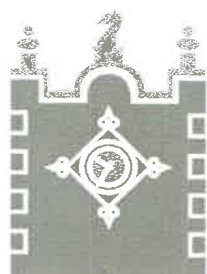


# The Friends of Bank Hall

Registered Charity No: 1147592



Friends of  
**BANK HALL**  
Bretherton

## Annual Report

*For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021*

*25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year*

## Annual General Meeting – 2021

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021 will be held on:

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2021 at 7.00 pm at ~~Bretherton Congregational Church Hall, South Road, Bretherton, Lancs. PR26 9AJ~~

*Subsequently changed to the Walled Garden at Bank Hall.*

The Agenda for the Meeting will be as follows:

1. Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> AGM as on the 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020
2. Chairpersons Report for the year.
3. Secretary's Report for the year.
4. Treasurer's Report including the Accounts.
5. Principal Officers for 2021-2022.
6. Close of Meeting.

*(NB: This pack also includes the Membership/Volunteer and Social Media Report for the year but this is not part of the Statutory requirement).*

Lionel E. Taylor

Honorary Secretary

27<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

# The Friends of Bank Hall

## Correspondence Addresses:

(Chairperson)  
Hall Green Farm,  
Hall Carr Lane,  
Longton,  
Near Preston, Lancs. PR4 5JN

Tel: 01772-613334  
Email: [janet.edwards@sky.com](mailto:janet.edwards@sky.com)

(Secretary)  
6, West Croft,  
Much Hoole,  
Near Preston,  
Lancs. PR4 4QP

Tel: 01772-612801  
Email: [l.taylor@bankhall.org](mailto:l.taylor@bankhall.org)

## Operational Details

Name: The Friends of Bank Hall

Registered Charity Number: 1147592

Ruling Body: Committee of Trustees (Maximum 16)

Website: [www.bankhall.org](http://www.bankhall.org)

Principal Objects: *To promote the education of the public by preserving for the benefit of the people of Lancashire and the Nation, Bank Hall, Bretherton, its architecture, heritage, grounds and the natural and ecological environment in particular but not exclusively by supporting the Heritage Trust for the North West (registered charity 508300).*

## Trustees in the Year 2020-2021

Janet Edwards (Chair)  
Geoff Coxhead (Vice-Chair)  
Lionel Taylor (Honorary Secretary, Archivist & Chair of Archives & Interpretation Sub-Committee)  
Mark Baybutt (Honorary Treasurer)  
Andrew Allen (Publicity & Sales Shop Manager)  
John Howard (Membership Secretary, Tour Manager & Social Media)  
Steven Dearnaley (Chair of Grounds Sub-Committee)  
Anne Johnson (Snowdrop Collection)  
Chris Taylor (Webmaster)  
Allan Baybutt  
Jack Beetham  
David Miles Events (Assistant Lead on Grounds Team & on Events Team)  
Elizabeth Rothwell (Events Sub Committee Chair & Coordinator)  
David Taylor  
Peter Taylor  
Andy Watson

# Chairpersons Report for 2020-2021

It goes without saying that the last twelve months have tested the resolve of all of us in a way we never expected. The impact of Covid 19 and the global pandemic dominated how we continued to operate as The Friends of Bank Hall (FoBH).

As your Chairman, the last twelve months have been particularly hard for me caring for my elderly mother, dealing with her death, and continuing to fulfil the role I was elected to carry out. This was a role I agreed to take on in 2003 and I never imagined I would still head up FoBH some 18 years later. In that time many things have challenged me from endless meetings, solutions to saving the hall, setbacks and progress, dealing with the press, and holding the group together. Sometimes that was as hard as saving the hall.

The last twelve months have probably been the most stressful, taking part in virtual meetings with the National Heritage Lottery team responsible for managing the project and eventually hosting zoom meetings for the Trustees of FoBH.

In spite of all the challenges what we now see in the real world is a beautiful building restored to its former glory something we must all be proud of, a legacy to each and every one of us who have invested many hours of our time on a voluntary basis to achieve this. We have all contributed to this miracle in our own unique ways, everybody's efforts no matter how big or small has made this happen. We should not forget those individuals who sadly did not live long enough to see the outcome of this long-lasting campaign. I would encourage everybody to look at our web site or our Face book page to see the before and after images that John Howard has captured for all to see.

