

Towneley News

2015

**Together We Can Do More
Wildlife of Towneley
Wool & Wood Trail
Calder Life**

Published by



Friends of Towneley

Park

Reg. Charity No. 1144988

This is the 'Calder Life'



The king fisher hunting on the river Calder is one of the highlights of a walk in Towneley Park. It is a sign of how much cleaner and healthier the river habitat is for wildlife and this makes it more enjoyable and interesting for us too.

FOTP have been working with The Environment Agency, Ribble Rivers Trust and Burnley Council to improve the rivers in Towneley Park. Several volunteer events have been organised involving hundreds of local people with residents, school groups, businesses and charities, including The Challenge Network and Red Rose Recovery, all taking part.

Non-native invasive plants like Himalayan Balsam, have been cleared from the river banks, rubbish removed and the wetland area and reed bed improved, to help filter and clean the ground water before it reaches the river Calder.

We will be holding more volunteer events in 2015. Come and join us and have fun whilst helping to make a difference and improve the environment for everyone.

If you haven't already, remember to visit the new 'Wild about Burnley Gallery' in Towneley Hall and enjoy the stunning collection of interactive and educational resources, including the beautiful artwork entitled 'Calder Life' now on show. Graham Gavaghan, ecologist at Towneley Hall said: "The 'Calder Life' painting brings to life the underlying story of our River Calder from its source all the way to Towneley Hall, showing examples of all the wildlife species found here. Whether young or old it's the kind of artwork we can use to describe and explain to people more about the environment we all share."

'Calder Life' is a painting by local artist Jon Turner of No6 Creative, commissioned by the Ribble Rivers Trust with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund.



Have you seen our Comments Box? It is situated in the Hall Foyer, and we would love to have your feedback of what you enjoy in the Park... likewise, any complaints or suggestions you may have for improvements. Please fill in one of the slips, add your name and telephone number if you would like us to contact you.

Wool & Wood Trail



Throughout the winter months the 'Friends', along with Pendle Crafters and various other groups, have been busy knitting, crocheting, felting, and crafting all kinds of things made from wool.

We have made creatures, insects, flora and fauna, whatever you would find in a wood and more. Other people have been whittling their time away making an assortment of wooden objects, such as a bee hive, bird boxes, walking stick handles and pyrography plaques depicting the various scenes on display. Thanks to Social Prescription Funding we have been able to provide the resources for the project which will be on display throughout the summer months.

Take a magical walk through Thanet Lee Wood, with the peg people leading the way. Discover the fabulous exhibits and 20 scenes we have created, including an amazing outdoor gallery. Look out for the Bees & Butterflies, the Cool of the Pool, the Bob Cap Crew, not to mention a string of Bats and a large Spider's Web. Something to delight everyone, whatever their age.

Our sincere thanks go to Diane and Pauline who have inspired us; Richard and Martin who have been our wood tutors, and all those who have contributed in any way. The launch date is Thursday, 26th March, when we will have Radio Lancashire live to broadcast the opening walk from 11.00 – 12.00noon. Do come and join us, enjoy the free show, and spin a yarn to your family and friends.

If all goes well, the exhibition will remain in the woods until September.





Together We Can Do More

2014 was another very successful year for the Friends of Towneley Park. Our thanks go to the Officers and Staff at Towneley who have all helped us in many ways throughout the year, and without whom we could not have succeeded. Donations have been given by individuals and organisations, including Councillors for Burnley, and Lancashire County Councils, to be used towards specific projects, and The Big Lottery Fund have enabled us to complete "The Changing Landscape" leaflet as part of the larger history project in the park. Most of all a huge 'thank you' to the park visitors who have taken part in our activities and helped us to raise funds for the park. We hope that you have benefitted as much as we have.

Throughout the year we have either organised, or been involved with events and activities, some of which are listed below:

- Easter Trail & Hat Parade
- May Day Celebration
- Brass Band Concert
- Walks for All
- Gardening Club
- Bulb planting with school children
- History Project completed
- Changing Landscape Leaflet
- Heritage Trail Signs installed
- Bird Feeding over the winter months
- Working with the River Ribble Trust
- Balsam picking
- Started to renovate the Bowling Club Meeting House
- Tea Room at the Heritage Weekend
- Bonfire
- Christmas Trail and Santa
- Litter picking, etc. etc

If you would like to be involved in any of our many activities, come along to our next meeting on Thursday, 13th May at 10.00am in the Bowling Club Meeting Room.

To help us with our work in the park, you can now make a donation on our website www.fotp.btck.co.uk through Charity Checkout.



Thanks to Drop the Beat, a musical community extraganza in the Park. They donated £200 to our funds.

Wildlife of Towneley

The variety of habitats found within the park: ponds, streams, the River Calder, woodlands grasslands and marsh, all offer wildlife watchers the opportunity to see birds, butterflies, dragonflies, trees, flowers and mammals.

Along the riverbank, look out for Kingfisher perched on a riverside branch waiting to dive down on any passing fish. Grey wagtails are often seen feeding along the river's edge. Dippers can be seen perched on the rocks or looking for aquatic insects underwater.

Towneley Deer pond offers wildlife watchers the chance to see Grey Heron, Moorhen, and more recently a male Mandarin duck can be seen in the company of a female Mallard. During the summer months, Dragonflies and Damselflies can be seen flying around the margins of the pond. Species to look out for include Brown Hawker, Broad-bodied Chaser and large Red Damselfly.



Wilson's Wood, planted in 1999 (a new woodland area below the 9 hole golf course and formerly named Smallholdings Wood) with its woodland rides and paths, is an excellent place to see Butterflies including Brimstone, Ringlet, Orange-tip, Large and Small Skippers. In late May early June a stunning display of Southern Marsh orchids is on view with over 1,000 flowers in bloom.

