



Corsets and bustles at the ready as the annual Grand Ball revisits The Lowry Hotel

The five-star Lowry Hotel is to host The Grand Fancy Dress Ball in continued support for the charity, Maggie's Centre Manchester.

The ball which will be held on Saturday 10th March, will give guests the chance to channel their inner Queen Victoria or Captain Ross Poldark all in aid of raising funds for Maggie's charity which provides emotional, practical and social support for people with cancer.

The fancy dress ball which was inspired by an event held nearly two centuries ago, will be period fancy dress to recreate a famous oil painting which holds residency in the Salford Museum and Art Gallery.

The painting, 'A Fancy Dress Ball, Manchester' by artist Arthur Perigal, records the 1828 event when 3,500 people attended a fund-raiser for local charities at the Theatre Royal in Peter Street, Manchester.

Around 300 paid to be included in the painting, and one of them, a local man, Mr Peacock, who appears in the painting as the Knave of Hearts, won the raffle to keep it. He presented it to Salford in 1852, and it was restored in 1994.

The return of the ball comes after last year's success of raising £17,000 for the charity from a selection of auction and raffle prizes, ticket sales and donations contributing to the fantastic sum.

Adrian Ellis, General Manager of The Lowry Hotel, hopes to exceed the total this year, he said: "We are now in our second year of hosting Maggie's Ball at the hotel, with each year proving to be a greater success than the previous year. Maggie's is a charity close to our heart as the charity relies heavily on donations, which makes the ball each year even more significant."

The idea for the annual ball was sparked off by Mr Ellis after the 'A Fancy Dress Ball, Manchester' painting in Salford Museum and Art Gallery caught his eye, not long after joining the hotel in 2014.

"The painting is so striking, and it got me wondering why we couldn't do something similar today with a local Manchester charity." says Mr Ellis. "As it is a symbolic piece of Manchester's history and The Lowry Hotel is the only hotel in the city centre to be named after an artist, it's fitting that the ball will be inspired by a historic piece of artwork."

Tickets will be priced at £99 per head and there will be a raffle and auction on the night. Tickets can be purchased from the Lowry Hotel 0161 827 4000 and from Maggie's Manchester (0161 641 4857 Emma Halman or Ruth Tobi).

Costumes cover all periods from the Romans to the 1950s, with an extensive range of Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian costumes. A reduced rate is being offered of £45 for hire of the Royal Exchange costumes and includes all accessories, everything from boots to hats.

More info at <https://www.royalexchange.co.uk/costume-hire-frequently-asked-questions>

Mr Ellis, adds: “We have a lot of organisations who help to make the event possible each year, including the Royal Exchange Theatre who help bring the painting to life with their exquisite array of costumes.

“The Ball lets you leave 21st century Manchester behind for the evening and instead experience a magnificent evening at a replica grand ball from two centuries ago.”

For more information, contact Andy Spinoza, Geraldine Vesey or Gabby Sanderson at SKV Communications

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Editor’s notes

The five – star Lowry Hotel is an independent luxury hotel located on the Salford-Manchester boundary, and is the only hotel in the region to be part of the prestigious Leading Hotels of The World. Since opening in April 2001, the hotel has won over 60 awards.

50 Dearmans Place, Chapel Wharf, Salford, Manchester, M3 5LH/

To book or for more information - www.thelowryhotel.com / 0161 827 4000.