During the last year we tried hard to hold events in the grounds in a very limited way following government guidelines. When we did host events it was wonderful to see members of the public being able to enjoy the grounds and all the peace and tranquillity that they offer. Going forward FoBH together with The Heritage Trust for the North West (HTNW) will be custodians of the wider grounds and their eventual restoration. It is important that we maintain our group keeping focused on this vision.

To this end volunteering will be very important and already detailed plans and documentation for developing a volunteer programme including recruitment and guidelines are being developed. It is imperative that this is now taken to a new level. However, the efforts of the grounds team and volunteers to date, be it working safely as a group in the grounds, or as individuals, has been amazing over the last year. I have been to witness your efforts on several occasions and I want to take this opportunity to thank you all.

Now it is time for me to step down as Chairman, a role I have felt privileged to have undertaken. From being a young girl of 10 years old Bank Hall has fascinated me and to have been part of the long journey to save this building for the future has been a major part of my adult life. I wish my successor all the best in an exciting new phase when members of the public can come into the hall to enjoy our public space and all that it will offer.

**Janet Edwards**  
**Chairperson**

**May, 2021**

## Secretary's Report for 2020-2021

Once again this year has been very busy despite the lockdowns that we have all had to endure. I would first like to just say something about events. We had to cancel the Easter event in 2020 due to the commencement of the first pandemic lockdown and then all scheduled events afterwards were also cancelled when it became known how serious Covid was. We then organised opening on the 16<sup>th</sup> August to test using a pre-booking system; card payment system, and social distancing together with other Covid measures.

Next as measures had been eased between the first and second lockdown, we also opened for Heritage Open Day in September. Again measures and systems were in place and on this occasion we did have stalls and catering. We couldn't charge for this event but still had to operate pre-booking and limit numbers. Very little if anything was made on these two open days but they were an exercise to give the public an opportunity to see the progress on the Hall during this difficult period. Although at the end of 2020 I pre-planned arrangements to open for the 2021 Snowdrop season, with the third lockdown commencing in January, we had to cancel those open days. On behalf of Liz, she would like to express her thanks to the events team & volunteer members who supported the two events in 2020 under the pressure of the Covid restrictions. On behalf of the Trustees we fully echo those thanks.

Moving on to my own work, much goes on behind the scenes. I have been liaising with HTNW on many matters both in relation to the main project and also in relation to other matters concerning the Potting Sheds and Grounds. It is impossible to relate everything but the amount of work which has to be done to meet the lottery requirements in relation to the funding for the main project, is substantial. John Miller, who is himself now working for HTNW on a voluntary basis, works around the clock to deal with not only Bank Hall but other matters and properties for HTNW. For this reason I have been helping John in a number of areas in relation to the Bank Hall project.

Covid presented us with difficulties concerning meetings as not everyone had the technology to deal with online meetings. With the exception of two Trustees who consented for us to proceed, we managed an online visual meeting in March this year. Prior to that everything was carried out by email and letter with myself giving periodic updates to both Trustees and Members in addition to the Quarterly News Sheets which Andrew turns into a professional branded document. John has also kept the momentum going with postings on the different Facebook pages and that in itself has been important. Thanks also to Chris for maintaining our website.

It has also been a difficult time for work in the grounds and throughout the pandemic the regular monthly Sunday Volunteer days were suspended. After the first lockdown had ended, keeping to the rule of 6, Dave Miles organised weekly mid-week volunteer days.

Grass does not stop growing nor do the weeds stop spreading growing .

Had these been left, we would have faced a mammoth task to clear them in a short space of time. Thanks to Steve for continuing to mow the grass during the lockdown period and outside the weekly sessions and to Dave for organising the weekly volunteer sessions and of course to the volunteers who took part in this as this enabled the site to be kept reasonably tidy. Also thanks to John who has been attending separately and re-constructing the stumpery & fernery. It gives the public something else to see now that they can re-

visit the grounds. I would also add that a number of trustees and members have been walking the grounds for security reasons during the lock down periods and we are grateful that they have been able to do this.

FUNDING - This last year has been difficult in trying to obtain grants with so many funds being diverted to Covid related requirements. We were, however, successful in our application to the Co-op Good Causes scheme for funding relating to the Grounds. One application for emergency funding failed and I would emphasize at this point that we have not received any financial help from Government or any other emergency funding during the period of the pandemic.

I would also just mention that during lockdown, Pauline, my wife, has managed to dispose of some of the stored Bric-a-Brac on Marketplace to add to the funds for the Potting sheds project. By the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, in total they had raised £ 2,291 from the Bric-a-brac stall for this project.

