

Friends of the
Lytham St Annes
ART COLLECTION

**Friends of the
Lytham St Annes Art Collection
May Newsletter 2022**



Shore Scene with Boats – Clovelly Harbour
by
Samuel Towers 1862 – 1943

Message from the Chair

I am delighted to be writing a message in yet another Newsletter for the Friends. Our very first one was in May 2011 and was four pages long! The Friends had only been in existence for three years and had just a few members. Eleven years and twenty-two Newsletters later I can easily fill twenty-four pages with reports of our activities and interesting articles to be read by over 140 members.

The committee have been enjoying being able to plan events and activities again. COVID is still with us but we are coping with it. Our At Home at the Town Hall on 29 March was a very enjoyable and successful event and we look forward to having a very special afternoon at Lytham Hall on 24 May when we will be welcoming and listening to Margie Cooper of Antiques Roadshow and Antiques Road Trip fame. Then in June we will be able to enjoy our first Day Trip out since COVID prevented us organising one when we will visit Saltaire, a lovely place to spend a few hours.

You will see from the article submitted by Marjorie that we benefit greatly from communication via our Contacts Page on the website. Not only have we received donations of pictures to the Collection but we have also gained more information about the artists and artworks we have in the Collection. Also our researchers answer queries and are able to provide information which is always very much appreciated.

An interesting article submitted by Stella has a very apt title of 'Unexpected Links' and there are reports of work being done by the Friends, specifically the hours being spent preparing for the reprint of our beautiful Catalogue.

I chose the painting for the front of the Newsletter for its lovely colours and because it makes me think of holidays in this country when we head for the coast and delight in finding lovely little fishing villages with harbours and boats.

Margaret Race

Recent Events

'At Home' at the Town Hall, Tues 29 March 2022



Committee member, Christine inviting guests to have some cake!

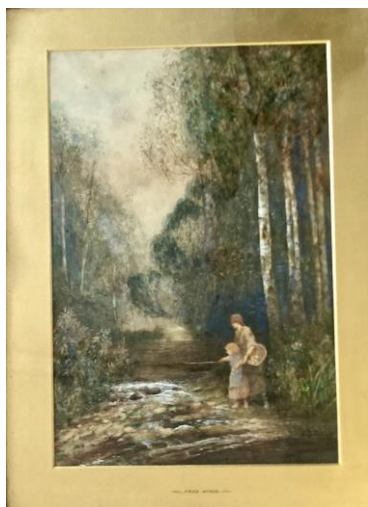
On the 29th March 2022 over 40 members gathered in St. Anne's Town Hall for a very enjoyable afternoon. Chairman, Margaret Race, welcomed everyone, in particular the special guests, Mary Eccles and Eileen Stuart, donors of two paintings recently added to our Collection, and Councillors Michael Sayward and Gavin Harrison, Chair and Vice Chair of the Tourism and Leisure Committee.

Commenting that the last two years had been a challenge, Margaret said the Committee had never stopped working: holding meetings by Zoom and maintaining an online presence on our websites and Facebook. Now able to plan events we look forward to an event in May, a trip to Saltaire on June 22nd and another get together in the Autumn. She reported that there have been some additions to the

composition of the Friends: Jacqueline Love, has been made an honorary member. Barbara Weston has been appointed Vice Chair and Sarah Kellam, now Mrs. Dean, the great, great granddaughter of Richard Ansdell, has been pleased to accept the position of President. The acknowledged authority on Ansdell she will be known in this office as Sarah Ansdell. Margaret read her lovely letter of acceptance in which Sarah described how she had become involved with the Collection and met in Margaret a kindred spirit who shared the same aspirations and vision. (See details of the above three appointments on Page 17)

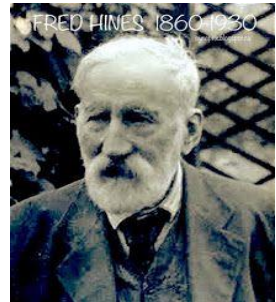
Barbara Weston then gave an entertaining talk commenting that our Facebook write-ups reach people who knew nothing about the Collection. Indeed, *The Windmill, Lytham, 1916*, was viewed by 4000 people. Our contact page on the website has engendered great interest around the world and has led to increased knowledge about items in the Collection and even led to further donations. Three new additions to the Collection were on view at the front of the Council Chamber as Barbara told us about each painting, artist and donor.

