

# Bank Hall NEWS



## Autumn 2021



### Editorial

Every time I write this News Sheet, I really hope to have some news about when the Hall will be open to the public but again there is no positive news concerning this. The apartments are being marketed and a number have been sold. Work around the Hall is more or less complete although the main gates have not yet been fitted. Internally in the public area, the interpretation work has not been installed due to a delay in the handover of that area. The Hall now looks wonderful and without doubt the achievement of all involved with this project is a credit to all those involved in saving the Hall for future generations to see. The picture shows the restored Hall from the North West.

### Changes at FoBH

As mentioned in the Summer News Sheet, Janet Edwards stepped down as the Chair of FoBH. Our new Chairman is John Howard who runs our Social Media pages and was also our Membership Secretary. John has been involved with the group from a young age when he joined the Bank Hall Action Group in 2003.

As Secretary of FoBH, I have taken over dealing with the Membership matters. We are also in the process of sorting out a new Treasurer.

### Heritage Open Day

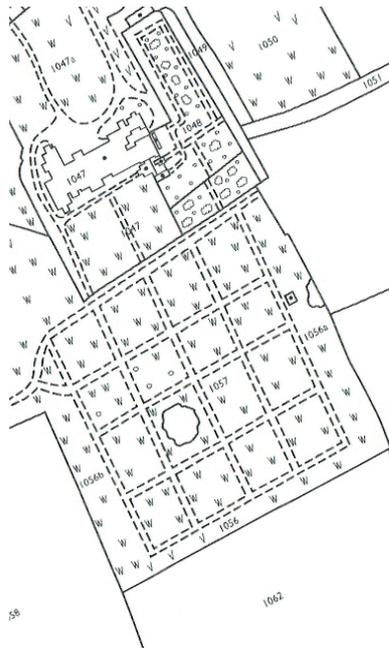
Sunday the 12th September saw us open for the first time without pre-booking since 2019. The weather was kind to us and we had 485 Adult visitors and 63 children, many returning but quite a number of new visitors. The event was very successful and thank you to all those who made a donation and supported the stall holders at the event.

## Heritage Trust for the North West

As you will know, we work with The Heritage Trust for the North West (HTNW) who hold the Head Lease from the Estate. The central public area will be returned to HTNW at the handover and they also own the grounds around the Hall. At the recent Heritage Open Day, I was asked several times about the future of our group and the answer is that the Friends group will be working work with HTNW and operating the public areas for them. Moving forward, there are a number of matters to be sorted not least of which are the Potting Sheds and Greenhouses, the very important Walled Garden and its walls. Also the grounds that we currently open to the public are to be the subject of a plan for the future. Funding is crucial to all this work, both fund raising by ourselves and by way of grants and consequently it is likely to be a slow progress in achieving all our aims. We are grateful for all the financial support we have received (including the Lottery funding which are of course are funds from the public) and indeed the support of all the public who visit. Crucially all our Members and Volunteers are vital to our continuing efforts of this important site.

## Grounds Information

I am now including some information concerning the grounds in the News Sheets and am starting with the medieval layout. This extract is from the 1838 Tithe Map and from this you can see the grid network of square plots surrounded by paths. It is expected that this was part of the original medieval layout from an earlier Hall. The same feature was shown on the OS map from 1847 but we believe not long after George A. Legh-Keck changed some of the layout. Certainly by 1893, the layout had disappeared on the OS Map from that year. We are hoping that the layout is still below the surface and at least a section of it can be explored. The circular feature in the third horizontal row is the pond which still exists



## What's in an Artefact



The picture shows a clay pipe which was found by UCLAN Students on one of their training digs at Bank Hall. It is the only almost complete clay pipe we have at present as most have their stems completely broken off. This will date to the early 19th century and on the reverse side shows a "Liver Bird" which indicates it was made in Liverpool. The front has on it the Masonic Mark with the letter 'G' in it which was frequently used by the Masons. It is possible that the pipe may have belonged to George Anthony Legh-Keck.

## Events

Our next proposed Open Day is our Halloween '**Haunted Autumn**' event on Sunday 31st October. We will be opening from 12 Noon to 4.00pm and further details will be on our public facebook page and our website.



### Secretary & Archivist - Membership & Volunteering

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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.

### Chairman

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