

Bank Hall NEWS



Spring 2022



Looking to the Future

A new style of newsletter, a new chairman, a new CEO at HTNW in short, a new era for the FOBH. Change is never easy but we have to embrace change. For my part I look forward to the next stage in our history. It is time to draw a line under the last 27 years as the job of saving Bank Hall has been achieved. This is down, in no small part, to the determination of an active group of volunteers, the FOBH, the support of HTNW, the National Heritage Lottery Fund and the vision of Peter Wild and Next Big Thing.

The future now will centre around embedding our new officers in their respective roles, looking at volunteer recruitment and working closely with Liz Moss and all the experience she will bring to HTNW and the FOBH.

Nothing has been easy on our journey but our tenacity saw Bank Hall saved. During the recent snowdrop Sundays, I was struck by the overwhelming delight on the part of visitors to see the restoration complete.

For my part volunteering should be enjoyable so going forward I hope we all work in harmony as we look to the future whether that is restoring the grounds or welcoming visitors into the public space.

Janet Edwards

A message from the Chairman

We have had some changes since our last newsletter back in winter 2021. Firstly, Janet Edwards has been elected as vice-chairman and has been a great help to me as I have settled into my role as chairman. Secondly, Lionel Taylor has stood down as group Secretary and Sheila Walmsley has recently been elected as the new Secretary. In the next few weeks we will be electing our new Treasurer and also hope to set up our "Recruitment Team" that will enable us to expand our membership and volunteering.

In October 2021 the Heritage Trust for the North West (HTNW) welcomed Liz Moss as their new CEO. Liz quickly got involved with Bank Hall and has been setting out a plan to open the Prospect Tower for visits, and is starting to think about the next stage of work which will be the Potting Sheds and Walled Garden, and how the Friend's group can assist HTNW with this process. At the moment there hasn't been a date given for the opening of the Tower, as the handover of that area has not taken place, but we will provide an update as soon as it is known.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support and hope that you will enjoy reading this newsletter, that has been contributed to by members of our group.

John Howard

News from the grounds

The grounds, post covid lockdown were looking in a sorry state with masses of overgrown vegetation and weeds. Volunteers came forward to join the team that planned to work one midweek day each week. The pool currently stands at 14, with a typical attendance of between six and ten on any given day. The bulk of the work entails clearing unwanted vegetation which is basically Himalayan balsam, nettles, sycamore seedlings/saplings, wild raspberries and brambles. The latter being the most numerous and biggest challenge. Selected areas within the 15 acre grounds were targeted, which has resulted in dramatically opening up these areas allowing many of the fine redwoods etc to be fully appreciated for their beauty. An extra bonus being a lovely show of snowdrops within many of the cleared areas. The team spent December and January woodchipping all the paths in readiness for our snowdrop open Sundays, and how well the paths now look. So February is the time for a well earned break, and I know we are all raring to go again as spring approaches, determined to make the grounds as beautiful as we can for the general public to enjoy (and also ourselves).

Dave Miles



Chairman

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A Membership Form and a Gift Aid 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>

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Events

It was exciting to be able to hold our Snowdrop Event after two years. Though challenged with extreme stormy weather conditions and the cancellation of the third Sunday, the Friends of Bank Hall still managed to put on the Event. As well as past visitors we welcomed many new visitors to experience the stunning display of the beautiful Snowdrops, and this year they were in abundance. With the Daffodils and Primroses showing their beauty throughout the grounds, we also decided to hold a Daffodil Open Day for all to enjoy.

Our Next Event will be held on Easter Sunday 17 April, when we will have the traditional Easter Bunny Hunt, which as always proves a popular Children's activity.

The Events Team are looking forward with much enthusiasm to the planning of Events for 2022.

In addition to current Volunteers we have welcomed some new faces to assist at our Events. To all who give their time and support . . . Thankyou .

Liz Rothwell



Volunteer, Fiona Broadfoot and the catering van - very kindly on loan from Lytham Hall for the Snowdrop Sunday open days