The first was donated by Nicola Schwartz of St. Alban's, who had used the Contact Form.



Woodland Scene by Frederick W. Hines 1852-1928

It is a watercolour by Fred Hines which had belonged to her mother and she gave it in her memory and it complements beautifully another watercolour by the same artist in the Collection, "*New Forest, Hampshire*", being very similar in style and composition. Hines was a prolific artist and illustrator who studied at the Royal Academy and exhibited regularly. He specialised in rural scenes of an idyllic world and was very popular, exhibiting regularly at the Royal Academy. Hines illustrated many works including Goldsmith's *The Deserted Village*. His pictures were used on Christmas cards and he wrote and illustrated religious tracts.

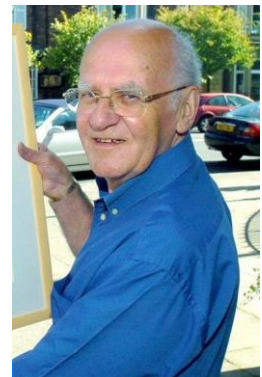


The Second was donated by Mrs Eccles, a special guest on this occasion, a watercolour of Lytham Windmill painted by her late husband Tom Eccles. There is already a coloured print of Tom's work in the Collection, *A Fylde Pasture in Spring*, donated by former MP Michael Jack in 2002.



A Quiet Game, Lytham Windmill by Tom Eccles 1912-2016

Tom was an artist of national and international repute having studied Fine Art. He was a war artist during the Korean War and recorded scenes some of which are now in the Imperial War Museum, London. After working in industry he went into Adult Education at Blackpool and Fylde College. He painted many scenes in and around Lytham which have been used in sought after Christmas cards and record memories of a bygone era.





***The Old Bridge over Gayle Beck, Hawes
by Stanley Warburton 1919-2012***

The third painting is a watercolour by Stanley Warburton donated by our other special guest, member, Eileen Stuart. She had purchased the painting in 2013 when Stanley's executors held a sale of his works in his studio. There are two other of his works in the Collection, "*The Long*

Causeway, looking back to Heptonstall, Yorkshire" and "*Hebden Bridge*".



Stanley was born in Heywood, Lancashire and trained as an engineer draughtsman. He was artistically inspired by the paintings of his grandfather, Daniel Warburton, which adorned his grandmother's home. Stanley was mainly self-taught amassing an academic knowledge of different techniques from many artists though he did study at the School of Art in Bury and was mentored by L. S. Lowry. He

also had a life-long love of Turner.

Councillor Michael Sayward, recently elected Chair of the Tourism and Leisure Committee, was then invited to say a few words. He said how

pleased he was to be our guest and looked forward to working with the Friends. The raffle was drawn before members were invited to enjoy the delicious refreshments and peruse the works of art on view.

NB You can read more about all three artists on our website www.lythamstannesartcollection.org

Marjorie Gregson

Future Events

‘An Afternoon with Margie Cooper’, Tuesday 24 May 2pm at Lytham Hall Margie has worked on the television program Antiques Roadshow for many years and appears regularly on the Antiques Road Trip. You should have received details about this already. As expected, tickets are selling well; as we go to print some are still available so apply now.

Day Trip to Saltaire, Wednesday 22 June. All details are contained in a leaflet which should have reached you along with this Newsletter.

Spreading the Word

Our Vice-Chair, Barbara Weston, is spreading the word about our Art Collection throughout the Fylde by speaking about it to societies and organisations. There has been a period of time because of COVID that it has not been possible to deliver talks and so many are still being offered online. However, Barbara has been kept busy recently and has proved to be a very popular speaker. Wherever she goes, individuals are keen to know more about the Collection. In fact it is sad to note that many local people are still unaware of our beautiful Collection and cannot believe it when she shows it on screen and talks about what a wonderful Collection we have stored in the Town Hall.

