

Towneley News

2020

NEW RIVERSIDE PLAYGROUND!



Towneley Riverside – Access all areas

The Riverside play area is now fully open following a major refit and refurbishment. With grant funding from Lancashire Environmental Fund, Friends of Towneley Park (FOTP), a Government grant and Tesco, the play area has been transformed, at a cost of £130,000. Included in the refit is some new equipment that is accessible to people with mobility issues, better pathways, improved seating, bespoke climbing frames and musical play items. Some of

the existing equipment was refurbished and a state of the art interactive Yalp play-arch installed.

The facilities at the Riverside car park have been improved with the installation of a Changing Places toilet cubicle that will meet the needs of disabled visitors to our park.

We hope that these improvements will encourage even more people to visit our park and enjoy all that Towneley has to offer.

INSIDE: QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
 PLASTIC FREE TOWNELEY PARK
 ILLUMINATING TOWNELEY HALL
 KEEPING ACTIVE



Every Saturday 5K Park Run 9am

Every Sunday Junior Park Run 9am

MARCH

31 Primary School Cross Country 9am – 11.30am

APRIL

5 Brun Valley 10 K

12 FOTP EASTER TRAIL 12noon

23 Burnley and Pendle Scouts Parade

MAY

2 FunFair

3 May Day Festival

8 V E Day

10 RunFresh - Bubble Run

24 Run for All

JUNE

6-7 Fulleage Colts Annual Youth Tournament

7 FOTP BRASS BAND East Lancs Concert Band 2pm – 4pm

28 Classic Car Show

29-30 Pinder's Non-Animal Family Circus

JULY

1-5 Pinder's Non-Animal Family Circus

8-12 Burnley Wakes Fun Fair

10-12 Trail Blaster Endurance Run

20 Burnley 10k

AUGUST

1-2 Towneley Park Food Festival

SEPTEMBER

11-13 Heritage weekend. Free access to the Hall, Craft Fair and guided tours.

OCTOBER

19-30 FOTP Trail in Hall

NOVEMBER

5 Bonfire

8 Remembrance Sunday 11am

29 Christmas Craft Fair

DECEMBER

6 FOTP SANTA COMES TO TOWNELEY. Must be pre-booked.

What's On

Published by



Reg. Charity No. 1144988

ROYAL STAMP OF APPROVAL

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS)

The Friends of Towneley Park are proud to have received this award in June 2019, "for working to maintain and improve Towneley Park since 2003."

The award is the equivalent of an MBE for Voluntary service, and is given after competition with other groups nationwide. FOTP were one of only six groups in

Lancashire to be given the award. Two members of the Friends group, Maureen and Andrew, attended a Queen's garden party at Buckingham Palace, and then an official ceremony was hosted by the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire at County Hall, Preston. The QAVS trophy is now displayed in the foyer at Towneley Hall.



Here are just some of the improvements that the Friends group have implemented and helped to fund since 2003:

- Fit4All outside gym equipment
- Improvements to Footpaths near Unity College
- 20,000 daffodils planted
- Queen's jubilee trees planted
- New Benches
- Smallholdings sculpture trail
- New footpaths round playing fields
- Information signs and notice boards
- Wicker deer in Italian Garden
- Refurbishment of Italian Garden fountain
- Adventure play equipment at Barwise playground
- Riverside playground equipment
- Wild flower planting
- Small Lime walk reclaimed
- Provision of Mobility Scooters
- History trail and posts
- Large Memorial poppy



The Friends group undertake regular activities including:

- Gardening
- Refurbishment of benches
- Plant sales
- Litter picking
- Bird feeding
- Himalayan Balsam picking

The Friends also help to organise and fund many of the events in the park such as Santa comes to Towneley, Easter and Hallow E'en trails, Brass Band in the Park, Craft Fair refreshments, Heritage and Woodland festival. New members are always very welcome and the future of Towneley Park depends on the continued support of volunteers.

Towneley Barwise

The Barwise play area at the far side of the park, with its own car parks and easy access from the top of Todmorden Road, has also been improved by the installation of two new play wigwams, a new picnic table with wheelchair access, and new drains to keep the area drier. The Friends of Towneley Park have

funded the new equipment, and will also pay for a portable toilet to be installed at Barwise from April to September at a cost of £650.

The wonderful climbing frame and trim trail provide fun for children of all ages, so please make good use of this play area too.



Help Us to Keep Towneley Park Plastic Free

This year we are launching a project to help keep the park tidy and free from single use plastic. This is a partnership project between Friends of Towneley Park, Burnley Borough Council, Unity College, Ribble Rivers Trust, local primary schools and the mayor of Burnley Councillor Anne Kelly.

Councillor Kelly says "I fully support the initiative to make Towneley plastic free. The evidence is clear in proving the need to eliminate single use plastic. Also, in the park, plastic creates a massive amount of refuse and litter which has to be removed. I am Chair of Governors at Unity College and our Head has already introduced new initiatives in College. By summer 2020 we will no longer sell single use plastic."

Already the project is making a difference as Burnley Borough Council will ensure that any contractors, suppliers or vendors working in the park are aware of their responsibility to reduce single use plastic and take their rubbish away with them. Drinking water fountains are being installed in the park to encourage people to bring

their own re-usable bottles rather than buying bottled water.

For several years now FOTP have been working with Ribble Rivers Trust (RRT) and this work is continuing with the Trout in the Classroom project. Three local primary schools St



Stephens, Springfield and Worsthorne Schools are all having fish tanks installed in a classroom to enable the children to learn about the life cycle of brown trout before releasing the fish into the river. The pupils learn about the importance of keeping the rivers clean, they help with litter picking and come up with their own ideas for supporting wildlife. This year they will be writing poetry to encourage all the users of the park to reduce plastic waste and take their litter home.



