicity and architecture of the museum. He presented a plan and talked us through the concept, design and planting. We have asked him to come to our next meeting in October with some costings of the project. The trustees will be progressing this project with Lynda and the LCC so hopefully there will be more news on this soon.

Nick and Liz successfully applied for an Eric Wright grant for garden equipment and tools and these have been purchased. The committee thanked Nick and Liz for their success.

There was a discussion about how to increase membership of the Friends and encouraging more Friends to volunteer at events. This will be taken forward via a meeting with Lynda.

The summer events of the Concert and Bee Info Day were reviewed and Sue and Roger were thanked for organising these events. We also discussed the Victorian Tea Room and the need for more volunteers both on the day and baking cakes so that we don't have to cancel another one in the future. We are hoping to purchase a banner advertising the Friends that can be used at events.

The committee will meet again in October
If you have any comments or wish to find out more information please contact me or any other members of the committee.

Thanks

Catherine Fatkin

(Chair of the Friends) Email: catherinefatkin@gmail.com

Other committee members are: Sue Widden, Roger Jump, Nick Smith, Mandy Whitehouse, Liz Feather, Paul Mullineaux and Margaret Stebbing

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Charity number 1171209

September at the Judges' Lodgings

The Judges' Lodgings opened free of charge for the Heritage Open Days the weekend of 9-10 September with tours of the building, including parts not usually open to the public, such as the cellars and some of the storage areas. The numbers of those taking advantage of these offers were fewer than last year – there were many events and places to visit in Lancaster over the Heritage Open Days. Apart from that visitor numbers have improved on last year and many visitors came specially to see the Facing the Past Exhibition. The Friday Lunchtime talks have sold out and repeats run for those who have missed them first time round.

The drop-in sessions during the summer holidays have been well attended and a trial run of tours with Naomi on Saturdays worked well, so it is hoped that these will continue.

The Historiographers

(www.historiographersheritage.com) began running their Georgian and Regency Tours of Lancaster, with Johnny the Coachman, throughout the month. These naturally included the JL.

Over the summer the JL has continued to make itself accessible to visitors of all ages and some of its summer ratings on TripAdvisor reflect this –

“We have visited the museum many times as we live just round the corner but our visit today was by far the best one yet. The whole museum has been refreshed, the signage and information panels are brilliant, the displays have been smarted up, the Gillows section has been completely and brilliantly reimaged and the Facing The Past exhibits have been placed throughout the museum to great effect. The volunteers were, as ever, knowledgeable, enthusiastic and always willing to spend time with us and the kids. We visited with our kids who really enjoyed the trails (a teeny donation of 50p each!) but we are now planning our adult-only return trip to experience the whole museum again. Well done to all the JL team for a brilliant job.”

“We have just spent nearly 3 hours here. We are local and been meaning to go for years. Excellent. So informative about Lancaster's past. Also the judicial system. Exhibits very well presented as were the ladies in costume. Gillows furniture very impressive too.”



Events in October

October marks the end of the open season at JL (although of course it does run on through the Light up Lancaster weekend – first in November) but there are still plenty of events and activities to make it a busy month for staff, volunteers and visitors alike.

Lego Robotics – Sunday 8 October

Inspire your child's imagination and let them learn coding at the same time with Lego Robotics at Judges Lodgings Museum.

45min slots throughout the day from 11.15am – 3.45pm.

Free event - booking required - visit <https://bit.ly/EventsAtJudgesLodgings>

For more information visit: www.funpalaces.co.uk/find-a-fun-palace

See also attached poster.

Lunchtime Lectures – the JL fascinating talks book up quickly so reserve your place today to avoid disappointment. If a lecture is full, you can request for your details to be added to the waiting list as we may be able to repeat it.

Respect This Lonely Grave – Sambo's Grave (Black History Month) 13 October

Life With The Judges – (Repeated due to popular demand on) 20 October

To book call 01524 581 241 or email judgeslodgings@lancashire.gov.uk

£4 per person, includes refreshments.