On 10 December last year Barbara spoke to a very large audience of U3A members at St Annes United Reformed Church Hall on St Georges Road. They were very interested in all she said about the Collection.

On 26 March she was invited to speak at the Lytham St Annes Art Society. Many of the members were surprised how much involvement their society has had with the Collection over the years.

On 29 March 2022 many of you will have heard her speak at the Town Hall when the Friends held an At Home – our first event of the year. She spoke about three new additions to the Collection and as always, even as members of the Friends, managed to tell us things about the Collection that we were not aware of.



On 9 April, Barbara was supposed to give a Talk at the Mayor’s Coffee Morning. Unfortunately, on the day she was suffering from COVID and was unable to attend. I filled in for her and did a guided tour of the paintings and sculptures displayed around the ground floor of the building. All credit due to our Mayor, Councillor Elaine Silverwood, for

theming her coffee morning around the Art and it proved to be very popular. Her guests were a very attentive and interested audience.

On 19 April Barbara made a return visit to the Warton History Society having previously spoken to them two years ago, pre pandemic and they wanted her again as they had enjoyed it so much the first time.

If you belong to an organisation that has visiting speakers do pass on Barbara’s contact details. She is always very well received wherever she speaks. All the money she is given either as a donation or a Speaker’s fee goes towards our conservation projects.

Margaret Race

Légion d’Honneur for Pat Davies

Pat Davies is a very long-standing member of the Friends and although she lives in Chiswick, London, she thinks a lot about Lytham and recalls happy memories of growing up near Lancaster. If you were to google her, you would discover that she is a very special lady. I did just that and found a headline “Former ‘Bletchley Girl’ to receive freedom of the borough of Hounslow” There is a picture of her being interviewed by Huw Edwards for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, along with photographs of her as a member of the WRNS, Women’s Royal Naval Service and her name etched into a brick on a wall at Bletchley Park.



Another headline you may come across is “Pat Davies receives France’s highest honour”. The article was written in 2019 when she was looking forward to receiving the Légion d’Honneur, the highest French order of merit, for her work during the Second World War.

Fluent in German, Pat worked at listening stations around the coast eavesdropping on German naval radio transmissions and relaying the content to the code-breakers at Bletchley Park. She describes it as interesting work, exciting and serious in equal measure, not knowing the significance of the messages but knowing that their work was important.

Pat Davies, née Owtram, joined the WRNS in 1942 when she was 18 years old. She was chosen for special duties as a linguist having learned to speak German as a girl growing up in her grandfather’s house in rural Lancashire. Her grandmother, Ethel née Fair, had died and her newly married parents kept house for him. They had a succession of cooks and housemaids in the 1930’s who were Jewish refugees escaping Hitler. She was told she speaks German with an Austrian accent!

The Navy had 26 listening stations along the east and south coast of England, occupying requisitioned small hotels and family homes. Pat started at Withernsea in Yorkshire listening to conversations of German boats in the North Sea. She was one of a team who worked in shifts around the clock, their job being to transcribe messages on a teleprinter and send them to Bletchley Park. Most were in code – the famous Enigma Code. They did not know what happened at Bletchley Park, they had signed the Official Secrets Act and did not ask questions! Enigma messages were first broken in 1940 so all the time that Pat spent relaying messages about German activities they were being

decoded. Some were in ordinary speech and even the most mundane messages could give something away and be important. She learned Morse Code and how to pinpoint the position of a ship. In 1943 she was transferred to Lyme Regis where they listened to shipping off Normandy. Also listening to German Lighthouse keepers saying things like 'put your lights on at 8 o'clock' and this could mean a convoy was expected.

Moved to Dover, Pat was in time to have a grandstand view of the preparations for the Normandy Landings. She said, "We knew it was coming because Churchill was there. I saw him on the cliff top at 8am one morning. He visited several times. They were trying to deceive the Germans into believing the attack would be at Calais and it worked."