Neil Ashworth from RRT says "We are very excited to be a part this innovative environmental project. By taking our education programme out of the

classroom and into the park, with real-life issues, the children will realise that they, and their families, can make a real and sustainable difference."

Please help us to keep Towneley clean and tidy by reducing the amount of single use plastic that you buy and by taking your litter home with you to recycle.

Protect the Planet – Plant Trees

Just over 20 years ago, for the millennium, Keith Wilson, with Burnley Borough Council, Trees for Burnley, and other groups, planted 1 million trees across the Borough, including the Smallholdings Wood, now renamed Wilson's wood.

In 2012 the Friends of Towneley Park planted another 120 trees on the edge of the wood, including a Royal Oak from the Royal Park, to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

In 2017 100 oak trees were planted across the Borough as a reminder of the young men who died a hundred years earlier in WW1. These are important, but relatively small contributions to improve global warming, at a time when climate change is becoming more obvious. Perhaps we need to do more.

Is now the time to start thinking again about a larger scale tree planting project at Towneley? Could we use the edges of the 9 hole golf course or expand the woodlands at the top of Deer Park Road? Are there open places in existing woodlands that could be planted up? The Council and over 100 volunteers planted 1000 trees at Rowley on a cold December morning in 2019. Do we, like them, want to plant saplings or trees with more significant growth? We are hoping the Government will take this issue seriously, and work alongside us to provide money, trees and ideas. Can you help too? Contact FOTP if you want to help and we can let you know what, when, where and how we are planning to move this project forward.



Hall Lighting

The Friends of Towneley Park and the Towneley Hall Society, have collaborated with Burnley Council to illuminate the exterior of the Hall for special occasions. With lighting from acdc Lighting in Barrowford <https://www.acdclighting.com/>, plans were made in 2019, and implemented in spring 2020, to light the front of the hall with LED fusion floodlights which can be made to change colour, and this will create a special ambience for weddings, Ghost trails, special concerts and more, as we aim to draw more visitors to the Hall's amazing setting.

Towneley Hall, is a crucial part of a visit to Towneley Park, and is drawing in events and visitors from across Lancashire and beyond. However, more help is needed to ensure the future of this wonderful, but ageing building, and everyone who visits needs to pay for their own car parking and Hall entry - both are a bargain in comparison with other similar historic sites!

Help make Lighting Pathways our next venture - If you would like to help fund lights for the pathways to the hall, please visit our website www.fotp.btck.co.uk or Friends of Towneley Park facebook page, to donate and state your donation is for Lighting Pathways or phone 01282 432423 for more information.



Keeping Active at Towneley

There are many ways to keep active in Towneley Park and improve your physical and mental health. Throughout the year there will be plenty of events that encourage walking, running, cycling and a whole host of other activities.

One regular activity is Parkrun and it's free to enter. Parkrun is a timed 5k course that you can run, walk or jog every Saturday at 9am, and, for our younger visitors Junior Parkrun is a 2k course on Sunday mornings at 9am aimed at children aged 4 to 14.

For more information visit parkrun.org.uk/burnley or parkrun.org.uk/burnley-juniors

Not only has the Parkrun phenomenon encouraged many Burnley people to get active for the first time, it also brings many 'parkrun tourists' to the town. In 2019 for the first time the parkrun volunteers managed to host a run on both Christmas Day and New Year's Day and more than 1300 runners completed the course. There were visitors from as far away as Australia.

Coming Soon - Rounders League

Starting again on Wednesday evenings (6.30pm - 8.30pm) in late April and run till late August. Last year 12 teams took part. For more details on entering a team please phone Janet Roundell on 01282 477167.

Volunteering Opportunities at Towneley

If you prefer to keep active in a non-sporty way, there are lots of voluntary groups working in the park who would love to hear from you including:

Friends of Towneley Park:
fotp1902@gmail.com

Towneley Hall Society:
www.towneleyhallsociety.co.uk

Offshoots:
Emma Carter@newground.co.uk

Trees for Burnley: contact June Evans
01282 439034 or email
peter.thorne@treesforburnley.co.uk

Ribble Rivers Trust:
www.ribbletrust.org.uk/volunteering

Parkrun: e mail burnley@parkrun.com.



Mobility Scooters

Did you know that you can borrow a mobility scooter from Towneley Hall? All we ask is for a small donation to help us maintain and service the scooters. For more information contact 01282 477130.



How to Find Us:

Towneley Hall, Towneley Holmes, Burnley, BB11 3RQ

CONTACT DETAILS

Friends of Towneley Park, Chairman Maureen Frankland
01282 432423
fotp1902@gmail.com

Park Rangers: 01282 831053

Park events and management: skerr@burnley.gov.uk

Towneley Hall events and bookings: 01282 477130

Hall opening times: February half term to beginning of November -Daily (except Friday) 12noon to 4pm.
From November to February half term Saturday and Sunday only 12noon to 3pm

FOTP Meetings

Monday 27th April 1pm (Friends Meeting Room)

Monday 27th July 1pm (Friends Meeting Room)

AGM Saturday 17th October 11am (Hall Lecture Theatre)

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Every Thursday – FOTP Gardening Club 10am–12 noon.
Meet at the Friends Meeting Room.

Crafters meet every Monday from September to May 1pm–3pm.

Everyone welcome to come along.