

Bank Hall NEWS



Spring 2021



Editorial

As mentioned in the last News Sheet, we were not able to open for the Snowdrop Season again in February but this year it was due to the 3rd Covid Lockdown. The Snowdrops this year were excellent and it is such a shame that the public could not visit. I have included a photograph of them which was taken on the 6th March by Steve Taylor.

Easter Sunday – 4th April

With the lockdown rules easing on the 28th March, we are planning on opening the grounds on Easter Sunday. The daffodils are now coming out and we hope they are still there at Easter. There will be no catering as this will not be permitted under the rules until later in April. Also we are not having any activities or stalls but this will be an opportunity for visitors to see the completed restored Hall externally although the fencing may still be surrounding the Hall. See further details below.

Western Approaches Museum in Liverpool

February 17th was the 80th Anniversary of the Western Approaches Control Centre in Liverpool. The Western Approaches Control was a Royal Navy and RAF combined HQ set up because German aircraft and U-boats were attacking ships travelling in to the UK. Western Approaches Control monitored shipping approaches in the rectangular area of the Atlantic Ocean lying immediately to the west of the British Isles.

We know that Bank Hall was requisitioned by the Royal Engineers, Movement Control under the War Office during World War II as the control centre for north west ports. This was for the movement of all war department stores (ammunition, tanks etc.) being shipped overseas to theatres of war.

We contacted the Western Approaches Museum to enquire if there was a link with the wartime operation that took place at Bank Hall. They were not aware of any direct link between Bank Hall and the Western Approaches Control although this is not to say that there wouldn't have been some link at least, so further research is required to establish this.

Information supplied by Andrew Allen

The Hall



Work is still continuing at the Hall. All services are now installed and work continues internally. Externally, landscaping has been ongoing and the picture above is of the west side of the Hall. We are now expecting to be able to formally access the public areas in early May but the Hall will not be open to the public just yet.

The Potting Sheds Project

I have in the past reported on this project which was originally funded way back in 2012. We lost the funding because the main project had not commenced. Since then the project has been on hold but recently negotiations have been held and a revised phase one has now been planned. This will be a partial restoration of the central area of the Potting Sheds to facilitate an entrance into the grounds and for the public to either visit the grounds or Hall. During the Pandemic it has been difficult to obtain funds so we are not able to fully restore all the building at this time. It is anticipated that our volunteers will help with the project and we hope to have more information on this in our next News Sheet.

Forthcoming Event -

Easter Sunday 4th April, 2021

We are planning on opening at 11.00 am with the last admission at 3.30 pm. Visitors must pre-book using Eventbrite and pay on line. Admission is £2.00 +74p Eventbrite booking charge per adult with limited numbers every half hour. Free admission for children but they must also be booked on Eventbrite. No catering, stalls or activities are being held. Dogs will be permitted. We will have hand sanitising stations available and social distancing rules will apply. Face masks should preferably be worn. PLEASE CHECK our Facebook page and website for any changes.



Change of Location Post Code

Please note that the Post Code to locate Bank Hall has now changed. Following the registration of the Apartments at Bank Hall with the Local Authority, the Post Code visitors should now use is:

PR26 9BG

Paypal

Unfortunately we have had to close our Paypal Account due to problems with Paypal. This means that this facility for making Donations to us is no longer available. We are looking at introducing another payment method and will advise when this is available.

Secretary & Archivist

Lionel Taylor, Email: l.taylor@bankhall.org
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Chair

Janet Edwards, Email: janet.edwards@sky.com Tel: 07754-656058

Membership & Volunteering

For Membership Information, email our Membership Secretary, John Howard on: bankhallbretherton@hotmail.com. The Membership form can also be downloaded from our website or we can email the forms to you.

Website: www.bankhall.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bankhall>