She had what she described as a 'good war', working with people of her own age and enjoying a social life.

When the German Navy capitulated she transferred to London to work for the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force under General Eisenhower. Her job there was to go through German official documents the army had sent back from mainland Europe, looking for potential war criminals. The British government recognised her service with the Victory Medal and in 2009 the government decided to award the Bletchley Girls with a Bletchley medal.

After the war, Pat went on to work at the Norwegian Embassy and later worked for Granada and then the BBC. She worked for many years on The Sky at Night with Patrick Moore and it was she who developed University Challenge into the popular show it became. Her connection with Lytham is that her uncle, James S Fair, was Land Agent to the Clifton family.

Catalogue Reprint

A team of researchers led by member, Anne Matthews, have been meeting for several months and are well on the way to completing the work required to produce an updated reprint of our beautiful Catalogue. The original sold out a while ago and we are hoping the new version will soon be on sale. I am part of the team which also consists of committee members, Veronica, Marjorie and Stella who have all spent many hours updating the existing content and adding new information.

Financial Report – Income & Expenditure
Year ending 31 December 2021

INCOME

Opening Balance	£9626.95
Subscriptions	1,145.00
Donations	206.00
Gift Aid	332.38
Speaker's fee	50.00
Profit on sales of all Cards & Calendars	356.36
Profit on Cream Tea	327.90
Profit on Afternoon with Heather Davis	422.50
Bank Interest	2.22
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£12,469.31</u>

EXPENDITURE

Website maintenance	664.66
BAfM Annual Membership (British Assoc of Friends of Museums)	100.00
Insurance	266.29
Printing:	
- 2 Newsletters, May and November	436.00
- Art Colony Walk	95.00
- Letters to Members	67.50
Postage	86.48
Stationery	22.50
Closing Balance	£10730.88
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£12,469.31</u>

With thanks to the World Wide Web

An Interesting Submission. We are always very happy to receive enquiries and comments on our contact page and one we received in February was of particular interest.

It related to our fund raising event at St. Cuthbert's Church, Lytham, on Monday, 22nd May, 2017 when Heather Davis, Conservation and Collection Manager at the Conservation Studios in Preston, gave a fascinating talk on the Church's beautiful murals by Wallace Wood which she, and her colleague, Philip Bourne, had conserved.



The conservation of this striking artwork, 20ft high and 8ft wide, seen here pictured at the Friends' event, was made possible by the late Mr James Hilton, Lord of the Manor of Lytham, in memory of his son.

In the 1920s Mrs. Violet Clifton had commissioned this young artist, to paint the reredos in the private chapel at Kidalton Castle, her home on the Isle of Islay. Through her, Wood became known as an artist who

could create something beautiful on the bare walls of St. Cuthbert's Church. The murals, dedicated in 1932, were paid for by Mrs. Edward Mellor of Fairlawn, Clifton Drive, Lytham, and entitled *Worship of the Heavenly Host*.

The write up of Heather's talk was posted on our website and in February of this year we received a message from a gentleman in Oswestry who said he was the great nephew of Wallace Wood. Not knowing very much about his uncle he asked us for further details. He did, however, correct the dates of the artist to 1894 -1970. I undertook to find out more though I could not find him on any census until informed his birth name was Hubert Wallace Wood. Then I was able to trace him on censuses, the 1939 register and also find his WW1 army record. He had trained at the Slade School of Art and although he described himself as a "mural artist" some of his watercolours were highly regarded and can still be found for sale.

A complete surprise to his family was that Wallace Wood was also an actor. I found articles and theatre programmes in old newspapers showing he performed in Sybil Thorndike's Company. One play called *The Greater Love* by J. B. Fagan was performed at the Prince's Theatre in London in 1927. In an interview, the artist said that acting was something he did whilst awaiting commissions.

His great nephew was very pleased to receive this information as much was unknown to him and his family.

Many other interesting emails have been received via the Contact Forms on our websites. Some of these add to our knowledge of the artists and donors in the Collection: some relate to the sender in a more personal way. The chromolithograph of the Mexico Disaster, 1886, has always created a lot of interest. It has elicited many comments and enquiries as correspondents from as far afield as the USA said family members had lost their lives in one of the worst disasters in RNLI history when 27 local lifeboat crew died. We were able to supply more information and useful contacts to all these family members.