Although this report is for our last financial year, with work on the Hall coming to a conclusion, we have had to start planning for a new role at Bank Hall and so we need to look to the future. We need to be clear on our role, have a professional approach in the way we operate, and as an independent charity, have clear objectives. We still need to take into consideration the Lottery requirements appertaining to the substantial grant which has been received from them and, let us not forget, comes from the public. We also need to be aware of the requirements of Heritage Trust for the North West to whom we will be responsible in managing the public areas. HTNW now own the grounds and public area under the leasing arrangement so much of what we do needs to be approved by them. Certain issues concerning the main project have had to be resolved and compromises made and at this stage it is still not clear when we will first open to the public. One of the first jobs that has had to be tackled is to set up a procedure for recruiting new Volunteers. The emphasis has to be on Volunteers for the Grounds at this stage as this is going to be the main area of development in the next few years. Towards the end of this reporting year, I commenced work on this.

As I am also Archivist for the Group, I have not been able to conduct that much work in this last year in relation to the Artefacts. I have, however, had to prepare and pack up those artefacts which are going on display. These were finally collected by 24 Design recently. September brought some excitement when I was contacted by Jurre Schaars from the Netherlands in connection with the Legh Livery Button which is now in our safe keeping. Also early this year I was contacted by a lady in Canada who wanted some local information which was connected to Bank Hall and at the same time, by Colleen Jones in Australia. Colleen had found a link to the Banastre family on her family tree. She has sent me a wealth of information including details of documents she has found indexed under another name. All this has to be sorted yet but will provide new information for our Banastre family tree.

In conclusion, I want to thank all our Trustees for their support particularly in this difficult year. It has not been easy to manage but I hope it has been handled satisfactorily under the difficult circumstances brought about by the pandemic.

**Lionel Taylor,**

**Honorary Secretary,  
Archivist, and  
Chairman of the Archives & Interpretation Sub-Committee**

**May 2021**

# Friends of Bank Hall

Registered Charity Number: 1147592

## Treasurer's summary for the year ending 31 March 2021

Dear fellow Trustees, Members and Friends,

What an extraordinary year it has been for the world! As I write this and reflect on the last year, my thoughts are with the families of those who have lost loved ones and struggled to make it through this challenging pandemic.

Whilst it has been incredible to see the Hall reaching completion, it has been disappointing that we have been unable to hold events and welcome visitors in the way we would wish to. Ultimately our limited activities have had an impact on our finances.

This AGM marks my tenth year as treasurer, 18 years in the group, and it has been an incredible journey.

The success of this project is down to each and every contribution made by everyone who has been involved along this long journey, so thank you once again for your personal contributions to this group and to the project as a whole.

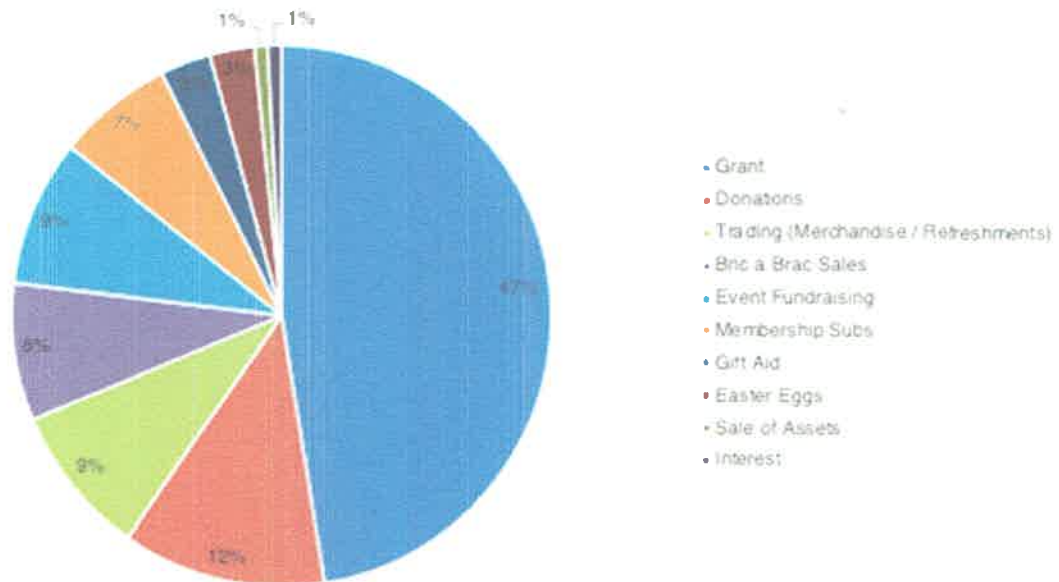
On to the accounts - I would like to thank everyone in the group for their fundraising efforts this year, our Trustees, Members, Friends, Sponsors and Supporters for their continued support in what has been an incredibly challenging year.

