

Bank Hall NEWS



Summer 2022



The 1832 front doors from a 1960s photograph



The recently installed new front doors

The Front Doors

The original front doors at Bank Hall, seen here on the far left, are from the 1832 remodelling work by George Webster for George Anthony Legh-Keck. Being studded and with decorative hinges they appear to come from an earlier age but that is an illusion. They were almost two inches thick and in three layers - an outer layer and an inner layer with wood infill to produce a very solid door. The studs were only decorative and did not go all the way through the doors and what appeared to be decorative hinge straps were in fact just decoration and did not actually form part of the hinges that held the doors in place.

The picture below is of a small section of the door showing how it was constructed. Only one side of the original door has survived but the bottom section below the position of the decorative hinge has rotted away. The rest of the door is currently in storage but it is hoped that one day it can be put on display after preservation.

Lionel Taylor, archivist



A message from the Chairman

Since our Spring newsletter I have been planning our Annual General Meeting that will take place on Tuesday 26th July at Much Hoole Village Hall with a prompt start at 7pm. The meeting is open to all Members, Volunteers and the general public to attend.

Down at Bank Hall it has been nice to meet the new residents as they have moved into the hall, and it has been great to see the work from the grounds team progress as they have reclaimed areas of the gardens from the weeds that took over during the pandemic. Lionel Taylor has taken over as Treasurer from Mark Baybutt and I would like to thank Mark for his work over the past 11 years in this role.

I am also looking forward to the 'object call-out' hosted by Heritage Trust for the North West; more details of which can be found in this newsletter. This initiative will enable us to expand the exhibition by adding to the material that has already been collected. So if you have any items or stories that are related to Bank Hall then we hope you will get in touch. We hope that we can then open the exhibition in the Autumn.

John Howard



Bank Hall Exhibition - Object Call-Out

Heritage Trust for the North West as part of their plans for the exhibition in the Hall are now inviting anyone with any fascinating objects relating to Bank Hall to get in touch. People are being urged to share any objects they have which relate to the life and workings of the Hall. The display will tell the story of the home, its occupants and its fight for survival.

Objects of great interest could be featured in the exhibition. People who have objects should email the details, in 50 words with a photograph, to: info@24design.co.uk with 'Bank Hall Memories' in the subject line. People need to get in touch by Thursday 23 June.

Later this year the plan is to invite members of the public to enter the Prospect Tower and see the exhibition about this very special place. So we are very keen to hear from people who may have objects relating to the life and times of this remarkable home which could be included and could complement the displays.

Liz Moss, Heritage Trust for the North West

Dinah Mee

It is with great sadness that we have heard of the death of Dinah Mee. Over 25 years ago she was one of the founders of the Bank Hall Action Group (forerunner to the Friends of Bank Hall). Dinah died at the age of 80 in June 2021. She was passionate about saving Bank Hall and committed a lot of time and effort in fund raising and drawing attention to the desperate condition of the Hall. She loved the village of Bretherton and its people and looked after the war memorial. There are fond memories of her cycling back and forth with her watering can to water the bedding plants.

Andrew Allen



Events

April saw the Friends of Bank Hall hold their annual Easter Bunny Hunt Event on Easter Sunday.

Without any restrictions this year we were able to operate an open gate (no pre-booking required). We had many first time visitors to experience the delightful, tranquil grounds of Bank Hall with their families. Excitement was in abundance as the woodland Bunny Egg Hunt commenced. Children who completed the hunt were rewarded with a chocolate egg. Our face painter, who illustrated many creations, kept children entertained. In addition our bric-a-brac stall introduced a children's Tombola which also proved very popular with the little ones.

The weather was dry and sunny and the idyllic Walled Garden and Hall provided a splendid backdrop which contributed to a relaxing fun packed and enjoyable afternoon for both families and volunteers.

Next Event

We look forward to inviting visitors to the **Country Crafts Event** to be held on Sunday 17th July, where many local craft stalls will be available.

Liz Rothwell



Sister and brother Keira and Jake show off their Easter Eggs at the Easter Bunny Hunt

Chairman

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Archivist & Membership (inc Volunteering) Secretary

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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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