

What's On

MARCH

- 23 Sport Relief Mile 11am
- 26 Friends of Towneley Park Meeting 10am. Lecture Theatre. All welcome.

APRIL

- 3 Gardening Club meet 10am outside Offshoots
- 6 Early Spring Woodland Walk meet outside the Hall shop 1pm – 5pm, 2 miles, easy walking
- 20 Easter Egg & NatureTrail 1 -3.30pm – Free Event Easter Hat Parade 3pm. Register outside the Hall Shop. All welcome

MAY

- 4 May Sunday Funfair – 12-6pm – Ride & Parking fees apply
- 4 Dawn Chorus at Towneley, meet outside the Hall Shop 5am – 7am, 2 miles, easy walking
- 5 May Day Festival 12 – 5pm. Come and join in the family fun.
- 18 Welsh Medal Pony Show

JUNE

- 1 Wildflowers of Towneley, meet outside the Hall Shop 2-4pm. Two miles, easy walking.
- 8 Brass Band Concert (Hebden Bridge) at the rear of the Hall 2 – 4pm. Refreshments available.
- 15 Race for Life.
- 29 Classic Vehicle Show 11 – 5pm.
- 29 FOTP Guided Park Walk, meet Rotunda 2pm (Andrew & Maureen).

JULY

- 4 National Moth Night, meet outside the Hall Shop 9.30pm-Midnight.
- 6 Summer Wildlife Walk, meet outside the Hall Shop 2 - 4pm, 2 miles.
- 13 FOTP Guided Park Walk 2pm Rotunda (Alex).
- 27 FOTP Guided Park Walk 2pm Rotunda (Susan).

AUGUST

- 4 -10 Family Pond Dipping Week, meet at the Hall Pond 1 - 4pm.
- 10 FOTP Guided Park Walk (Family) 2pm Rotunda (Pat & Pete).
- 24 FOTP Guided Park Walk 2pm Rotunda (Maureen & Andrew).

SEPTEMBER

- 12,13,14 Heritage Weekend – Free Tours and Re enactments.
- 14 Woodland Day, enjoy this new style family day out. 12 – 5pm
- 21 Trees & Folklore, meet outside the Hall shop 2 – 4pm. 2 miles, easy walking.

Useful Information

- **Friends of Towneley Park** contact
Chairman - Maureen Frankland on 01282 432423
maureenfrankland159@btinternet.com
Secretary - Linda White 01282 453328
lindawhite793@btinternet.com
www.fotp.btck.co.uk
- **Hall events or tickets** Many events are held in the Hall itself, leaflets can be picked up at the Hall's gift shop 01282 477130
- **Springwood Nurseries** 01282 832271
- **Towneley Garden Centre** 01282 424162 or visit www.towneleygardencentre.co.uk
- **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
FREE admission for
Burnley residents

12mth 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 Information & Bookings please
ring Towneley Hall 01282 477130.**

A big “Thankyou” to Lend Lease who helped us to remove plants from the Italian garden, replant the Rotary garden and replant for the spring season in the Italian garden. They provided us with tools, plants and their youthful energy, and a happy day to remember. Thanks to all those who took part.

Summer walks. Everyone welcome, all ages and abilities. Come along, free of charge. Donations to the work of the Friends of the Park welcomed. All on Sundays meeting at the Rotunda at 2pm.

Where to Find Us: Towneley, Towneley Holmes, Burnley, BB11 3RQ

Bus number 1 gets you to the bottom of Brunshaw or the top of Pike Hill.

Bus number 8 gets you to the top of Todmorden Road to enter along the Causeway or through Barwise.

Friends of Towneley Park Meetings:

Weds 26 March 10am | Thurs 22 May 10am | Weds 23 July 10am

AGM Sat 1st Nov. 11am – All Meetings held in the Lecture Theatre.



Thank you Councillors Margaret Brindle, Jeff Sumner and Misfir Hassam for sponsoring this newsletter.

Towneley News

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**Ghostly Legends
Bowls at Towneley
Little Children Weak
History Comes to Life**



Amy Foster (Hieland Lassie) with Sgt. Alfred Faraday in Burnley 1916

Little Children Weak

Burnley in the Great War “we were but little children weak but now we are mighty strong”.

So wrote Gunner Bertie Purvey, wounded in World War 1, and convalescing at Huntroyde military hospital, Padiham, in 1917. Bertie was not local, but his is one story which could be replicated by many who served from Burnley and Padiham. This year marks the start of 4 years of commemorative activities in Burnley. We intend to commemorate all those who died from the town, feature many of those who survived, and provide a legacy for the future.

Starting in June there will be over 4000 small wooden crosses laid in Towneley and Memorial Parks. The number represents those who died from the town. Each cross will bear a name. Many of these names will be inscribed by local schoolchildren and young people. Virtually all primary, special and secondary schools are involved, together with other young people. Each will ‘adopt’ a person, be encouraged to learn about them and lay their own cross. The crosses will remain in situ from June - August

Also there will be: poppies planted: exhibitions: sketches by Burnley Youth Theatre: walks and talks: a restored memorial banner: a carpet bed of plants and a new roll of honour, all at Towneley. Books and a DVD will be published.

We are appealing for volunteers. Areas of involvement will include: researching public and church memorials, writing names on and laying crosses, helping with schools, exhibition guides and oral history recording. Expenses will be paid.

If you think you can help, or want more information then please contact Mike Townend, email mtownend@burnley.gov.uk or phone 01282 477130

Help us to help you: take your litter home and remove any litter you see.

