

Fundraising Efforts



Raffle Prizes at the Downham Hall
Cheese & Wine Evening

[RMS]

When making application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a 'Our Heritage' Grant Award', Clitheroe Civic Society committed itself to directly raise £1,500.00 - through local fundraising efforts - as its contribution towards the cost of the project. In the event much more than this was raised, principally as a result of the 'Cheese and Wine Evening' which was held in a marquee in the magnificent setting of the front lawn at Downham Hall and the Grand Summer Concert.

Downham Hall Wine & Cheese Evening

Shirley Penman

Historic Downham Hall, home of the Hon. Ralph Assheton and his ancestors for at least 400 years, was the chosen venue for a fundraising event on Saturday 20th June, 2015. Tickets were realistically priced at £10 - to include the first glass of wine or soft drink and featuring on the front a sepia photograph of Downham Hall from days gone by. Organised by Dorothy Falshaw and Shirley Penman, on behalf of Clitheroe Civic Society Committee, the money generated was to be used towards the es-

sential remedial work necessary to save the pinnacle in Clitheroe Castle grounds - the link between the Palace of Westminster and the sleepy little market town that Clitheroe then was.

Many were the lists made for this epic event; choices of cheese to be offered, sweet or dry wines - red, white AND rose wine? salad or crudités, bread as well as biscuits, who to get for light entertainment whilst the meal was underway, advertising, printing, tablecloths, plates and cutlery to be sourced - the lists were endless. But on the night it all worked out beautifully!

The cheeses were collected from Dew-lay's (at a very welcome discount), Byrnes had delivered the wines and Dorothy and Shirley, helped by Dorothy's husband, John, and kind folk who ran to the local shops for fresh produce, had everything on the tables on time; a backup was kept of all items to replenish if necessary... and they were needed!

Serendipity had played a part too! On the Friday evening previous to the event the Assheton Arms in the village of Downham had used a splendid marquee in the grounds of Downham Hall for a prestigious event of their own... and they were willing to leave the marquee for the use of





Clitheroe Civic Society at no cost! This was a large boost to the eventual profit! Tables already clothed and sporting elegant flower arrangements, electricity on tap, a bar with all its accompanying paraphernalia... even very "swish" portable loos were left.

Over a hundred people attended the event, enjoying the tasty cheeses from Dewlay of Garstang along with nibbles, salads, olives and crudities; fine wines from diverse countries of the world supplied by Byrnes of Clitheroe and the entertainment of popular local jazz musician, Eric Ainsworth, who played an eclectic choice of "mood" music much appreciated by the listeners who could carry on an audible conversation whilst still being aware of the dulcet sounds in the background. Another popular item was a raffle with outstanding prizes which had been donated by local businesses and members of the Society; organised and run by committee member, Olwyn Claydon, with a band of willing helpers. Much was the "oohing" and "aaahing" as recipients claimed their prizes. An impromptu auction caused much merriment and was ably conducted and carried off with aplomb by our hostess, Olivia Assheton. The bar was run with great efficiency by the Claydon family ... and a decent profit was made from drinks purchased after the original 'free' wine had been drunk... even though at the end of the evening a pint of best bitter was being sold for only £1 to get rid of it!

A speech of explanation about the whole process of the dismantling of the Pinnacle and its rebuilding was made by Steve Burke, the retired architect who had offered to guide the Civic Society Committee through the minefield of red tape; and a very impassioned speech by Pauline Wood, the Chairman of the Civic Socie-

ty, who had pressed so hard for this project to be undertaken, thanking everyone concerned who had done anything by way of seeing that such an evening had been made possible.

Altogether a MOST enjoyable time was the order of the evening for the Civic Society members and all their guests and with a significant amount raised. Ribble Valley Mayor and Mayoress, Bridget Hilton and Kathleen Hill, along with Clitheroe Town Mayor, Susan Knox accompanied by Councillor Mary Robinson, graced the event. Coincidentally, Clitheroe Town Mayoress' gold and diamond chain, now valued in the region of half a million pounds, was also a gift to the town from Sir William Brass.

Many thanks were extended to Hon. Ralph Assheton and his wife, Olivia, for allowing the use of the marquee on their lawn and for all the hands on help they had provided over the day. The weather had been atrocious for some days before the event and there had been worries about cancellation... but... eventually... the rain stopped, the wind died down and permission was given to wander through the impressive rose garden and grounds, wine glass in hand. What a way to end such an enjoyable evening – watching the dying sun playing along the 'big end' of Pendle, its cloughs bedecked and bedewed from the recent rains. Perfection.

After all the additions and deductions were made and finalised a total of £1272 was the profit for the evening.



