

Dear All,
General Data Protection Regulation

I am proud to tell you that thanks to the diligence of our proactive Treasurer, Peter Woodhead, the Society will be fully compliant with the new Government legislation which comes into force from the 25th of May 2018.

Those of you who were able to attend the April meeting will have been handed a copy of the new Annual Membership Application form which hopefully you will return, with payment at the Annual General Meeting. Those members who were not at that meeting will receive their form through the post with an explanatory letter from the Treasurer and a copy of the Towneley Hall Society Privacy Policy.

Annual General Meeting

All members are urged to attend the AGM which will be held on Monday, May 14th, commencing at 1.30 p.m. If there is anyone who would like to join the Committee, or if you wish to nominate another member (with their permission) then please let me know. Following the meeting, we are to enjoy a film show entitled "Transports of Delight" presented by Stuart James who invites us to take a look at transport over the past hundred years.

Subscriptions

Membership cards and parking passes will be handed out at the AGM to those renewing their subscription, and don't forget that your card will allow free entry to the Hall for yourself and one guest throughout the year. Your parking pass covers parking at the Hall Car Park, Barwise, Riverside and the Golf Course car parks free of charge for the duration of any meeting or event linked to the Towneley Hall Society, provided you are

displaying it correctly. Cash or cheques will be accepted, and I would like to remind you that Life Membership is available upon a payment of £175-00.

Fundraising stalls

Due to inclement weather the Easter Monday book sale was cancelled. Our next outing will be on Mayday, Monday May 7th, weather permitting of course and again on Spring Bank holiday Monday, the 28th. If you have a couple of hours to spare between noon and around 4.00 p.m. why not come along and give us a hand. Ring me for further information.

Annual Treasure Hunt

The annual Treasure Hunt on Thursday, June 14th will set off from Crown Point car park from 6.00 p.m. onwards and we shall be heading towards the Rossendale Valley. Our supper venue is still under consideration but will be on offer from about 9.00 p.m. Book by phone, e-mail or sign up at the AGM. Please let me know if you are coming as part of a team, or you would like to join a team and, in this case, are you prepared to be the driver if necessary. Cost is £6.50 includes supper.

Arley Hall

Bookings, with a £5 deposit will be accepted at the AGM for this year's Open Garden visit to Arley Hall in Cheshire on the 9th of July with access to the Hall and famous gardens. The present Hall stands on the same site as the first Hall built by the family of the current Lord Ashbrook in 1460. The Hall standing was built between 1832 and 1845 by Rowland Egerton-Warburton to the design of George Latham, a Nantwich architect.

A conducted tour of the Hall is included in our visit. There are many highlights to explore in the award-winning gardens including the herbaceous borders - believed to be the earliest of their kind - the Ilex Columns, Rose Garden, Pleached Lime Trees and Walled Garden.

Take a picnic with you or lunch at The Gardener's Kitchen café.

Our coach will leave Towneley Car Park at 9.30 a.m. £20 covers the coach, admission and tour of the Hall. Payment in full will be required by Saturday, June 22nd.

Lancaster Castle

Lancaster Castle's origins date back almost 1,000 years. This Grade 1 listed building occupies a city-centre hilltop location on the site of three successive Roman forts and has been described by English Heritage as "not only the North West's most important historic and archaeological monument but also of international importance".

Provisional bookings will be accepted at the AGM for this visit to our County town on Monday, August 13th, 2018 which includes a guided tour of the Castle which will take us through tales of witchcraft, religious persecution, crime and punishment, rehabilitation and release throughout the ages. You may even get to stand in the dock, raise your left hand to be sworn in, and uncover the true meaning of being 'sent down'. You can try out one of the medieval cells for size and marvel at one of Europe's most extensive collections of heraldic shields.

Outings and Events

Just a reminder that non-members of the Towneley Hall Society are always welcome to join us on any of our trips out, or special events at the Hall (with no added charge)

Subject to availability. Visitors to our meetings are charged £2 which is refundable if they later join the Society.

BAFM North West Regional Get Together - Chairman Pauline Roberts reports

Secretary Rita and myself attended this event held at The Town Hall in Todmorden on Friday March the 9th.

Over the past three years these meetings have been allowed to lapse, so it was with some delight that the venue was so close to hand. There were approximately 40 delegates, amongst them were Bernard Rostron and his wife Beryl who are well known to some members from when he was the Chairman of BAFM.

Upon arrival we were greeted by a very young-looking man, Daniel Jessop the new BAFM Regional Co-Ordinator for the North West. The Mayor of Todmorden then officially welcomed everyone, and a tour of the Town Hall followed. After lunch Alex Walker, the acting Chair of BAFM told us of the four themes of the Meeting: resilience vs reliance/independence vs interdependence/friends vs members/reinvent vs remodel. After nearly two hours both Rita's and my eyes had begun to glaze over.

The main gist as I could gather was the thinking that the Organisation was looking towards the future, being open to new ideas in order to increase the awareness of the importance of volunteers within museums and our heritage sites. The encouragement and targeting of younger members and the ethnic communities, longer opening times to allow more people access. Daniel wound up the meeting and briefly told us that he was the recipient of the BAFM Travel Award for 2016 choosing the British Museum London and Museu d'Historica Barcelona.

The BAFM 45th AGM takes place on 13th October at the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle.

Hall Report - Ken Darwen writes

The council has just completed its financial year end and we have reported that during the last year we had approximately 40,000 visitors. This figure is down on last year but because of entry charges our income is up. We are also getting lots of return visitors using the 12 month passes. We had 6612 visitors in the hall attending events over the year and 3507 school children. Our volunteer pool continues to grow, we now have 32 regular volunteers but still struggle on a Saturday and Sunday.

With the increase in volunteers you should notice that the Local Craft Museum is open more, and from the end of April we will be hosting a regular antique and collectors outlet in the exit area of this building staffed by the owners. It is hoped that this will bring new visitors to the hall and museum and help generate extra income. Work is now being planned to repair the dry rot problem in the north wing and the recent plaster ceiling collapse at the top of the staircase leading to the art gallery. This will be restored as soon as possible. All craft fairs this year are sold out and we have started taking bookings for the popular Carol Concert in December. The afternoon tea events planned by Burnley Leisure are all selling well. Finally, the new events car park will be brought into use from this month (April).



THE TOWNELEY HALL SOCIETY

(www.towneleyhallsociety.co.uk)

April, 2018 Newsletter

Patron

Sir Simon Towneley, KCVO, JP, MA, D.Phil.

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

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