The following is a summary of the accounts for **Friends of Bank Hall** covering the financial year to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Unfortunately, due to site access issues at the start of 2020 we have been unable to hold our series of events which take place early in the calendar year. Snowdrop Sundays are usually a major source of income, a gap which is noticeable in this year's accounts.

The largest income heading this year is the Co-Op Community Grant (£1,223.80).

Income from fundraising activities and donations have totalled just over £2,578 (reduced from £9k last year and £16k the year prior to the Covid pandemic), whilst this is significantly down from our norm, this is due to reasons beyond our control, therefore well done everyone for your collective efforts.

Income Streams FY 20/21



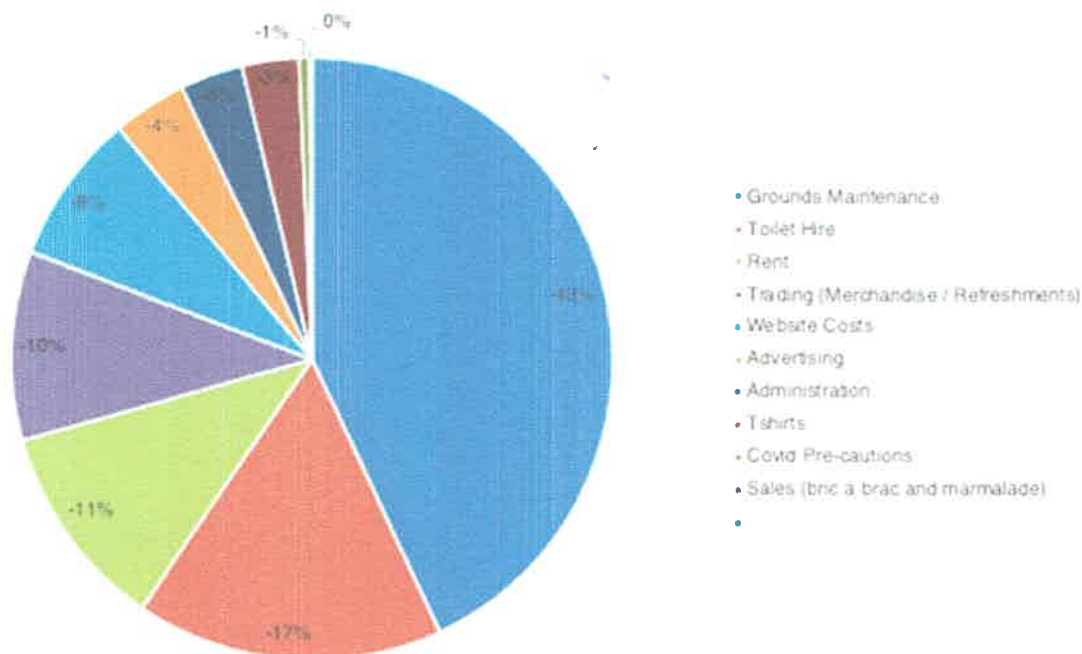
Expenditure this year has totalled £2,709, which is similar to the previous year and means that overall there is a deficit in the year of £130. The largest element of this year's expenditure was (as usual) combined cost of Grounds Maintenance (£1,164) this includes tree work and wood chipping, toilet hire (£449) is the second largest cost heading, although much reduced than normal.

# Friends of Bank Hall

Registered Charity Number: 1147592

## Treasurer's summary for the year ending 31 March 2021

### Expenditure FY 20/21



Friends of Bank Hall have loaned £25,000 to Heritage Trust for the North West in the financial year 2019/2020, the loan is to facilitate the commencement of work by the organisation who will be fitting out the Trust's area within the Tower and will be re-paid to the FBH when HTNW have been able to draw back the funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This is still shown on our balance sheets as such this financial year as the HTNW have not yet repaid the loan.

Expenditure has been in excess of income this year. We will need to increase our income in 2021/2022 to ensure that we return to a surplus position, and also ensure the loan to HTNW is repaid to FBH, in line with the terms agreed.