We never knew anything of the artist until recently when one of the most exciting submissions received on our contact page came from Robert Briggs. He owns a framed copy of this poster which has been enhanced with gouache. He named the artist as “A E Forrestier” and was of the opinion that very few of these posters have survived and so far he has only located ours. Like the one in our Collection, his is framed with the poem *The Warriors of the Sea*, a five stanza poem by writer and theatre critic, Clement Scott, 1841-1904, published in *Punch* 25th December, 1886. With the name provided, albeit a different spelling, research led us to Sir Amedee Forestier, 1845 1930, an Anglo–French artist and illustrator.

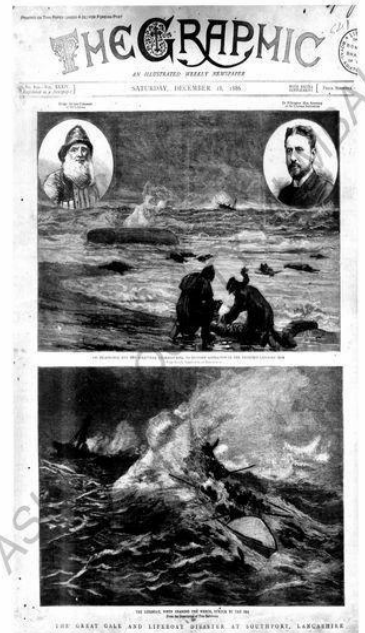


His engraving, which is used in the lower left of the poster, appeared in *The Illustrated London News* on 28th November, 1885, the year before the Mexico Disaster. It was entitled *To the Rescue, Manning the Life-Boat*. Seen here right.

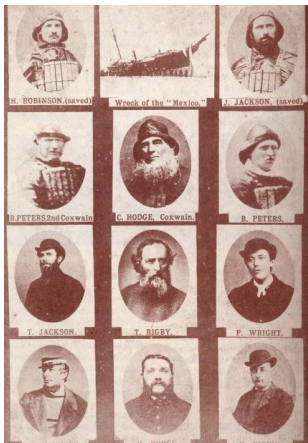


So knowing the poster was a composite picture research was needed to find which other illustrations were used.

On December 18th 1886 a double page engraving was published in The Illustrated News and Graphic entitled *“The Life-Boat Disasters in Last Week’s Gale: One of Two Life-Boats Capsized in Attempting to Save the Crew of the Barque Mexico, on the Lancashire Coast. The artist, Charles Napier Hemy, 1841-1917, was a British artist and best known for his marine paintings. This work appears in the upper right circle.*



The lower half of an engraving published in The Graphic on 18th December, 1886 entitled *The Lifeboat when nearing the Wreck, Struck by the Sea. The Great Gale and Lifeboat Disaster at Southport, Lancashire* was used below the circles.



Pictured in the bottom right of our poster are the two surviving members of the lifeboat from Southport, the Eliza Fernley, Harry Robinson and John Jackson, taken from this commemorative postcard.

The final verse of *Warriors of the Sea*

*When in dark nights of winter, fierce storms of wind and rain
Howl round the cosy homestead, and lash the window pane;
When over hill and treetop we hear the tempest roar
And hurricanes go sweeping on from valley to the shore;
And those we love the best on earth are gathered in our homes,
Think of the sailors round our coasts who, braving sleet and snow,
Leave sweethearts, wives and little ones when duty bids them go.
Think of our sea-girt Island, a harbour where alone
No Englishman to save a life has failed to risk his own:
Then when the storm howls loudest, pray of your charity
That God will bless the lifeboat, and the Warriors of the Sea.'*

We have contacted the RNLI but they knew nothing of the poster. Maybe there is someone reading this who also owns one or can add to our knowledge. We live in hope!

