

Bank Hall NEWS



Summer 2020



Editorial

When we published the Spring Newsletter it was written before we were aware there was going to be a Lockdown due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and it was sent out just as the Lockdown happened. It is something that none of us will forget even our very young. Having had to cancel Snowdrops Sundays due to other issues, we of course had to cancel the Easter Event and eventually had to give away the Easter Eggs purchased for the Hunt to the NHS staff at Chorley Hospital.

Moving forward, the Main project has been delayed further with the Lockdown but work has now recommenced albeit at a slower pace. Some work has also been conducted in the enabling development site but initially the contractors were having to wait for some supplies. Due to this the end date of the project has now been moved on and although most of the restoration work has now been completed, it will now be towards the end of the year before the building is finalised.

Public Entrance

We do not at this stage have any further news concerning the public entrance through the Potting Sheds. Negotiations and work by John Miller at Heritage Trust for the North West with ourselves assisting, has been going on in the background concerning this entrance but as indicated in the last news sheet, funding is very scarce at present and with loss of income from open days we are having a difficult time concerning this but we continue with our efforts.

Dates for your Diary . . .

Events and Volunteer Days are currently suspended but we are reviewing both of these on a weekly basis.

Our next event was scheduled for Sunday 28th July but this may not take place. Again, please keep an eye on our Website and Facebook pages for up-to-date information.

Artefacts

The Lockdown has given me a little extra time to deal with some of our artefacts and at present the contractors are preparing the design for new front doors to the Hall. The Original doors were taken off and stored within the Hall but around about 8/9 years ago a huge water storage tank fell from the roof into the area where the doors were stored. A crushing blow to what was beneath!

We did not know what damage had been caused until the tank was taken out by the contractors. The right hand door was destroyed and we have some pieces from it. The left hand door was intact except for a section at the bottom (See Picture). It was always the intention for these doors to be restored and refitted but that cannot now happen. I have now cleaned and preserved the decorative metal work which was retrieved and the largest piece of this is shown. Hopefully, these sections will be on display at the Hall at some stage in the future. At the moment I am also involved with selecting and preparing the Artefacts which will be displayed in the Hall. This is quite a task when they all have to be documented and then moved to the design company in Manchester.



AGM

Our AGM is normally held in June but as this is a public meeting, we have not been able to hold it this year. Following guidance by the Charity Commission the statutory requirements of this meeting will be dealt with by the FoBH Trustees in a procedure via email.

The Grounds

We have had to close our grounds to the Public for the moment and whilst social distancing remains, it will be difficult for us to re-open. We are looking at the logistics of limited opening and when we can, we will post information on our website and facebook page and let our supporters know directly. The Craft event scheduled for the 5th July is cancelled but we have not yet taken a decision concerning the scheduled Anniversary event at the end of July. We are carrying out some limited maintenance in the grounds but areas are now in need of attention and we are hopeful that as rules are relaxed, more work can be conducted. Our regular Volunteer days are cancelled at the moment.



By way of interest, at the end of May I came across this fungus on a Yew Tree. It has been seen before but when I saw it, it looked quite dramatic. Our colleague Brenda Barker advises that it is known as "Chicken of the Wood" (*Laetiporus Sulphureus*). It is normally found on Oak Trees but this was on a Yew Tree. It can destroy the heartwood in the tree although it may not do this to Yew Trees.

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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>



The Friends of Bank Hall (Registered Charity 1147592) News Sheet 46
(FBH is associated with Bank Hall Action Group & Heritage Trust for the North West)