Friends of Bank Hall - Balance of Funds			
Fund / Account	31 March 2021	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
Main Account	£ 20,591.27	£ 20,760.94	£ 43,695.89
Trading Account	£ 12,018.93	£ 11,985.91	£ 11,897.75
Potting Sheds Reserve Account	£ 10,184.08	£ 9,913.75	£ 9,577.04
Potting Sheds Development Account	£ -	£ -	£ -
Projects Account (A4A)	£ 1,019.37	£ 1,084.27	£ 1,084.27
Clock Tower	£ 3,448.27	£ 3,448.27	£ 4,619.77
PayPal	£ -	£ 199.18	£ 199.18
Cash Held	£ 380.00	£ 380.00	£ 380.00
<b>Cleared Funds Sub-Total</b>	<b>£ 47,641.92</b>	<b>£ 47,772.32</b>	<b>£ 71,453.90</b>
Loan to HTNW - Fit out of Trust Area	£ 25,000.00	£ 25,000.00	£ -
<b>Loaned Funds Sub-Total</b>	<b>£ 25,000.00</b>	<b>£ 25,000.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 72,641.92</b>	<b>£ 72,772.32</b>	<b>£ 71,453.90</b>

Once again, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Lionel for his continued assistance with financial matters and also to thank my dad for his help and assistance with cashing up and banking following events. One final point, once again thank you to everyone for their efforts, help and support; Keep up the good work everyone!

**J Mark Baybutt**

Trustee, Honorary Treasurer, Volunteer Coordinator  
Friends of Bank Hall and Bank Hall Action Group  
June 2021

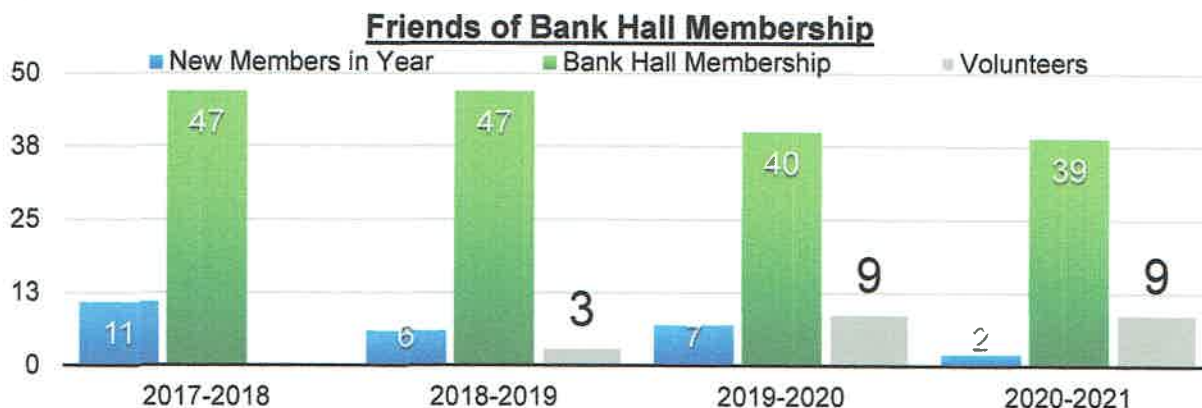




## Membership & Social Media Report for 2020-2021

I would like to thank all of our members and volunteers for their continued hard work and support during the difficulties that we all have faced over this past year.

Over the last membership year (1st April 2020 - 31st March 2021) we have had thirty-nine members and nine volunteers registered with us. This also includes three long term honorary members. The previous three years Membership numbers can also be seen in the chart below. For the last three years we have kept a list of volunteers. These are people that come to help at events and volunteer days but may not want to be as involved as our members are but would still like to be actively involved on site.



