

Bank Hall NEWS



Spring 2020

Editorial



We enter 2020 knowing that work will be completed at the Hall in this our 25th Anniversary Year. However, it got off to a bad start with having to cancel our Snowdrop Sundays – the first time this has happened in 19 years. We tried to inform as many people as possible through the media, our contact lists, and by whatever other means we could think off and we know many will have been disappointed. To explain, we were advised two weeks before the first Sunday in February that the utilities were being brought to the Hall: Water from the Barns on the entrance from the A59 and Gas from Eyes Lane down the whole length of Carriageway Drive. It had taken 4 months for the arrangements to be made so it was not feasible to ask for this work to be delayed. In assessing the position we cancelled on the grounds of safety because of obstructions to vehicles down carriageway drive and importantly to pedestrians using the estate roads. At the end of February this work had not been finalised and the electricity supply has not yet been installed. This has represented a huge loss of income to us but this could not be helped. I have included a picture of the Snowdrops this year to show that they were just as good despite the bad weather.

The Main Project

As regards the main project - we have been advised that the six residential units on the east side of the Hall will be ready & marketed in June/July. Ahead of this we should have access to the public area. Our next News Sheet is likely to be longer and contain more information.

Public Entrance

We have now explored three alternatives and none of these have proved feasible so we are back with using the Potting Sheds. One of the main problems is 'funding' and in February a small application was submitted but was not successful. Currently as this is written two other applications are at different stages but there is no guarantee that they will be successful. Work will have to be done in stages and the plan is to open an access through the middle of the Potting Sheds, there will also be remedial work to the walls and landscaping. If the applications are successful, there will possibly be a rebuild of the western side of the Potting Sheds.

Obituary

It is with great sadness that we record that Christine Dean passed away on the 9th February. Christine joined the Bank Hall Action Group in 2007 and has been a valued Member of the team primarily assisting with the catering at our events. Christine became a Trustee appointed when The Friends of Bank Hall was set up but she retired in 2018 due to ill health. She loved wandering around the grounds taking photographs of the flora and fauna, particularly after we had closed on events days in the summer months.



History Note

As I am also archivist for the Friends Group, I have an interest in history and archaeology and from time to time visit other Halls & Museums. In February I visited Lyme Hall in Cheshire which was the ancestral home of the 'Legh' family. I particularly wanted to see this Hall which is now looked after by the National Trust and it is well worth a visit. The Legh family were owners of Bank Hall at one stage in its history and their Crest appears within the George Anthony Legh Keck Crest above the main entrance at Bank Hall. What appears on the Bank Hall Crest is in fact the Ancient Leigh Crest (A Red Shield with a White Cross) with the Augmentation superimposed over it. The Augmentation element is shown in the picture. The augmentation arose due to the action of Sir Thomas Danyers at the Battle of Crecy (1346) when he retrieved the standard of Edward, Prince of Wales, after it had been taken by a French Knight. He cut off the Knights Arm in order to gain back the standard. The Granddaughter of Sir Thomas Danyers married the first Piers Legh who was granted Lyme in 1398. The Augmentation was only granted by Queen Elizabeth I some time later.



Dates for your Diary . . .

April 12th Easter Sunday Bunny Hunt

As usual we will be open for our Bunny Hunt from 12 Noon to 4.00 pm. Adults pay £2.00 and children enter free but the Hunt will cost £1.50 with an Easter Egg Prize at the end but please note places for this are limited. After the number of places have been reached, the Hunt can still be carried out for fun. Other Stalls, activities and catering will take place in the Walled Garden. Please note that Dogs will not be permitted at this event due to the number of children on site. Currently we have no other events planned for May or June but if any are arranged at short notice we will advise all correspondents and communicate this on our facebook page and website.

Volunteers Day

The next Volunteers Days are scheduled for Sundays 22nd March, 5th April and 17th May. Normally from 10.00 am to approx. 3.00 pm or when tired !! If you are interested in joining us to help with this work, please do check our Facebook page and Website for any changes.

Secretary & Archivist

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Membership & Volunteering

For Membership Information, email our Membership Secretary, John Howard on: bankhallbretherton@hotmail.com. The Membership 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>

