

Friends of Towneley Park AGM – Saturday 19th October 2019

Lecture Theatre, Towneley Hall 11am – 1.10pm

Present	Pat Colbran, Gillian Atkinson, Lisa Smith, Judith Hindle, Maureen Frankland, David Marsden, Sean Kerr, Ivor Emo, Hazel Greenwood, Grayson Holden, Barbara Nutter, Corinne Concah, Bryan Concah, Pat Ashton, Pete Ashton, June Pritchard, Ronnie Pollard, Denise Greenwood, Sheila Carr, Diane Flynn, Barbara Hasty, Andrew Johnson, Wendy Harvey, Gill Robinson, Cynthia Moss, Richard Moss, John Nuttall, Poppy Mann, John Gilbert.
Welcome	Maureen welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked people for attending.
Apologies	Margaret Crane, Mary McNeile, Barbara Baldwin, Ken Brown, Jo Wallwork, Tony Mitchell.
	Tony Mitchell, President of the Towneley Hall Society sent a message congratulating FOTP on their QAVS award, and thanking the group for everything they do to promote Towneley.
	Maureen asked members to check the yellow sheet that was being circulated and put their names on it to volunteer for specific duties and forthcoming events. Everyone was asked to update their contact details if they had changed in the past year. Councillor Ivor Emo was introduced as the Executive member for Housing and Leisure. QAVS badges were handed out to those who hadn't received one yet.
Minutes of last AGM	Minutes of last year's AGM were agreed. There were no matters arising.
Treasurer's Report	Richard gave his report and explained how donations have been separated into restricted and unrestricted funds, restricted funds have to be spent on a specific purpose and must be recorded as such in the accounts. Most of the income this year has come from grants, donations and gift aid, with £2639 from our own sales and events. A full set of independently examined accounts was available for members to view. There is a current balance of around £27,000, spending plans are in place for most of this. Maureen thanked Richard for his work over the past 5 years as treasurer.
Towneley Hall	Mike Townend, Senior Curator at Towneley Hall spoke about the 4 elements at Towneley that make it a very special place: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Grade 1 listed hall 2. The history of the Towneley Family 3. The unique and historic collection of art and artefacts 4. The award winning Park <p>The Hall itself has some problems with Dry Rot. Work is due to start next year on this and may result in parts of the Hall being closed to the public and scaffolding going up on the outside.</p> <p>A small grant has been received to improve access to certain areas. Thanks to Richard Colbran for making a carving of an Owl which will be used as a sensory exhibit in the Wild About Burnley gallery. This will add to the mosaic and glass panel that are already on display in that gallery made by members of FOTP.</p>

Trustee's Report	Gill spoke about the role and responsibilities of Trustees, and gave a summary of the Trustee's activities in the past 12 months. This included making changes to the Constitution and financial procedures, maintaining a reserve of £5000, grant funding for a Changing Places unit, Lighting Proposal, new equipment at Riverside and Barwise and how we can reduce bank charges for claiming gift aid.
Councillor Emo	Ivor congratulated members on the QAVs award, and said it was thoroughly deserved. He spoke about Towneley being more than just a park. It is part of the history of the borough and has something for everyone. He said that we should all celebrate the contribution made by FOTP, and that Burnley Borough Council is proud of our achievements. He urged us to continue to visit the hall and see the exhibitions including a forthcoming exhibition dedicated to Bob Lord. Ivor said that our continued support will help to maintain Towneley's status as a great venue for visitors from far and wide.
Burnley Borough Council	<p>Sean confirmed how much BBC value the work of the group, and how our input adds value. He thanked the group for the work they had done on the Bench Audit.</p> <p>Current improvement plans are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing Places unit being installed in the near future. • Footpath improvements planned including the path from Morse Street (this will include drainage works), The Causeway and Thanet Lee. • Monks Well Bridge and the Bridge near the Rotunda need attention. • The old tennis courts will be tidied up, although a funding bid to the LTA has so far not been successful to restore the courts to their former glory. However, interest has been shown by a local Boules Club to use them. • Invasive weeds – all Japanese Knotweed has been sprayed, this will be monitored and re-sprayed next year. The fight against the Balsam continues and next year early growth will be sprayed and later strimmed. • Benches – a soft wood alternative bench is being considered. • A Defib will be purchased from FOTP funds , to be installed at the Rotunda when Sean has done some further research into costs and servicing. • Drinking water fountains, purchased from FOTP funds, will be installed at Rotunda and behind the Hall. • Stables Café has been re-tendered, result will be known by end of November. • Rotunda Café – existing arrangements are being negotiated to possibly extend the contract with the existing tenants. • Ice Cream tender – a hard standing, and electric hook up point will be installed. • Cycle Hub – funding bid submitted to Sport England. • Signage – new signs to be installed directing people to Towneley Hall. • Volunteers thank you lunch – 18th December, 11.30, in the Hall – all members welcome to attend.
Changes to Constitution	The amended Constitution had been forwarded to members prior to meeting, and members unanimously agreed the changes.
Appointment	Chair (Maureen), Vice Chair (Pat A), Secretary (Gill) all willing to stand and were elected

of Officers	<p>unanimously.</p> <p>The Treasurer's role was now vacant and Corinne and Bryan Concah offered to take on the role, they were unanimously elected.</p>
Film	<p>Members were treated to a great film by Judith and friends that highlighted our achievements over the past 12 months.</p>
Chair's Report	<p>In order to demonstrate the success of the group Maureen presented us with her report:</p> <p>Support – partnership working between BBC, Towneley Hall Society, Parks Team, FOTP</p> <p>Unlimited time – thanks to members who give their time willingly and to those who work behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly</p> <p>Collaboration and great team working between Trustees, Officers, and Members.</p> <p>Co-operation – between established and new members to ensure we move forward together.</p> <p>Excellence – whatever we do, we do it well.</p> <p>Social contribution – We care deeply about Burnley and its people.</p> <p>Satisfaction – We love what we do and get great pleasure from it.</p>
The year ahead	<p>Maureen checked the Yellow Sheet again to ensure members had signed up for the volunteer for tasks, events, leading activities etc. Forthcoming events and activities include were all well supported and had leaders in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird feeding • Halloween Trail • Santa comes to Towneley • Easter Trail • Plant Sale • Brass Band • Summer Trail • Heritage weekend • Balsam bashing • Crafters • Gardening <p>After the retirement of Pat A, having edited the Towneley News for 19 editions, the Towneley News needs a new editor and contributors. Barbara Baldwin, Barbara Hasty, Gill R and Maureen will oversee Towneley News 20, for 2020. Many thanks to Pat for all her work over the past 10 years.</p>
AOB	<p>Will members please ensure that the Key Safe at the meeting room is used properly (scramble the numbers and close the black cover after use).</p>
	<p>The meeting closed at 1.10pm. Maureen thanked everyone for attending.</p>

Minutes by Gill Robinson