

Towneley News

2016



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Chairman's Report

Published by



Friends of Towneley

Park

Reg. Charity No. 1144988

Re-Thinking Parks

People all over the country are concerned about the future of their local parks, because parks are not part of a Council's statutory provision, and so the Councillors have to provide the statutory services first from the limited money available. Our parks therefore need to re-think how they are organised, financed and managed. Simon Goff and Councillor Bea Foster undertook the Re-thinking Parks initiative in 2014 which enabled them to re-think how the Parks in Burnley are financed.

An organisation called NESTA, financed through the Lottery, has enabled four strands to be developed, whereby the woodlands are managed and used for woodchip for playgrounds, and logs for fuel burning. The machinery to undertake this project has been bought through NESTA funding.

You may have noticed that some of the meadowlands have been mown less frequently, but other areas are mown as frequently as before. With fewer staff employed by the Council, larger machinery has been bought in to mow larger areas in a shorter time. Grass has been stored or removed, and some areas are mown by non-council staff, without charge, using the hay removed as payment. Borage has been planted, and other wild flower areas will be developed in the future.

Many Parks include formal and informal gardens, and Towneley is no exception. In order to continue the high maintenance required in the Italian garden, other areas have been planted with perennial plants that provide all year round colour, but are less time consuming for the gardeners.

Finally, but just as important, is the future role of volunteers in our parks. The VIP (Volunteers in Parks) programme aims to recruit people who are willing to help in the woodlands, the gardens, with bee-keeping, or in managing events.

This programme has been underway for over 12 months, and already we can see the changes occurring without taking away the true character of our open spaces. As we "Re-think our Parks", we all need to appreciate the difficult task of financing them with very limited resources. We can all play our part to maintain and improve them where we can and by asking "What can I do for my local park?"



FIND OUT MORE:

Look on You Tube for:

Volunteering in Parks in Burnley parks
Meadow Management in Burnley parks
Woodland Management in Burnley parks.

Living Legacy

Have you thought of making a "living legacy" to Towneley Park? The Friends of Towneley Park have received donations to the Park, from living benefactors.

Having received these donations, and in conjunction with the Council Officers, we have planned how we would like to use this money to the best effect within the Park.

The first project was the replacement of one of the popular and much used mobility scooters, and the second, the restoration of the Little Lime Walk (the area behind the Italian Garden), which has become overgrown and wild. This will take a couple of years to complete, as weeds, brambles etc need removing, shrubs and bushes need pruning or replacing, and the areas where the snowdrops, daffodils, and ramson grow, are marked and preserved.

We need volunteers to help. We meet once a month, on the third Thursday of the month from 10am to 12noon. Please drop in and give us a hand if you can.

If you would like to buy a heritage shrub in memory of a loved one, at an approximate cost of £50, the Friends will arrange for the purchase and planting, and when complete, a noticeboard will display the names of those who are being remembered, and we can claim Gift Aid if you want.

During this work we also want to develop a wild flower garden near the Calder. When all these are finished we are aiming to use the remaining money to develop the children's play area at Barwise carpark.



KEEP OUR DUCKS HEALTHY!

The ducks and geese are a valuable asset in the park, and give lots of pleasure, especially when the ducklings and goslings are young. **PLEASE DON'T FEED THEM BREAD.** It's not good for them or the other creatures that live in the Deer pond or the Hall pond.

Don't forget the Friend's **Summer Plant Sale** when the Italian Gardens are emptied. They should be on sale on the corner of the hall at the end of May, beginning of June.



Friends Meeting Room

The Friends Meeting Room at the Bowling Club which was donated to the Park in 1970 by Mr and Mrs Ascroft, is being refurbished, as part of the Living Legacy. Thanks to the Council, the exterior of the building has been restored, and the Friends are busy putting finishing touches to the interior, which required a new ceiling, plasterwork, lighting and electrics. All decorating and other general improvements have been carried out by the Friends of Towneley Park.

Over the winter months we have started a mosaic craft group the results of which will be seen in the coming months. Under the direction of Sharon Bainbridge we have learnt how to select the colours, place the tiles, and complete a design to good effect.

If you belong to or know of a group who would like to use the Meeting Room, please contact us via the details on the back page. Alternatively, let us know if you have any other ideas of how to utilise the room.

Litter can be a real problem, unless we all make a real effort to keep our Park tidy. Some people generously pick up any litter they see when they are out walking. One family even collected a whole black bag full of litter from around Thanet Lee Wood.

Remember: Litter is Bitter: Neat is Sweet... Please take your litter home, especially if bins are full. We want to let our gardeners garden, not spend their time picking litter. Please help to keep Towneley Tidy.





John Parkinson

Helen Cottam

We are lucky to have world class photographers capturing Townerley and its wildlife on facebook. Thanks for sharing.



5k Run

Every Saturday at 9am prompt, whatever the weather, there are hundreds of people running round the 5k route, trying for a personal best or just enjoying the run and using Townerley Park to get fit, lose weight and have fun.

The 5k course is run on gravel paths and off road. Some sections of the course accumulate mud, leaves and puddles after rain, but this doesn't put the runners off. They averaged 235 runners per week last year, and are hoping to beat that record this year.

The event is organised by volunteers, and, dependent on availability, volunteer marshalls are placed at key sections of the course. All runners are asked to respect other park users sharing the track. This fun event attracts all ages, from accompanied children to grandparents. All are registered before the event and receive a bar code. Their time is then recorded before they receive feedback via the internet.

Why not give it a go? It's free, it's outdoors, it gives you a motivation to get fitter. It's a family event and there is a real sense of community among those who take part and the spectators are full of admiration.

