

Bank Hall NEWS

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Winter 2023



FRIENDS OF
BANK HALL
BRETHERTON

Fairy Woodland Trail



On Sunday 15th October we held our first ever Fairy Woodland Trail event, and what a great success it was with 149 adults and 115 children attending. Fairy doors were positioned around the grounds for children to find and once they had noted down all the numbers they went off to the walled garden to collect a reward. Story telling, myths and legends were also on offer followed by refreshments, a tombola and lots of things for sale. Children had the opportunity to suggest a suitable name for the newly carved owl that now lives in the walled garden. As always, the event would not have been as great a success without our enthusiastic volunteers. Thanks to all for your dedication and support.

A Message from the Chairman

Winter is here and Bank Hall has been closed for December and will remain closed throughout January. But this does not mean that we are not busy! Our Grounds Team continue to tidy up the grounds and will lay the wood chip paths throughout January.

We have a number of volunteering opportunities and are looking for anyone with an interest in helping at our events, or within the grounds. We also have some positions available for history tour guiding, meet and greet, serving refreshments and grounds stewarding at events. For more information please email Sally at bankhallvolunteering@gmail.com

I would like to thank all volunteers for their support over the last year and also everyone who has visited the Prospect Tower and Exhibition during its first year of opening.

We have lots of ideas and plans for 2024, so I hope that you will join us for more events and activities. Finally, I hope that you have had a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2024.

John Howard

Snowdrop Open Days

Snowdrop Open Days this year will be every Sunday and Wednesday in February apart from Wednesday 28th February. Opening from 12 to 4pm.

Daffodil Day

Daffodil Day will be on Sunday 17th March. Opening from 12 to 4pm. Please check our website and facebook pages for more details of these events



Peter Banister 1930 - 2023

Peter and his wife Eileen played a big part in the group in the early years and Peter could be found many a time clearing the grounds and the Hall of its cloak of ivy and debris. Eileen was part of the original refreshment team and volunteered alongside Anne Johnson for many years.

Due to declining health both took a step back from the group but Eileen still came to the snowdrop events annually until sadly she died in 2020. Peter then went to live in a nursing home and by

chance I managed to see him a few months ago whilst visiting another resident as a patient. He appeared well and was really pleased that I had visited him and that he could see some photos I had taken of the restored Bank Hall. He was actually a descendent of the 'Banastres of Bank'.

John Howard

Peter was a childhood friend of my late mother and it was through Peter my journey with Bank Hall began. A chance remark to mum after seeing an article in the Lancashire Evening Post about the plight of Bank Hall resulted in Peter offering to take me to my first group meeting in January 1997. Peter continued to collect me and take me to meetings at The Lord Nelson pub in Croston for many years. He was a true gentleman and on the times when we worked in the grounds together he would always have a hot drink and biscuits in his car to keep me going. I will always remember Peter and I will remain ever grateful to him for enabling me to become involved with such an important campaign.

Janet Edwards

Wood chip Workout !



Work has now begun spreading wood chip along the paths in the grounds of Bank Hall. This is vital to provide a mud free surface for visitors to the Snowdrop Open Days in February and other events in the year. This process, which usually takes place on Wednesdays in late December and January involves distributing the wood chip by wheelbarrow to locations in the grounds and then spreading it evenly with a rake. The work is not overly strenuous. If you would like to join the happy band of volunteer wood chippers then please email Dave Miles: davidmiles@yahoo.co.uk



David Taylor 1944 - 2023

My brother David joined Bank Hall Action Group in 2005 and initially worked in the grounds. He helped with visiting groups such as the Challenge Group, where he used his woodworking skills instructing teenagers in the making of bird boxes. He also used those same skills to make Animal and Easter Bunny templates for the trails which are still in use today.

When BHAG changed to the Friends of Bank Hall he became a Trustee and for many years managed the entrance hut. He was always willing to help in a practical way and gave a levelled opinion at Trustee meetings.

David took early retirement from the Ambulance Service a few years after he contracted Myasthenia Gravis, a neurological condition that could be controlled but in 2019 he was also diagnosed with Motor Neurone disease. Not long after, his condition became quite serious due to breathing difficulties but he fought back and always kept positive. He gradually became immobile but wanted to remain as a Trustee and was still able to add his input to the group. Sadly, due to Covid and subsequently the debilitating nature of MND, he was never able to visit the Hall after it was restored but maintained his interest in the activities of the Friends of Bank Hall.

Lionel Taylor

Prospect Tower Tours

The Prospect Tower and Exhibition will be open from February for pre-booked guided tours at 11am and 1pm. Secure your place by pre-booking. Scan the QR code below with your phone or input the code underneath, both will take you to the booking site.



[tickettailor.com/events/
heritagetrustforthenorthwest/1090815](http://tickettailor.com/events/heritagetrustforthenorthwest/1090815)

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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)