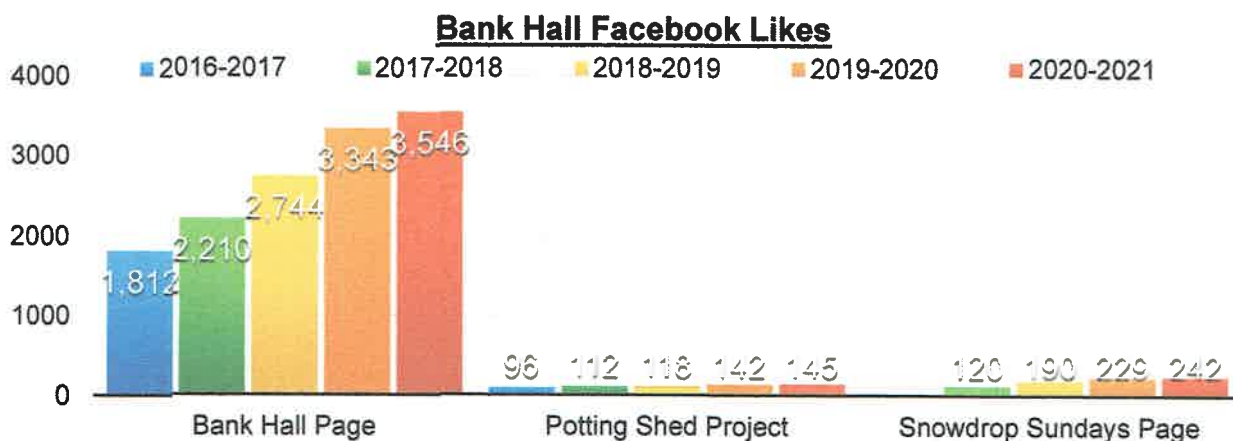
### Social Media

As well as my role as Membership and Volunteer Secretary, I also manage the social media pages. These continue to be a vital resource for publicising events and spreading the word of our campaign. Please note that all of the following figures are current to the time of the writing of the report (May 2021).

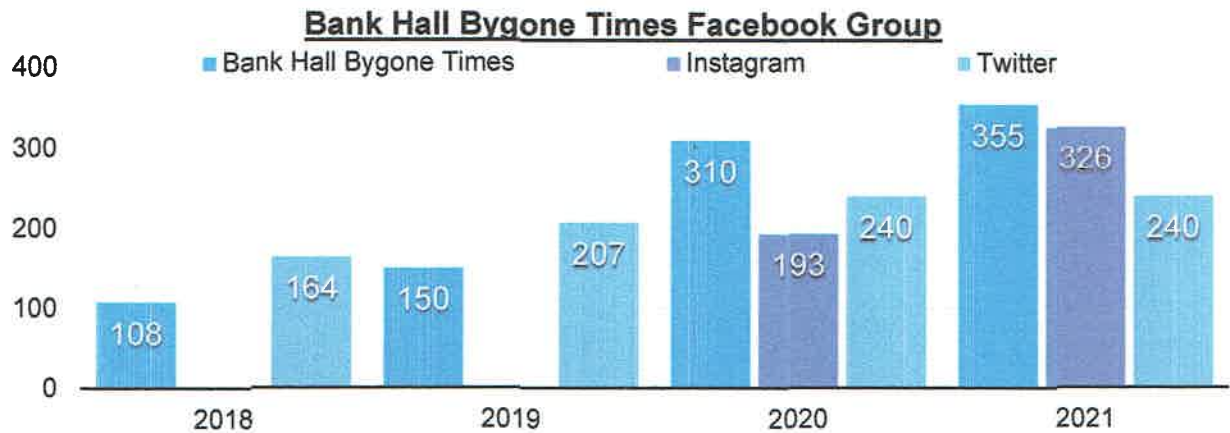
We have the main "Bank Hall, Bretherton" Facebook page with 3,546 likes and 3,705 followers. We now have a feedback rating of 5 out of 5 star rating, compared to our 4.7 out of 5 star rating last year.

Our "Potting Shed Project" page has 145 likes and remains less active until the project work commences.

Although we haven't had our "Snowdrop Sundays" for a couple of years now, firstly due to the services being installed to the site back in Feb 2020 and the pandemic restrictions in place in Feb 2021. The page has gained some more followers and currently has 242.



We also have a member's only group that can be accessed by active members who have paid their membership renewal. This is for group discussion and members only activities and events. The 'Bank Hall Bygone Times' history group is for people specifically interested in the history of the Hall and Estate. We currently have 355 facebook members in that group.



Our Twitter account currently has 240 followers

On Instagram we currently have 326 followers and has seen a great increase of followers as the

We have continued to use our social media hash tags #bankhallbretherton and #bankhallrestoration. These are being used by visitors on all social media channels when they upload their own photos.

Over the next year I plan to continue to promote Bank Hall via social media and would hope that we can use it to share our stories and progress of our future projects and events with the world.

**John Howard**

Friends of Bank Hall Membership Secretary,  
Social Media Manager and Tour Guide.