

Bank Hall NEWS

Issue Number 58
Summer 2023



Bank Hall Events . . .



In early April The Friends of Bank Hall held their annual Easter Bunny Hunt event. We changed to Easter Saturday this year from Sunday and it proved to be just as popular. Enthusiastic children took part, spotting the wooden creatures, then happily collecting their Easter Egg reward. We had a face painter, who worked her magic with many fabulous creations, including the faces of some keen volunteers! The day was most enjoyable.

Our June event took on a different theme. We held a Children's Treasure Hunt, with the opportunity for families to bring and enjoy a picnic. Though visitor numbers were low, many were new to Bank Hall and those who attended were most complimentary. It was a pleasure and delight to see the excited children finding the treasure in the woodland and winning a prize of chocolate money.

The Friends have been extremely lucky to receive a number of wooden picnic tables, very kindly donated by 'Tastebuds Café' from the wharf at Rufford. A few coats of paint by volunteers and they look almost new positioned within the Walled Garden and wider grounds, where families can comfortably enjoy the tranquil surroundings whilst picnicking at our events .

As a trial in June, to coincide with the Tower/Hall Sunday openings, The Friends also opened the grounds for our visitors to enjoy between 11am and 3pm. Plans are also in place for additional events to be held in future months within the Hall.

Lastly I would like to express my thanks again to the many volunteers, who give up their valuable time to assist in planning and supporting our events.

Liz Rothwell

A Message from the Chairman

Since the last newsletter our team have continued to hold open days and plan events, hold group talks and work relentlessly keeping the grounds tidy. However, one thing that has been noted is the need for us to form a specific 'gardening team' that will be a branch of our current grounds team; with the focus on the walled garden and recreating some of the flower beds. We are now looking for anyone with an interest in gardening to help form this team (Gardening knowledge preferred but not essential). To volunteer with us please email Sally at bankhallvolunteering@gmail.com

I would also like to thank everyone for their continued support and look forward to progressing all our projects.

John Howard

Dates for your Diary

Annual General Meeting

The 2023 Friends of Bank Hall Annual General Meeting will take place on 25 July at 7pm in the Banastre Room at Bank Hall. Janet Edwards will give a talk on 'Saving Bank Hall'. Members will have free entry but there is a £5 charge for non members. Attendees can visit the exhibition after Janet's talk but will not have a guided tour.

Heritage Open Days 2023

Heritage Open Days will be on Sunday's 10th and 17th of September where there will be plenty of themed activities.

Talk to Preston Historical Society

On Monday 3rd April I had the privilege of being invited to speak on behalf of The Friends of Bank Hall to Preston Historical Society. The subject was The History and Restoration of Bank Hall. For me this was a great honour as Preston Historical is a much respected and a long established group. Indeed, the society is celebrating 75 years with various events taking place this summer as part of their jubilee celebrations.

The talk took place in The Central Methodist Church, Preston and was very well attended with at least 100 people in the audience. Having delivered talks for many years on Bank Hall it was a wonderful occasion not only to be talking about the success of our campaign but also for it to be so obviously well received.

Many members of the society expressed an interest in visiting Bank Hall as a result of my talk and on Sunday May 28th, 29 members came to see The Prospect Tower and enjoy the exhibition.

Janet Edwards



A New Face!



Hello, I'm Janet Allan and I have been volunteering as a Tower Guide since the end of March 2023. I have always had a love of history and am delighted to be able to pursue this further since retiring as Head Teacher of a special school for Autistic young people. Over the years I have brought my own children to the numerous fund raising events at Bank Hall and have seen the building in its derelict state. It is such a privilege to see the wonderful and inspiring work carried out by the Friends of Bank Hall and to see the building now in all it's glory! It is great to be able to share this journey with visitors to the Tower and to bring it's long history to life. I have been made to feel extremely welcome as a volunteer and I am delighted to be part of such a hardworking and dedicated team!

The Enabling Development

What is an enabling development? It is a development that is not in compliance with local and/or national planning policies, and would not normally be given planning permission, except for the fact that the profits will pay for repairs to a heritage asset. This is the case at Bank Hall.

Work has now started on the construction of 23 houses of varying sizes and layouts in a gated area set around two courtyards (please see the plan below). The site is to the east of the walled garden in an area that was previously partly an orchard. The houses are constructed of red brick with stone (Ashlar) dressings and slate roofs. The first houses are due to be completed in 2024. The work also includes the widening of the road junction with the A59 and the addition of passing places along the estate road as far as the Bank Hall barns.

Andrew Allen

Friends of Bank Hall Chairman - John Howard

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Walled Garden

The Enabling Development