A walk through the mature woodlands of Thanet Lee and Towneley Woodland in late spring, reveals a carpet of Bluebells and stunning white drifts of Ramsons. During the winter months the woodland birds are easier to see with Jay, Robin, Chaffinch, Nuthatch, Great Tit and Blue Tit all seen feeding on wild bird seed put out by the general public, and the FOTP. Also this winter a Ring-necked Parakeet has taken up residence in the woodland behind the hall.

There is always wildlife to see in the park whatever time of year you visit. I have worked in the park for 37 years and still see interesting wildlife. In May 2014 an Osprey flew over, a bird which I have never seen in the park, and after all these years of waiting a second Osprey appeared two weeks later!

We hope you enjoy the new pathways alongside the River Calder from the Higher Towneley Playing fields to Unity College. £1400 of funding came from the Big Lottery and Burnley Borough Council. The Forestry Commission have also paid for the new pathways to and from the Lodge Plantation and through Wilson's (Smallholdings) Wood near Applecross. The Friends have paid for a new park bench near the Deer Pond, and a picnic bench outside the children's playground at Riverside. The local Councillors have also generously provided the funding for the information board by the Deer Pond. Thanks too, to David, for the donation of an additional picnic table at Riverside, in loving memory of Brenda.

What can we do with the litter? Earle voluntarily collected 190 carrier bags of rubbish last year! The children from St. Stephens primary school collected 10 refuse sacks of rubbish in half an hour last summer. Please place your rubbish in the bins or take it home. If you cannot find a rubbish bin for dog waste, then make sure it is in a bag, and then it can be placed in an ordinary bin. Dog fouling which is not removed has an automatic fine of £70. Help keep our Park clean and safe for all to use.

Look out for the new Towneley footpath leaflet and map to be launched at the Heritage and Woodland day on Sunday September 13th.

Go to the Park is a new initiative that encourages more people to volunteer in their local park. In Towneley Park we are offering training and volunteering opportunities in Horticulture: Woodland Management; Bee Keeping and Event Park Rangers. Ring Lisa or Alan on 01282 450270 or email alan.green@newground.co.uk or lisa.griffin@newground.co.uk to find out more.

APRIL

3 - 6	Easter Weekend 12noon – 4pm Family fun workshops, tea room, Pendelfin Pottery Rabbit Trail, lots to enjoy over the weekend.
5	FOTP Easter Egg & Nature Trail 1–3.30pm. Easter Hat Parade 3pm. Register outside the Hall shop. All welcome. £1.50 per child.
9	Wright Marshall Charity Antiques Show 10am – 5pm. Come and have your prized possessions valued for just £2 per item. All proceeds to Joshua Tree Children's Charity
26	Nature & Beyond – Floral Designs & Paints Exhibition

MAY

3	May Sunday Fun Fair 12noon – 6pm. Ride & Parking fees apply
4	May Day Festival 12noon– 5pm. Come and join in the family fun.
25	Bank Holiday Monday – Craft fair, Victorian Tea Room and Family fun activities , 12–5pm, free entry to the craft fair.
31	HAPPA Novelty Dog Show – all day event

JUNE

7	Brass Band Concert East Lancashire Concert Band at the rear of the Hall. 2pm – 4pm. Free Event. Refreshments available (payable).
9-30	Burnley College Furniture Exhibition
14	Race for Life starts 11am
28	Classic Car Show 11am – 5pm

JULY

5	Porsche Owners Club - Porkers in the Trough, 11am -3 pm
18	Generation Noise, Owl Project , second part of the Generation Touring Exhibition. Fun for all the family. Runs until the 4th October.
19	Ranger Fun Day including Summer Giants Competition 11am – 5pm Free event. On the triangle.

AUGUST

14/15	Drop the Beat Festival 12noon – 11pm. Details and cost to be confirmed
-------	---

SEPTEMBER

11-13	Heritage Weekend tours and free admission to the Hall all weekend.
13	Woodland Festival 12noon – 5pm . Enjoy this new style family day out.
18-20	Naturein2Art – NAFAS Flower Festival , Exhibitions, Competitions, Demonstrations and Plant Fair. Museum & Flower Festival 12noon – 5pm. £10 includes entry to the Hall.

OCTOBER

24 - 31	FOTP Half term Halloween Pumpkin Hunt , Family fun , £1 sheet from the Hall Shop.
---------	--

NOVEMBER

5	Bonfire & Fireworks Display . Ticket only event, available from the Hall or Mechanics.
2	Annual Christmas Craft Fair , over 30 stalls, Festive Entertainment and Victorian Tea Room. 12noon – 4.30pm

DECEMBER

8	NSPCC Carol Concert and Supper
9	Annual Carol Concert & Music followed by a festive buffet supper. 7 – 10pm - £18 p.p.
13	FOTP Christmas Trail and Visit from Santa £3 per child age 2 – 9yrs. Trail only £1. Tel. 01282 426449 to book from end of October.

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
- **The local buses** 1 and 1A, and the Halifax 582 or Rochdale 589 will take you to Brunshaw or Pike Hill entrances to the Park. For Todmorden Road, Hanbrig use the Bury 483 , and Barwise use the 483 or the Bacup 8.

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 Information & Bookings please ring Towneley Hall 01282 477130.

Where to Find Us:

Towneley, Towneley Holmes, Burnley, BB11 3RQ

Friends of Towneley Park Meetings:

Thurs 13th May 10am & Thurs 29th June 1.30pm at the Bowling Green Meeting Room.

AGM Sat 24th October 11am in the Lecture Theatre.



Thanks to Ribble River Trust for sponsoring this newsletter.