

Bank Hall NEWS

Issue Number 57
Spring 2023



Fabulous February!



The New Year started off with the traditional Snowdrop Event, in February. This year Wednesdays were introduced in addition to the usual Sundays to coincide with the first opening of the Prospect Tower. Though it was a slow start, visitor numbers eventually excelled with a record breaking total of 3,057 being welcomed through the gate, 1,072 were new to Bank Hall and many had travelled some distance. Our In-house stalls of Merchandise, Refreshments and Bric-a-brac recorded bumper takings raising much needed funds for our projects.

The visitor experience feedback was of sheer delight and amazement, all complimenting on the wonderful Snowdrop display. These hardy, little bulbs had again flowered in abundance, this year more spectacular than ever. Mostly due to the hard work of the weekly Volunteer Grounds Team, who removed vast areas of brambles to allow the snowdrops to thrive.

On Saturday 18th March, we opened for our Daffodil Day. Visitors came to view the many varieties of this bright, beautiful, flower. The dry, warm weather was a bonus over the total of nine Open Days, the Friends feeling proud to have shared the woodlands with our visitors. Our regular, dedicated volunteers were joined by new recruits who enthusiastically helped with various duties to ensure the success of the events and create a joyful visitor experience.

To all the volunteers, who gave their support . . . thank you.

Liz Rothwell

A Message from the Chairman

Firstly, I would like to thank all our visitors and volunteers for their continued support and for attending our recent events. It has been a busy February and I am sure it will be a busy Summer for the grounds team as they clear more of the gardens that will make an even better display of Snowdrops and Daffodils for 2024. (Who knows what else they may discover!) The benefits from their hard work last year was clearly seen from this years stunning displays and we have yet to see the bluebells flower.

If you would like to get involved with volunteering in the gardens or at events then please do get in touch with Sally Wilson at bankhallvolunteering@gmail.com as we have various roles available.

Along with Heritage Trust North West, we have been working with a newly appointed project manager for the potting sheds project. Members of the team have been able to give their ideas and expectations of what facilities could be included when restoring the building and what visitors may like to see. Hopefully we will have further updates in our next newsletter.

John Howard



Photograph by David Toft

Prospect Tower Success

What a fabulous February it has been with the opening of the Prospect Tower for the first time this year working in harmony with the spectacular, well established Snowdrop Open Days run by the Friends of Bank Hall. Ticket sales for the Prospect Tower exceeded expectations with every slot full to capacity, heralding a healthy start to the year for Heritage Trust North West. We couldn't do it without the dedication of the Tower guides who put on three tours per day and with the help of Sally Wilson of FoBH we have managed to recruit three new volunteer guides for the coming months.

This year it was agreed to open eight days over February. This was a huge commitment and a lot of hard work but the results have paid off with record breaking visitor numbers. Visitors left some amazing comments in the visitors book. Barry Carr from Skelmersdale wrote . . .

"Visited here many times in my youth (60 years ago!), what an amazing place, well done to everyone, it has been transformed" . . .

whilst Maureen Baines from St Helens remarked . . .

"What a beautiful place, it was heartbreaking to see it in its derelict condition. You have all done an amazing job, well done to all and thank you"

Every visitor thoroughly enjoyed being able to look round and marvel at this spectacular Mansion House that has been saved by the dogged commitment, vision and determination of the Friends of Bank Hall and Heritage Trust for the North West. Thank you to everyone involved.

Rhona Brett. Visitor Services Manager for HTNW

To book a visit to the Prospect Tower, follow the link - <https://buytickets.at/heritagetrustforthenorthwest/878001>



Photograph by David Toft

Easter Bunny Hunt



We will be holding our annual Easter Bunny Hunt on **SATURDAY 8th April** from 12 to 4pm.

First Group Visit to the Prospect Tower

It was a pleasure to welcome the first group visit to the Prospect Tower on 7th February. Tarleton cubs are working towards their Local Knowledge Badge and a visit to the Hall and talk about the history of Bank Hall was ideal for this. Over 22 cubs learnt about the history of their local Manor House and the people who lived there. The boys and girls were really interested and asked lots of intelligent questions. Following on from this, some of their parents and cub leaders visited on Snowdrop and Daffodil open days.

Andrew Allen



Seen in the Grounds . . .

Scarlet Elf Cup, a fungus which grows on fallen branches



Photograph by Terry Holland

Friends of Bank Hall Chairman -
John Howard Email: bankhallbretherton@hotmail.com Tel: 07528-606102
Website: www.bankhall.org Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bankhall>

Friends of Bank Hall (Registered Charity 1147592)
(FoBH is associated with Bank Hall Action Group & Heritage Trust for the North West)