Guests enjoying the summer evening.

[RMS]

Music for a Summer Evening: The Grand

Steve Burke



Project Leader, Steve Burke
introducing the concert

[RMS]

'The Grand' is the premier music and performing arts venue in the Ribble Valley. In 2013 I had organised the 'Spire Aid' event for the Parish Church Spire Rebuild Fund and it seemed possible that a similar event could raise significant funds for this initiative, raise the profile of the project - and the Civic Society - and be an enjoyable evening of local entertainment.

The Grand's Staff - Matt Evans, Programme Manager and Laura Kerrigan, Head of Creative Digital Sales and Events Marketing - were 100% behind the concert from the outset and liaised with the Project Team to identify the best likely dates available for the event. Additionally, they provided the graphic design work for posters and 'flyers' and assisted with promotion of the event via their own website and database. On the night we had the benefit of a light and sound system which is second to none in the North of England!

The event took place on Friday 26th June 2016 and was organised in a very short space of time as the main grant award, from the Heritage Lottery Fund, had not been confirmed until 31st March.

Our aim was to provide a line up which would appeal to the broadest section of the public as possible. This is easily said and aimed for but rarely accomplished. On this occasion however we have no doubt that it was!

Finalised only a few weeks before the event the 'line up' was:

Concert Compère: Dylan Owen 'The Bard of Oswaldtwistle'

We managed to arrange a special pass to get Dylan into the Ribble Valley from neighbouring Hyndburn and he did an admirable job of linking the two acts we had booked for the night's entertainment. Prior to - and between these - Dylan entertained the audience of approximately 200 guests and performers with some achingly funny songs and tales based on his observations of modern - and not so modern - day life of East Lancashire, as well as displaying a more serious side in his songs. As Radio Lancashire's The Drift presenter Phil Brown has described him "*Dylan Owen is a singer songwriter extraordinaire, ... a satirical genius.*"

The first act to be introduced by Dylan was the Grand's very own 'Grand Choir', conducted by Olivia Mason. The 20 strong Female Voice Choir gave a tremendous performance with a great 'tingle factor' to many of their songs which included recent 'chart toppers', songs from shows, operas and the showstopper - for me - their recently added version of 'Up Town Funk'. Olivia was clearly nervous about presenting this for the first time in public. She need not have been. It was a 'foot-stomping showstopper' demonstrating the versatility of this 'Grand' Choir.

The final act of night, which took place after a 'marathon raffle', was the inimitable and hugely talented and entertaining Clitheroe Ukulele Orchestra. The warmth and humour of the second, twenty strong, ensemble was truly infectious.

The Orchestra has two leaders, John Parkinson and Pete Monk. They founded the

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DUCHY OF LANCASTER BENEVOLENT FUND
7 Lancaster Place, London WC2E 9HU

CIVIC SOCIETY

PINNACLE

FRIDAY 26TH JUNE

Summer Concert

WITH MUSIC FROM:
DYLAN OWEN
THE GRAND CHOIR
CLITHEROE UKULELE ORCHESTRA



REPRODUCED WITH THE CIVIC SOCIETY

Clitheroe Pinnacle Project

DOORS: 7PM | STAGE: 7.30PM | £8 ADV

the grand
 18 York Street
 Clitheroe
 Lancashire
 BB7 2DL



Compère, Dylan Owen
 [RMS]

The Grand, Summer Concert
 Poster and ticket

Clitheroe Civic Society Summer Concert
 (Pinnacle Fund-raiser)
Friday 26 June 2015

Child Ticket £5.00
Unreserved Seating
Doors: 7pm

Clitheroe Civic Society Summer Concert 2015
 Child Ticket £5.00
 Unreserved Seating
 Doors: 7pm

The Grand at Clitheroe
 Order ID: 15-11-08-17

the grand



Top: The Grand Choir
Bottom: Clitheroe Ukulele Orchestra

[RMS]

ensemble following an overwhelmingly successful ukulele workshop at the 2013 Ribble Valley Jazz Festival. Their musical virtuosity – including kazoo and wash-board solos -develops equally alongside their humour, often chaotically so, but never to the detriment of the ‘feel-good’ factor that they always provide at their ‘gigs’. This performance at the Grand Summer Concert was no exception. The ‘Ukes’ closed a great evening’s entertainment with an arousing encore.

In addition to the support from the public who turned out for the event, the local business community were particularly generous with their raffle prize donations and the total takings for the evening were over £1,000.00. After what has to be regarded as nominal expenses for the hire of the Grand, publicity and promotion costs and artists’ fees, the whole event contributed just over £500.00 to project funds and a great night was had by all!