For further reading:

www.lythamstannesartcollection.org/the-mexico-disaster-of-1886.html

www.meisterdrucke.uk/artist/amedee-forestier.html

www.cornishmasters.com/charles-napier-hemy

Contributors, who are often experts in their chosen field, have provided illuminating and exciting information. In 2020 Evan Broadhurst wrote from Australia and said that the painting, previously attributed to Hyacinth Rigaud, was actually by the artist, Francois de Troy, and there is a print of the painting in the British Museum. We now know it is a portrait of Jean de Troy, the artist's son (pictured right).

Dr. Pieter van der Merwe, MBE, DL, Greenwich Curator Emeritus contacted us and helped us to recognise the differences in style between George Chamber Jnr and his father George Chamber Snr, both maritime artists, so confirming that our painting *On the Thames at Greenwich* was by the former. A PHD student in Ontario, Canada told us more about our *In Disgrace* by Charles Burton Barber and art historian, David Tovey, who specialises in St.



Ives art, Newlyn School and Cornish art colonies shed more light on our two paintings by Henry Meynell Rheam.

A lady from Virginia asked us to supply the signature of Scottish artist, James Mennie, to compare with the signature on a painting she had bought on ebay as it reminded her of happy holidays spent in Scotland. Our painting of *Haddon Hall* had thrown up the only picture of his work she could find. She was thrilled, as we were, to confirm the signatures matched.

The Contact Form has proved very fruitful in that we have received offers of donations and some have been accepted into the Collection for example a lovely watercolour by Percy Brooke, *Sitting on a Grassy bank*. More recently a Richard Ansdell sketch came from a donor in Canada, *El Churriana de Calvario*, meaning *The Three Crosses*, and a woodland scene by Frederick Hines have been great additions to the Collection. All of these thanks to the World Wide Web! Please visit our websites, you may find something of interest to you.

www.lythamstannesartcollection.org

www.friendsofthelythamstannesartcollection.org

Marjorie Gregson

The Friends Association

Sarah Ansdell, President. We were delighted when Sarah Ansdell agreed to be our President. Members will remember her as Sarah Kellam, great, great granddaughter of Richard Ansdell RA. Sarah has recently remarried and is Mrs Sarah Dean, née Ansdell, and she has chosen to use her maiden name within the Friends organisation.

Sarah would have liked to have been with us for our At Home on 29 March but she still lives away and was unable to make the trip up north. However, she sent a message to the Friends which I read out on the day and in which I think she introduces herself to us extremely well.

"Hello Friends,

I am sorry I wasn't able to be with you today, but I certainly intend to visit you and the treasures of your unique Art Collection before too long. Despite a few life-changing events that came all together in my world like number eleven buses, I am as passionate as ever about the artworks and my lovely friends at Lytham St. Annes. You are always beavering away to draw attention to a world-class Collection that is little known outside art circles. It is such a rich heritage for the town, proudly represented by your excellent charity and despite set-backs and unforeseen difficult events of

which I have been aware over the years, you continue to exist and work positively for the welfare of the Collection in an imaginative and well-rounded way. This has required more than a bit of thinking 'outside the box' and negotiating goal posts which are forever being moved. Where on earth would the Collection be without you, the Friends, now? I hesitate to think . . . and it is with this in mind that I feel honoured to accept the position of your President, so kindly offered to me by your Chairman, Margaret Race, and Committee.



Sarah unveiling the Blue Plaque at Starr Hills

I am a great, great Granddaughter to Richard Ansdell RA (1815-1885) and have become, over the years, a leading authority on him as artist and man. My interest was kindled when my father (also a Richard Ansdell and an artist) made me promise before he died that I would "do something about the many unknown and unseen Ansdell paintings languishing in the cellar of St. Annes Town Hall". This prompted my first visit to your lovely town. I delighted in all the wonderful surprises waiting for me, including the discovery of Starr Hills and Ansdell's Halt and all the other wonderful paintings and artefacts by honoured artists in the Collection that had been hidden away for so long. Above all, it was then that I met Margaret whose grandfather, Alderman Dawson, had owned many of these treasures and had so generously donated them to the Council. We realized we were both passionate about the Collection and we have had such a fruitful and symbiotic relationship ever since.