Chairman's Annual Report

My thanks go to all the Friends and Townerley staff, without whose help we could not have succeeded in all we have done in 2015. Thankyou also for the donations we have received from Ribble Rivers Trust, Calico, Springwood Nursery and private individuals.

Our events have been extremely successful, we have raised more money than ever before, (over £2200) and we believe we are fulfilling our responsibility to use this money to maintain and improve the Park for the benefit of the people of Burnley, and all the visitors who come from far and wide.

The Wool and Wood project took a lot of time and effort for many of us, but the public's appreciation of this free trail made it worthwhile. It brought many hundreds of people into the park, old and young, even different nationalities, and it has enhanced the reputation of the town across the area.

Apart from the usual activities and events the Friends are involved with, 2015 saw us starting to make improvements to the Friends Meeting room; helping to clear Little Lime Walk; and we are hoping to improve the wild area near the River Calder in 2016.

There are numerous projects and events coming up in 2016, if you would like to be involved or help in any way, do not hesitate to contact us. We would be particularly glad of help with secretarial duties e.g. writing minutes and letters. The ability to communicate by e mail is essential. Whatever you have to offer, you can be sure of a warm welcome.



MARCH

- 3 Gardening Club 10am-12noon
- 12 Pilkington's Royal Lancastrian Pottery Exhibition
- 17 Little Lime Walk working party 10am-12noon
- 20 Sport Relief Mile
- 22, 23 Cross Country Competition
- 25 - 27 Easter weekend

APRIL

- 7 FOTP Gardening Club 10am -12noon
- 21 Little Lime Walk working party 10am -12noon

MAY

- 1 May Sunday Fun Fair 12noon – 6pm
- ride and parking fees apply
- 2 May Day Festival 12noon – 4pm
- 5 FOTP Gardening Club 10am -12noon
- 10 Cross Country Competition
- 19 Little Lime Walk working party 10am -12noon
- 22 Happa Novelty Dog Show
- 26 Orienteering event

JUNE

- 2 FOTP Gardening Club 10am -12noon
- 5 Pennine 10k run
- 7 Burnley College Furniture in the Hall
- 16 Little Lime Walk working party 10am -12noon
- 19 Ellis Bingham Trail Blaster Endurance Run
- 26 Classic Car Show 11am – 5pm

JULY

- 3 Little Hospice Heroes
- 7 FOTP Gardening Club 10am -12noon
- 21 Little Lime Walk working party 10am -12noon

AUGUST

- 4 FOTP Gardening Club 10am -12noon
- 13-14 Drop the Beat
- 18 Little Lime Walk working party 10am -12noon
- 21 Charity Run

SEPTEMBER

- 1 FOTP Gardening Club 10am -12noon
- 9-11 Heritage Weekend – Tours and free admission to the Hall
- 15 Little Lime Walk working party 10am -12noon

OCTOBER

- 6 FOTP Gardening Club 10am -12noon
- 20 Little Lime Walk working party 10am -12noon

NOVEMBER

- 5 Bonfire - tickets must be **bought before** the event
- 27 Christmas Craft fair

DECEMBER

- 14 Carol Concert



Thanks to Margaret Brindle of Lancashire County Council for sponsoring this newsletter.

Useful Information

- **Friends of Towneley Park** contact
Chairman - Maureen Frankland on 01282 432423
maureenfrankland159@btinternet.com
- **Offshoots** 01282 450270 or visit
www.offshoots.org.uk for more information
- **Stephen Hastings** for sporting events on 01282 477232
- **Andy Buck** for park events & management on
01282 425011 or email abuck@burnley.gov.uk
- **The Rangers** 01282 831053

For general information and leaflet downloads please visit
www.burnley.gov.uk/towneley

Hall Opening Times

Saturday – Thursday
12 noon – 5pm
Plus Fridays during school
holidays up until November

FREE admission for
Burnley residents

12 Month Pass – £4 for
non-Burnley residents

The Stables Cafe

Open from 10am daily.
For more information
and for bookings call
01282 430111.

The Rotunda refreshments

In Riverside car park, open
every weekend, bank
holiday and school holidays.

**For Hall information, events & bookings
please ring Towneley Hall 01282 477130.**

**You can donate to the Friends of Towneley Park on
Facebook or through our website www.fotp.btck.co.uk**

How to Find Us:

Towneley Hall, Towneley Holmes, Burnley, BB11 3RQ

FOTP Meetings

Thursday April 14th, Thursday July 14th. 10 am – 12noon
Friends Meeting Room at the bowling green.
Everyone is welcome to come along

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday October 22nd. 11am – 1pm Towneley
Hall Lecture Theatre. Everyone welcome.

Special Events with Friends of Towneley Park Involvement

**March 27th - Easter Sunday -
Easter Nature Trail and
Bric-a-Brac Sale.**

1pm- 3.30pm.
Register outside the hall
shop. £1.50 per child.

**June 12th - Brass Band
in the Park.**

2pm-4pm.
Stacksteads Brass Band on
the rear lawn. Free event.
Refreshments available.

**September 11th - Heritage
and Woodland Day.**

12noon-5pm.
Activities for all ages. Country
walks, crafts, skills and fun.

**October 22nd-30th
- Hallow E'en Trail Week.**
Sheets from Hall shop £1.

**November 5th - Burnley
Bonfire.** All ticket event.

**December 11th -
Santa at Towneley.**

1pm – 3.30pm.
Places must be booked to
receive an age appropriate gift.
Ring Pat on 01282 426449.