

Bank Hall NEWS

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Heritage Open Days 2023



Thanks to James of Acorn Woodcraft for a special chainsaw carving demonstration in the walled garden. James carved a huge tree trunk into a splendid owl at the Heritage Open Day.

This year the theme for for the National Heritage Open Days festival of history and culture was 'Creativity Unwrapped' and the Friends held two free open days on the 10th and 17th September where the theme was enthusiastically celebrated.

On Sunday 10th September Artists were invited to come and draw and paint the newly restored historic mansion from 12 noon to 4pm. Artists brought their easels, pencils and paints to create their own original artwork. Tea and coffee was provided for all artists taking part and visitors were able to watch as masterpieces were created. As a surprise, Bob Wilson the Scottish piper from Penwortham came to the Hall and played a melody of inspiring music.



A Message from the Chairman

Since our last newsletter, it has been great to see some good progress. The 'Walled Garden Team' has formed and began work on the 6th August to start clearing the weeds, recreating and widening the borders in the walled garden and share their knowledge. It is hoped that following recent research taken from an old estate book, they can be planted up in the spring with perennials that would have historically been planted in the garden.

We have had some lovely events as you will read in this newsletter. The next is our **Autumn Event on 15th October, themed around Fairies, Myths and Lancashire Legends.** As always thank you to all our volunteers for their dedication and support.





On the following Sunday, 17th September some of the artwork from the 10th was displayed alongside lots of craft stalls and other family activities. Attractions included stalls selling painted pots, cushions, candles, plants and bric-a-brac as well as the Bank Hall Shop and refreshments. Again, as a special surprise Leyland Morris Men came to the Hall and entertained visitors. They also asked for volunteers to take part in Morris dancing and many of the Friends enjoyed this. Thanks to all the visitors and volunteers that took part on these memorable days.

Volunteering Recruitment

Since the role of Volunteer Recruitment Team Lead was created last Summer, we have seen a significant growth in Volunteer numbers in every area that FoBH engages. Sally Wilson took on this role as a Member Volunteer and her professional background included recruitment and head-hunting across different market sectors. Sally said "unlike recruiting people for jobs, volunteer motivation is very different and is governed by interest, availability/flexibility of time, and the social considerations of meeting new people and having fun while contributing to a worthy cause. We have to remember volunteers have a life beyond FoBH too!"

A total of 20 volunteers have joined since last September: **Grounds team - 7** (one left due to ill health). **Tower Guide team - 2** (one is also a member of the Archives team).

Walled Garden team - 11 (three transferred from the Grounds team, one is a member of

both teams). The Walled Garden team is new and until a Team Lead is appointed, the work is being jointly supervised by Sally and Chairman, John Howard.

The use of social media and having a volunteer recruitment stall at events has attracted most interest, plus two volunteers have come by way of connections with Bank Hall residents. Sally explained "We have volunteers with widespread backgrounds, including the police force, specialist education, heritage tour guiding and research, primary teaching, community development, marketing, gardening and allotment keeping, all willing to share their knowledge and interests. Some of the more established volunteers help out with events and once the Garden team settle in no doubt some will wish to help out further too". Sally also advised she's set herself a target of having a bank of 40 volunteers by this time next year!

To volunteer with us please email Sally at bankhallvolunteering@gmail.com

A new Face



Hi, I'm Judy Hales and I started volunteering as a Tower Guide in March this year. I have always loved history and after I retired, I spent about 10 years as a guide at Rufford Old Hall before starting at Bank Hall. I am in awe of all the volunteers and Friends of Bank Hall who spent countless hours with utter dedication to ensure the hall is not only still standing but looking amazing. I am enjoying showing off all their hard work and sharing the history of Bank Hall with our visitors. You may also see me at Hogs Hut.

It's lovely to be part of such a friendly group of people.

Wine Tasting Event

On August 18th, a new event was held in the Prospect Tower. With the help of Rhona Brett of HTNW, the events lead Liz Rothwell, and two very good friends of mine, the wine tasting event proved to be very successful. Thirty tickets were made available and they sold out within 48 hours. A selection of wonderful wines were provided by Martin Burt ably assisted by Sue Burt who made delicious canapes. Martin has extensive knowledge of wine purely by way of a hobby, although he has undertaken some basic courses.

With meticulous attention to detail including tasting notes, and together with Liz, Christine, Anne and Dave on parking, everything went smoothly. Even before the evening was over guests were asking when another event like this would be held. They particularly enjoyed the fact that this was an event where individuals were not pressurised to buy wine. They simply could enjoy the wonderful selection of wines, the delicious canapes and the ambience of the historic Tower.

Looking ahead to 2024, this is definitely an event I would love to plan again.

Janet Edwards

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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)