Over the last 12 months one gentleman has collected 175 bags of litter. As he walks his dogs he carries a supermarket bag, squashes any litter he finds and takes the full bags to the nearest litter bin. **Perhaps you can help too!**

Ghostly Legends

Boggart Bridge

One legend tells that Sir John Towneley of Hapton (1473 – 1540) was an unpopular occupant of Towneley because he enclosed much of the land, limiting the rights of peasants who farmed there. On his death his spirit was believed to haunt the grounds as a most objectionable Boggart. He demanded gifts from people before they were allowed to cross the bridge at the top of the park, in order to reach the road.

Eventually an agreement was reached, whereby, if the Boggart was allowed to keep the soul of the first thing that crossed the bridge the following day, he would promise to disappear and never return, as long as there was greenery all around the bridge. Early next day, the local folk sent over an old hen, which the Boggart claimed, and, true to his word, he disappeared leaving only a bad smell behind.

Ever since that day, evergreen shrubs have been grown around Boggart Bridge to keep the Boggart away!

The White Lady

A white lady is reported to have been seen above the Towneley pond on Hallow E'en. One story tells that she is the ghost of a young girl who worked at the Hall and was thought highly of by the Towneleys. However, she had been unlucky in love, and had been jilted several times. Finally she met a farrier with whom she fell in love, and they were to marry in the Hall on October 31st. Unfortunately on the wedding day he was called to shoe a horse on the stage coach to York, and, while doing so, the horses bolted and he was killed beneath the wheels of the stagecoach. When the young maid heard of his death, she ran out of the Hall in despair, and threw herself into the pond.

*Truth or Legend?
We leave you
to decide!*



Feed the birds with bird seeds: no bread please. Bread is not good for the birds, not good for the pond and encourages vermin! Keep our Park clean, healthy and safe.



Photos by Steve Roots



History comes to Life

Come and celebrate the changes in Towneley's landscape on our summer walks or by following The Friends of Towneley Park leaflet, "Towneley Park the Changing Landscape".

This outlines the changes, and allows you to take your own journey of discovery within the park, bringing the history to life. Funding from the Heritage Lottery, has enabled us to research, and bring together information about the changes that have taken place over the centuries.

Successive generations of the Towneley family have made their mark on the landscape, building and changing the Hall and other structures; creating a variety of gardens close to the Hall; planting woodlands; diverting streams; carrying

out drainage; and making pathways and new roads, these have all helped to form the 'English Landscape' style parkland that we know and appreciate today.

In the 20th century the landscape has been changed yet again, as the park has been developed as a place of leisure and recreation for all the people of Burnley. The pavilion, sports fields and golf courses have all been developed; the schools, music pavilion, allotments, speedway and greyhound track, have all been built and then removed; the Mary Towneley Fold houses, replaced the Coloroll Wallpaper factory on the site of the former Co-op dairy, laundry and bakery.

Follow the History of Towneley Park blog, by visiting our website www.fotp.btck.co.uk to see more information and hear the stories of local people.

Communicars is the Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Council for Voluntary Services, volunteer transport scheme for people who have difficulty accessing public transport. The team of volunteer drivers use their own cars and may be able to provide local trips e.g. to Towneley. All trips must be booked in advance by telephone (01282 412096) For more information speak to Sue Cole or Janice Storey.

Communicars are keen to recruit more volunteer drivers. If you enjoy driving and meeting people and you have a few hours to spare Sue will be pleased to answer your questions or send you an information pack. The scheme is funded by Lancashire County Council and NHS East Lancashire.

Over the summer months do take a walk, cycle, or scooter ride using the new pathways on the edges of the playing fields and alongside the River Calder, and down towards Unity College, paid for with money from the 'Lottery Awards for All'.

For anyone who has walking difficulties, we have two mobility scooters available for public use. These are free of charge, but a donation is always welcome towards the upkeep and running costs. On a nice day it is advisable to ring the Hall and pre-book the time you want.



Have you seen the daffodils in the Park? All were planted by the Friends of Towneley Park and local school children. There are now 12,000 daffodils and 6,000 snowdrops making a wonderful spring show. More wildflowers will be planted by the children again this summer.



Don't forget that Himalayan Balsam needs picking. Look on our website www.fotp.btck.co.uk to download a leaflet; pick and place the plants in the big black bags hidden around the Park. Pick especially in new areas, and stop this invasive species taking over.

Bowls at Towneley



Why not enjoy the fresh air and make new friends, by joining one of the two bowling clubs, or just coming to watch? Light refreshments for players and spectators are readily available.

Towneley Bowling Club was formed in 1924, and Causeway End in 1926 which was initially the No.2 Bowling Club. Both Clubs are represented in various leagues, playing different days of the week, both home and away. Visiting the different parks and meeting other bowlers makes it a more friendly and interesting environment.

Both clubs are looking for new members for the coming season. If you would like to take part, either socially or for an afternoon's exercise, you will be most welcome. Please ring Dave Murray 01282 426682 for Towneley, or Ken Musk 01282 451318 for Causeway End. Otherwise just come along any afternoon from May to September, except Tuesdays when both clubs will be playing either at home or away. If players wish to borrow woods we have a wide selection available at both club pavilions.



Watch out for dates when the spring flowers in the Italian Garden will be cleared and sold to the public. Probably in late May early June.

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

Friends of Towneley Park are in urgent need of a new Treasurer.

Someone able to keep a straight forward account of our financial activities, together with preparing full accounts for the Annual General Meeting in November. Please ring Maureen 01282 432423