

## **LOCAL EXPLORERS**

A guided walk around Kendal Centre and the Yards.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March was the date of our Kendal visit. The weather was dry but there was a rather cold wind. Our Guides, members of Kendal Civic Society, John and Jonathon, each took a group of 15 members, one group moving clockwise and the other anti-clockwise around the centre and various yards in that area.

Our guides were a font of knowledge. We heard about the development of the Centre, from a narrow road initially until selective buildings housing banks and businesses were removed in the not too distant past to give the main thoroughfare we have today. The market place was much nearer the traffic lights with room for just one carriage to pass along at a time.

The yards were fronted by inns each with its stabling for as many as 15 horses below and rooms for weary travellers above. There were many small businesses, Tanners, Dyers, Leather Workers and Butchers to name just a few. Butchers worked in several yards, there was no rubbish collection so all the offal went downhill and into the river, as well as all the other discharges from other businesses. The water certainly was not clean at all, fresh water being collected from various springs in the area. One yard did not drain well and so everywhere must have been incredibly smelly and unhygienic. At one time there were reputed to be 366 pubs in Kendal, the ladies brewed the beer and the customer sat outside at the front to be served from a jug. Houses were very small and accommodated several families, talk about sardines in a tin! Each yard was numbered and on the left-hand side of the road near the crossroads one finds two yards numbered 2 probably because the road changes its name at that point - could be confusing.

We all were dazzled by the amount of information that morning. The guides had a wealth of knowledge at their finger-tips and some very interesting maps and illustrations from the past.

The wind seemed to get colder and colder, the yards and main road acting like wind tunnels, so after our walk we all descended upon warm restaurants for a reviving coffee. Perhaps the walk would be better in warmer weather, this was the guides' first walk of the year.

*Sheila Handley*

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On February 8th, 25 of us visited Grade 1 listed Lytham Hall - the finest Georgian House in Lancashire. The site has a rich heritage dating back to the 12th century, when it was home to Benedictine Monks. Much of the Jacobean Manor House, built in 1606 by Sir Cuthbert Clifton, still exists and in 1652 John Carr of York built the fine Palladian House seen today.

We were welcomed to our own beautifully set out room for refreshments and then taken on a tour of the house in two groups. Our guides were knowledgeable, enthusiastic and dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the hall, which has been undertaken by a local Charity.

The wonderfully illuminating tour was followed by an excellent lunch in 'our room' after which many of us strolled in the drizzle around the grounds and gardens.

There is so much to see and learn about, many of us will definitely return possibly also for afternoon

tea in The Georgian Hall !

A visit is highly recommended - information can be found on the Lytham Hall website.