Although I live a long way away from Lancashire, Margaret and Veronica keep me up-to-date with everything and I feel that I am always with you, if not in body, certainly in spirit. I will strive to be an enhancement to your cause with my shared passion for the Collection and my many connections with the movers and shakers of the Victorian art world as it is today, not forgetting my extensive knowledge of Richard Ansdell RA."

Sarah Ansdell 2022

Barbara Weston, Vice-Chair. It was agreed unanimously by the members of the committee to ask Barbara to take on the position of Vice-Chair and were very pleased when she accepted. Barbara has proven to be a very effective voice of the Friends and the Collection. She has demonstrated this in her role as a Speaker but it is also her skills in dealing with people that made us feel she was really suited to the position.

Jacqueline Love, Honorary member. The committee were united in offering to make Jacqueline an honorary member which she accepted saying it was an honour and a privilege. She achieved so much for the Friends and the Collection as Project Manager of the Tagging the Treasures project, including the creation of the Catalogue. She continues to support us in all we need to do to maintain everything that was built up during TTT.

Unexpected links

I have recently enjoyed reading 'Love and Fury' a historical fiction by Samantha Silva about Mary Wollstonecraft (1759 – 1797), and have found some unexpected links to an artist and a donor of works in The Lytham St Annes Art Collection.

Wollstonecraft was an English writer, philosopher and campaigner for women's rights. She has been called 'The Mother of Feminism'. Although presented in novel form, the story follows real events very closely. Throughout her interesting and challenging life she mixed in influential and learned circles meeting such people as Samuel Johnson, Erasmus Darwin (father of Charles), William Blake, philosopher William Godwin (whom she later married) and the liberal publisher, Joseph Johnson, who helped her career as a writer and offered her a home and hospitality in London.

Whilst in this milieu she met Henry Fuseli whose painting 'The Vision of Catherine of Aragon' 1781 is an important work in our Collection. Samantha Silva describes Fuseli as 'quick witted and pugnacious' and apparently he spoke several languages and had a degree in theology. He and Mary engaged in lively discussion and argument and it seems

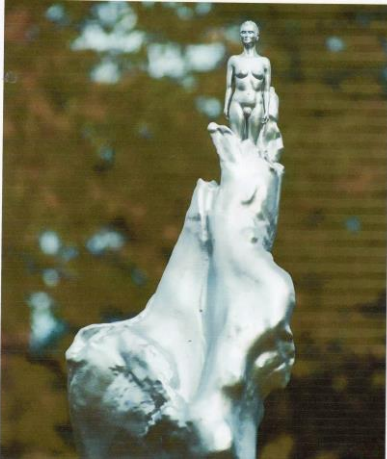
that his provocative pronouncements were not anything that she could not handle.

She was very attracted to him despite the fact that he was married to Sophia Rawlins. She was under the spell of his genius, 'the grandeur of his soul, that quickness of comprehension, and lovely sympathy'.

It is not clear whether they actually had sexual relations, but the liaison came to an end when Mary proposed that they lived together as a threesome. This was too much for Sophia!

An early influence on Mary's life was Dr Richard Price, the Welsh moral philosopher and mathematician and minister at Newington Green Unitarian Chapel. She was a congregant there from 1782 to 1785 and entered a circle of intellectuals and radicals including Joseph Priestley and Thomas Paine. She embraced freedom of belief and unlimited human enquiry.

In 2018 sculptress Maggi Hambling was commissioned to create the controversial statue of 'Mary on the Green' which now stands at Newington Green, London.



Another Unitarian, Sir Cuthbert Grundy, has benefitted our local area in many ways. Not only has he donated one of his own paintings, 'Coming Rain', to our Collection and founded the Grundy Art Gallery Blackpool but also founded two Unitarian Churches, South Shore Unitarian Church, Lytham Road (1902) and Ansdell Unitarian Church, Channing Road (1906).

More information about Henry Fuseli (1741-1825) and Cuthbert Cartwright Grundy (1846 – 1946) may be found on our website.

