

Bank Hall

NEWS

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Exciting Times at the Hall



So much has happened during the last three months at the Hall leading up to the first public opening of the Prospect Tower and exhibition. For the Friends, the restoration of the Hall has been our main objective over the past 27 years. It is now complete and the Hall is now fully restored and the ten apartments and two houses are all occupied. This once derelict mansion was crying out to be restored and has now been given a new lease of life. This has been achieved due to the hard work and dedication of the Friends and Heritage Trust for the North West, along with the developers and many partners.

A message from the Chairman

What a year 2022 has been and to end it in December with the Prospect Tower and exhibition finally opening to the public, just over twenty-seven years since the Action Group first met to begin the campaign to 'Save Bank Hall'. We can finally say that we have accomplished the goal, as the building was also removed from the Historic England Building at Risk Register.

However, the story is far from over as we now focus on supporting the Heritage Trust North West with running the Prospect Tower and exhibition. We will also begin our next campaign for the restoration of the gardens, starting with the potting sheds, greenhouse and walled garden, eventually followed by the wider gardens.

We still need the support of our members, volunteers and visitors to ensure we meet these new restoration goals and that we continue to share the historical stories and maintain the gardens for future generations to enjoy. If you would like to learn more about our future projects or join our team; please email Sally on: bankhallvolunteering@gmail.com

May I thank you all for your continued support and to those that have visited the tower and exhibition so far. For those of you that have yet to visit, we will look forward to welcoming you back to Bank Hall in 2023 starting with our Snowdrop Open Days in February. Until then may I send you best wishes for the new year.

John Howard

Bank Hall taken off the Buildings at Risk Register

On 10th November Historic England formally announced that Bank Hall, which is a Grade II* listed building was no longer on the Buildings at Risk Register and John Howard (chair of the Friends) took part in an interview on BBC North West Tonight where this news was reported.



Private View for the Friends

On 29th November the Friends were invited to a private viewing of the Prospect Tower and new exhibition. The exhibition has been designed by 24design of Manchester working with Liz Moss, John Howard, Lionel Taylor, Andrew Allen and Janet Edwards. It tells the story of the campaign to save the mansion and covers the history of the Hall and its occupants in video, panels and objects.

Official Opening

The 6th of December saw the official opening of the Prospect Tower and exhibition. It was hosted by Heritage Trust for the North West and guests included representatives from the Heritage Trust, Next Big Thing, the Architects, Friends of Bank Hall, Chorley Borough Council and Lord Lilford Estate.



First Public Open Day

After all the hard work by the Heritage Trust and the Friends, the public were finally admitted to the Prospect Tower on Sunday 11th December. All the pre-booked slots were taken and over 60 people attended. Members of the public were able to see inside the Prospect Tower for the first time.

Future Prospect Tower Open Days

The next opportunity for visitors to see the Prospect Tower will be in February 2023 when Open Days will be every Wednesday and Sunday for the month. Visits should be pre-booked via the website: www.heritagetrustnorthwest.co.uk. Some bookings have already been made so it is important to book early to get the time slot you prefer.



Snowdrop Open Days

The Friends will be running the usual Snowdrop Sundays with catering on the four Sundays in February, opening from 12 – 4pm. In addition we will also be opening on Wednesdays 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd of February. Pre-booking is not required for Snowdrop Days but watch our facebook page and website for further updates.

The grounds team have been busy preparing by removing brambles and creating new areas in the grounds to allow more snowdrops to come through. Each year volunteers spend many hours re-making the paths with the addition of dozens of barrow loads of wood chippings spread throughout the grounds to make the paths safe for the many hundreds of visitors.

Many thanks to Dickie Felton for providing some of the photographs for this Newsletter

Welcome to Rhona



Hi, my name is Rhona Brett and I am the newly appointed Visitor Experience Manager for Heritage Trust North West.

I have worked for the Trust for eight years previously, mainly at Pendle Heritage Centre in Barrowford, as the Deputy Operations Manager.

One of my first projects in this new role was to work closely with FoBH to finally open the doors of Prospect Tower to the public. It has been an overwhelming success and the feedback from members and the public has been nothing short of amazing. Everyone should be proud of their contribution to this magnificent achievement and I look forward to meeting you all, if I have not already!

Thank you for your warm welcome and I look forward to working with you all at snowdrop weekends.

Rhona

Snowdrops

Lift up your heads you brave little flowers
As you quietly pass the midnight hours
As you gently greet the early dawn
On this cold and frosty morn
And with a look that is Oh so bold
You turn your faces from the cold
Snowdrops pure and milky white
Shining forth in the morning light
Such simple beauty one beholds
When all around is quiet and still
And in the sunny daytime hours
I stand and look and drink my fill

Brenda Barker

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Friends of Bank Hall (Registered Charity 1147592)

(FoBH is associated with Bank Hall Action Group & Heritage Trust for the North West)

