

# The Bank Hall News Sheet



## Autumn

## 2009

*To avoid any confusion with "The Tower Times" which is the Annual News letter from our Chairman, we have now changed the name of this News Sheet which is now as shown above.*

**Trees** - Part of the process of preserving the Hall and site includes the protection and maintenance of the special or "Species" trees that are on the site. The group found that many of these were being damaged by invasive trees such as Sycamores and Elder which had grown adjacent to the Species tree. As mentioned in Edition 1 a Forestry Management program is being undertaken and many of these invasive trees are being removed as part of this program. In due course a number of trees will have to be planted back.

**The Yew** - The Yew is the oldest native tree in the United Kingdom and is a long living tree with very hard wood. Predominantly found in churchyards, it is also a popular tree for high hedges and of course, "Avenues" on large Estates. The Yew walk at Bank Hall has long since gone but in 2007 we counted 99 Yews on the site we manage. The 100<sup>th</sup> Yew was planted in February 2008. At least one of The Yews on the site pre-dates the present Hall.

**Fungi** - A woodland site like that at Bank Hall is also home to a multitude of Fungi and other Flowerless plants. One of our members is currently photographing and identifying those Fungi seen on our site. Several have already been seen and photographed. The photograph of the one above was captured on the 21<sup>st</sup> August and is a group of Auricularia (or Jews Ear).

**Grounds** - Work is ongoing in the Grounds and as we approach the Winter months, further tree thinning and surgery work will be carried out. The smaller branches from the trees are stacked and in January, we hire a shredding machine and the shavings generated are then used for the woodland footpaths which we try to ensure are ready again for Snowdrop Sundays. Some of our members have been very busy removing young sycamore seedlings and other weeds from the area in and around what was the sunken garden. Now that the tree canopy has been opened up, sycamore seedlings are germinating in their thousands and they all need to be removed. Brenda, Anne and new members Kathy & Carl have been very busy seeing to all this. It is intended that the sunken garden be replanted with ferns and other woodland plants. Meanwhile, our Vice Chairman, Geoff Coxhead has been scything down nettles and other larger weeds. Ideally nettles need to be pulled up so that their roots are removed but unfortunately we haven't enough members to help with this. Once an area is blitzed it would be easier to maintain annually.

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**Vandalism** - Mentioned in the Summer News Sheet, further vandalism attacks have taken place since then. In one of these attacks the Clock Mechanism was tipped over and as a result of this, two bars were snapped off and the stand it was on has now had to be dismantled. In another attack two trees were sawn down and another severely damaged. The damaged tree will also now have to be removed as it will become dangerous during the winter months. The Police have been involved as a result of these attacks and further security measures are now being put in place.

## **Next Open Day:**

Don't forget our "Haunted Autumn Event" – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November at the usual times of 12 Noon to 4.00 pm. Children and Adults are invited to come in their Halloween costumes. Come and see our 'haunted graveyard' and take part in our Tree Trail.

We would welcome any helpers to continue with this work. You can work to your own pace and don't forget, the fresh air and ambience of the forest and grounds will do you a power of good.

Interested ? - Email us on: **[secretary.bhag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:secretary.bhag@hotmail.co.uk)**

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