Book - 'Love and Fury' by Samantha Silva ISBN 978-0-7490-2702-5

Stella Preston

A Voice from the Past

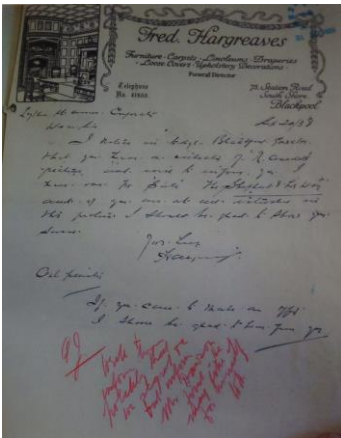
In 1931 artist Walter Eastwood, then President of the Lytham St. Annes Art Society, issued a warning to the Lytham St. Annes Corporation which had in mind the formation of an art gallery in the borough.

Speaking at the society's annual exhibition he announced that the members of the Society were considering purchasing a painting.

He said he was not aware of the extent of the knowledge of art possessed by local aldermen and councillors who would eventually have to deal with the question of pictures.

He wanted to say to them, "An art gallery must not be a dumping ground for surplus pictures. It was an educational institution and on its walls works of the highest order should be found. A picture which a man might like in his house, even a pretty picture, was not necessarily a good picture and would not be suitable for an art gallery."

Mrs. Percy L. Birley of The Villa, Wrea Green, who had opened the exhibition said she hoped the art gallery would materialise as it would bring great joy and pleasure.



In the Municipal Art Gallery File, 11 Jan 1934–22 Nov 1948, there is an interesting correspondence regarding such a matter. In 1938 Fred Hargreaves, funeral director and owner of a furniture store at 73 Station Road, South Shore, Blackpool, wrote to the Lytham St. Annes Borough Council stating he had an oil painting for sale. The picture was called *The Shepherd and his Dog* by Richard Ansdell. The Council declined but before they replied to Fred Hargreaves a scribbled note beneath his letter suggested the council contact "Mr. Dawson to see if he

wished to purchase it for himself." Having enlarged the document I was able to decipher the handwriting in red ink which said, "before we write back inform Mr Dawson as he may wish to buy it for himself".

We do know that Alderman Dawson, a huge supporter of art and a very generous donor, often sought advice from Fine Art Dealers such as Thomas Agnew and Richard Howarth. As a member of the General Purposes Committee he was often consulted when deciding on the suitability of additions to the Collection. It also shows how he was known as a keen collector of art himself.

Marjorie Gregson



This happy photo was taken when the Committee enjoyed having a Christmas lunch together in December 2021.

From left to right: Olga, Marjorie, Christine, Sally (now retired from committee) Barbara, Veronica, Stella and Margaret.

Membership and Visit Organiser's Report

Membership. I would like to thank all our members for the continued support you have given to The Friends of the Lytham St Annes Art Collection in what has been a difficult time these last two years.

The Committee have tried to ensure interest in the Collection is maintained by our loyal members and we are now more able to provide events for you to attend. This will also enable us to raise the funds needed to allow us to keep restoring and preserving our very diverse Collection for the residents of Lytham St Annes, the Fylde area and our supporters from all over the country. New members are of course always welcome.

Our membership fees remain the same, yearly renewal date 1 July.

£15.00	Joint Membership in a Household
£10.00	Single Membership
£5.00	Student Membership

Visit Organiser. Now Covid restrictions have been lifted I have organised **our first Day Trip since 2019 to Saltaire on Wednesday, 22nd June 2022** and I hope you will support this lovely day out.

Further details of the trip are in the application form you will have received with this Newsletter.

Thank you.

**Christine Cockburn,
Membership Secretary & Visit Organiser**

Information

Friends Website:

www.friendsofthelythamstannesartcollection.org

Online Catalogue:

www.lythamstannesartcollection.org

Facebook:

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Honorary Member

Jacqueline Love

***Lytham St Annes Art Collection Trust
t/a Friends of the Lytham St Annes Art Collection Registered Charity No
1167075***