Respect This Lonely Grave is already sold out but will be repeated on Friday 3 November. Book now as above



Music Festival – Lancaster JL is pleased to host two events for Lancaster Music Festival on Sunday 15 October, 7.00pm until about 9.15. There are two concerts in the JL elegant dining room, so suitable for classical music. The first concert starting at 7.00pm features Frederik Holm and Ursula



Leveaux, giving us a bassoon spectacular, and second at 8.15 showcases Laure Chan and William Jack on violin and cello/Guitar. Evening events are free – pay what you can.

Hallowe'en – Half Term Halloween Family Fun

Thur 26 and Fri 27 October & 2 and 3 November - £2 per participant

Drop-in any time 11am-12.30pm and 1pm-3.30pm

Come and create your very own spooky spider or bewitching bat this Halloween.

Plus visit our house throughout October for a spooktacular time and win a prize with our 50p Halloween trail. Standard museum admission charges apply: Adults £3, Seniors/Students £2, Children FREE

Plus – moving into November – Light Up Lancaster 2023, Saturday 4 November

Free. Drop-in 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm

Make your own masterpiece with Facing the Past artist, Lela Harris.

Plus see Light Up Lancaster art installation at the Judges' Lodgings on 2 to 4 Nov.

Facing the Past

This great project goes from strength to strength, as we move into October – Black History Month. The artist Lela Harris and Lynda Jackson, JL Museum Manager, Have been asked to give a presentation on the project at an event run by Museum

Development North West – “In Conversations: Museums – Places for Everyone”. This is in addition to its use by other organisations such as the Director of the Museums Association who wishes to use the images at the Irish Museums Associations Conference, and the diocese of Blackburn which filmed the exhibition for use in 180 schools. Some of the portraits will be projected onto the front of the JL as part of Light up Lancaster

The **Facing the Past** exhibition closes at the end of the



season, but the wider aspects of Black Lancastrians in history remain in the Judges' Lodgings with the refurbishment of the Gillows Gallery and the work done on recognising everyone connected to the manufacture of Gillows furniture, including enslaved Africans, the local labour force, customers and the craftspeople involved in the design and making of fine furniture.



Here to Wonder – Solo Exhibition by Lela Harris 9-23 October

Lancaster University has invited Lela to exhibit some of the original drawings she created for The Folio Society edition of 'The Color Purple' by Alice Walker alongside a selection of portraits exploring the theme of 'sisterhood'. The exhibition is on show in the University Library, free entry and the Library is open 8am-8pm, Mon-Sun. There will be an opening event 4.00pm-6.00pm on Monday 9 October. All welcome.

<https://www.foliosociety.com/uk/the-color-purple.html>



Victorian Tea Room

There will be no Victorian Tea Room session in October, but the team hopes to be present during the Victorian Christmas weekend at JL, the first weekend of December. Look out for some festive eats and drinks as well as the usual hot drinks and luscious baking. More info next month.

The British Association of Friends of Museums (BAfM)

This organisation came into being to support groups of Museum Friends across the country forty years ago and has now more than 400 member groups. Internationally the World Federation of Friends of Museums has been going since 1973 and holds an annual conference in different countries.

BAfM also holds an annual conference hosted by one of the Member groups – this year in Doncaster this coming weekend. It issues two Journals a year and celebrates the contributions which volunteers make to Museums across the country. BAfM is divided up into regions, each with its own coordinator, who help to organise regional events. Our North West Region has as its coordinator our own Margaret Stebbing, member of the JL Friends' Committee.



Doncaster Mansion House

For more info on BAfM and all that it does please check their website

<https://www.bafm.co.uk/>

Recruiting more Friends

As you will have read above in our Chair's Letter, the Friends are actively recruiting new members and/or previous members who have not yet renewed their subscription. The subscription remains the same as we don't want to limit access to anyone. There are reduced rates for unwaged people and young people 18-25. Being a paid-up Friend has its perks too – free entry into the Judges' Lodgings, a discount on purchases and special rates for paying events which the Friends organise. You can make new friends, put your skills and talents to excellent use, learn new skills – and have fun. For more info on how to join, please see details below.

Friends' Raffle

There's still time to enter the Friends' Raffle for a great night out in the Judges' Lodgings for you and friends. See attached poster for more details. The raffle closes at the end of October, so place your money now. You've got to be in to win.

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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