

3 Dickinson Road,
Formby,
Liverpool,
L37 4BX,

Monday 2nd November 2020.

Your Royal Highness,

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Paul Hughes and I would be very grateful for any assistance and or advice you may be able to give me in relation to a Grade 1 Listed building in North Wales called Kinmel Hall who amongst its distinguished visitors includes Princess Victoria 6 Years before she became Queen. When she became Queen, she appointed the then owner of the Kinmel Estate – William Lewis Hughes – her A.D.C. and his niece her Maid of Honour.

I had the privilege to call KINMEL HALL home for a short period of time which has been vandalised and had items of Historical importance removed or damaged.

In February 1981, whilst a pupil at Formby High School, I attended a Christian Fellowship Weekend, run by two teachers at Kinmel Hall. That weekend started a long association with this Grade 1 listed building.

As part of a College course in 1986 I started researching the History of this amazing building and I am still researching it today.

When the Hall came up for Auction in 2011, I was invited to show prospective buyers round the Hall as they had not been inside.

After the Auction I was introduced to and met the person who 'bought' the Hall in 2012. His plans were to restore her to how she should look and then decide what to do with her.

Unfortunately, his health took a turn for the worse in 2013. It was at this point that it was discovered that the Hall was actually owned by a Company based in the British Virgin Islands and the person I had met was simply one of the company's representatives.

With his health taking him out of the picture the Hall was 'dropped' into the laps of his two Sister-in-Laws. They are not aware how important the Hall is or what their responsibilities are.

As a result, the Hall was broken into by a group of Urban Guerrillas. They took some amazing photos and put them onto the internet.

The Hall was subsequently broken into on more than one occasion and items were either stolen or vandalised quite severely.

During all the time the current owners have had the Hall no restoration work has been carried out.

Despite several attempts by the Council to communicate with the owners they repeatedly refuse to communicate with anyone. Even meetings arranged by the Council as far back as 2013 at the Hall resulted in the owners not showing up.

Instructions were issued by the Council to the Owners which included the installation of Metal or Perspex Shutter to all the Ground floor windows of the Hall. The owners instructed their workmen to board up the windows with panels of wood. They then went round the inside of the Hall, closed the wooden shutters – which are original – and screwed them shut into the window frames.

Every attempt to make contact with the 'owners' addresses in London were returned to the Council - 'not known at this address'. Emails have not been answered as are the case with phone calls.

Security has been 'employed' at the Hall but to date none have been paid. The last of which was a group of Polish workmen. The last of them left the Hall at the beginning of last month being owed around £16,000 and being threatened by his 'boss' that if he tried to remove his own car from the site they would set fire to it.

I have recently been in contact with the Lord Lieutenant of Clwyd - Mr Henry George Fetherstonhaugh OBE DL – whose family have owned the Kinmel Estate since 1786. He is very keen to see the Hall brought back into use for the benefit of the local community and further afield.

Both Darren Millar MS and David Jones MP have been advising me on this matter. Darren tabled a question in the Welsh Government on the 26 October 2020. The question and response is enclosed.

I have been in contact with Mark Girouard who has always been a supporter of what we are trying to do with regards to the Hall. I have written to the 8th Marquis of Anglesey whose Father was great friends and supporter of the gentleman who restored Kinmel after the 1975 fire – Mr Edmund D Vince.

I am currently working with Tom Taylor from the Victorian Society, Elgan Jones from The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, Nick Davies, and Judith Alfrey from CADW. I have reached out to Marcus Binney from Save Britain's Heritage. My contact at Conwy Council is Paula Jones the head of Planning. The Conservation Officer for Conwy has unfortunately been off sick for over 12 months due to stress because he is responsible for all of Conwy Boroughs listed properties on his own.

I am also in contact with several members of the Old Clarendonians - pupils at Clarendon School for Girls which was at Kinmel Hall from 1948 – 75. These include Haile Selassie Grandchildren.

Another person who has been assisting me with this project is a Mr Peter Hare, former founding Director of Hare and Humphreys, who

worked on the restoration of Windsor Castle after the fire and the Royal Barge 'Gloriana' for the Queens Diamond Jubilee as well as Queen Victoria's Bedroom at Hampton Court. His comments on the state of the Hall as is his report on the condition of The Palladian Stable Block based entirely on photos

I realise this is quite a detailed letter, but I am sure you will understand the need when you see the enclosed information.

Any advice and or assistance you can give in relation to this matter would be gratefully appreciated.

I can be contacted at the above address or via email on tmmr1969@outlook.com or 0789 977 5784.

Your humble and obedient servant

Paul Hughes.

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