

Programme

You should by now have received your copy of the programme for 2026-27, if you haven't then please contact me.

Your current membership card allows unlimited free admission to the Hall for yourself and a guest, and those members purchasing a Towneley annual parking permit will be offered a significant discount.

I hope you find our new programme offers both variety and interest.

Outings and talks suggested by members are included as always and please do keep them coming. A reminder that non-members are encouraged to come on our trips, to attend events and also the monthly meetings (to which a £2 cover charge applies, deductible if an annual subscription is subsequently paid). Thanks to all those who helped with the distribution of the programme - you've saved the Society a fortune in postal charges and me a couple of litres of petrol (now liquid gold).

Towneley Hall Society leaflet

How do you like our new leaflet distributed with the programme? Our thanks to Committee member Howard Mitchell for his complete revamp resulting in this new updated edition.

The Annual General Meeting

58 members attended the 61st Annual General Meeting of the Towneley Hall Society.

The Reports presented were accepted and approved.

All the Officers and Committee members agreed to serve for another term, but we would always welcome the addition of another member, if anybody is interested.

Summer Outing to Sizergh Castle

Departing from in front of Towneley Hall at 9.30 a.m. prompt on Tuesday, August 11th our full coach is initially bound for Kirkby Lonsdale with 1.5 hours of free time to walk, browse, enjoy an early lunch or just a coffee. Onward then to Sizergh Castle and its wonderful garden. Make sure you see everything before we depart at 4.30 p.m. with an expected arrival home time of 6.00 p.m.

Sandra assured me that a fine day has been ordered as usual, no raincoats or umbrellas required (hmmm!)

Book Launch and Afternoon Tea with Katie Grant

"Clinging to the Crags" was published on July 16th and the Society is to host a book launch event at our Afternoon Tea on Monday, September 14th.

A short talk by the author will be followed by questions from the audience and then Afternoon Tea.

Admission is by booking only (phone, text or mail me) and the cost is £6 per guest. Limited numbers would suggest early booking.

Paperback copies of the book will be on sale at this event priced at £10.99 each and can be purchased with cash or card.

All copies sold will be signed by Katie who will be happy to add a name should you be purchasing one as a gift. There will be the usual raffle.

Fundraising Stalls

Bank Holiday Monday, May 5th with fine weather saw us come away with a handy £242. Many of the Committee and usual helpers were away during the late Bank Holiday weekend so I knocked up a tombola and Sandra and I sat outside the shop in the sweltering sunshine, with a temperature of around 30 degrees, whilst our potential customers took shelter under the trees or stayed home.

We took a very hard earned £50 and were glad to escape early as the shade from the Hall receded and we became fully exposed to the fierce sun.

At the Classic Car Show on the 28th of June we made a handy £185. Fingers crossed, as usual, for a fine day on August Bank Holiday Monday (the 31st) when we hope to have our stalls out in the Courtyard in front of the shop, with the usual books, toys and bric-a-brac. Help to set up and clear up would be appreciated, an hour from 10.00 a.m. and/or an hour around 3.30 p.m. You could come and enjoy assisting on the stalls.

Members of our core team of helpers are always contacted early in the day if there is any doubt about the weather. If you are in doubt, please call or message me on 07946 503000 to check that the stalls are going ahead. Free parking is available on our car park (designated for special events), be sure to prominently place your membership card in the windscreen.

Urgent plea - SOS - we are short of childrens' books and modern paperbacks

Visit to the newly restored Stocks Massey Music Library

Once again we have to thank member Linda Dawson for researching and organizing a visit for members of the Society to this newly restructured area of Burnley Library, now converted into a cultural venue housing an art-deco performance space, a historic sheet music collection, musical artefacts including a 1912 Lancashire made violin created to honor Titanic bandleader and Colne native Wallace Hartley, and much more. Our visit, with talk and tour, hosted by Linda, is scheduled for Monday, October 5th starting at 2.00 p.m. Let me know if you wish to book. There will be no charge, but out of courtesy please arrive if you have committed to do so, or let me know if you have to cancel. Numbers are limited. Another date will be scheduled if required.

Past Events

The AGM was followed by an illustrated talk entitled "Fifteen Fascinating Facts about your Town" presented by Tony Mitchell which was much enjoyed by the audience who tried and often failed to identify the whereabouts of each slide.

A very fitting finale to our programme.

Treasure Hunt

In typical summer weather, fine, cool, breezy, with the odd shower we set off from a central car park in Todmorden. An easy stroll through the town then on to the canal towpath where the "Incredible Edible" project is in full swing, featuring soft fruits, flowers and herbs all free to pick for those who wish to do so. Our excellent pie and pea supper was served at Todmorden Cricket Club, the perfect end to a very pleasant walk (with clues).

Hall Report

Sally Smith, Hall Manager, is very pleased to report that Lancashire Adult Learning Award, Community Partner of the Year and Historic House Restoration Awards have been received and at present the Hall awaits the results of the Lancashire Tourism Awards.

The new lighting in the hall is almost finished. Work is now embarking on the Local Crafts Museum and the landscaping outside.

A meeting of 600 people for the local Business Awards was recently hosted and Citizenship Award ceremonies are now held each month. A celebratory event is imminent as Burnley won Council of the Year Award.

The next Exhibition will be of local art work "Town to Towneley" from July 18th to September 27th.

There is to be a Council reception for Burnley's women's football team.

Arts Council funding has been awarded for the Community Collection.

Since April school sessions have picked up and there has been mapping of schools the Hall has worked with and those yet to be involved.



THE TOWNELEY HALL SOCIETY

(www.towneleyhallsociety.co.uk)

August 2026 Newsletter

Patron
Peregrine Towneley

*The Towneley Hall Society is a Registered Charity
(No 515939)*

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