

Dear All, **General Data Protection Regulation**

In order to fully comply with Government legislation, we are required to keep a signed and updated copy of your Membership Application form, renewed annually.

Annual General Meeting

All members are urged to attend the AGM which will be held on Monday, May 13th, commencing at 1.30 am. 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, Isabel Stirk will take us to a much-loved part of England that we know well, to learn a little more about the Lakeland Writers and Poets.

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 all car parks within the Towneley Estate, provided it is correctly displayed and your vehicle is in a designated parking space. I would like to remind you that Life Membership of the Society is available upon payment of £175.00

Fundraising stalls

Easter Monday was a warm sunny day, in contrast to last year when we had to cancel our stalls due to poor weather. £310.78 was raised - thanks to all who assisted, especially Omar and Abdul, refugee friends of Michael who is involved with the "New Neighbours" initiative. We shall have our stalls out on both the May Bank Holiday Mondays (weather permitting) and again at the Classic Car Show on Sunday, June 30th. If you have a couple of hours to spare between noon and around 4.00 p.m. on any of these dates why not come along and give us a hand. Ring me for further information or to check if the weather looks dubious.

Annual Treasure Hunt

The annual Treasure Hunt on Thursday, June 20th will set off from Barley Car Park from 6.00 p.m. onwards for a tour of Pendle (Borough I hope, not Hill) from what I am told by Michael. Our supper venue is Nelson Cricket Club, where pie and peas will be on offer from about 8.30 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 are available to join a team and, in this case, are you prepared to be the driver if necessary. £6.50 includes supper. A signing up sheet will be available at the AGM.

Worsthorne Brewery

The suggestion for this Friday Night out on June 28th came from one of our sociable members. A tour of this small local brewery located in Holgate Street, Harle Syke, will be followed by a buffet supper with sample beers, soft drinks or tea/coffee. The cost is £15 and the fun starts at 7.30 p.m. Numbers are limited, so please sign up if you are interested.

Afternoon Tea

We are planning a special Afternoon Tea on Monday, July 1st in celebration of the Society being short-listed for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. At the time of writing, we have no new information, but watch this space! A signing in form will be available at the AGM and all other events throughout the next few weeks. Usual price £5. Come and enjoy a leisurely tea with your friends, a chit-chat, and who knows what else?

Garden Visit

Our coach will leave from the rear of Riverside Car Park at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, July 15th. Our destination is Windermere, arriving first at Brockhole, the Lake District Visitor Centre where you can eat your picnic or have lunch in the café and take an optional guided tour of the gardens. From there on to Holehird Gardens, the home of the Lakeland Horticultural Society, where you will be able to explore several planted areas offering a variety of aspects and displays. Coach and admission to both venues included in the price of £20, with the optional tour at Brockhole an additional £5 per person. Please note that Holehird Gardens is not recommended for those with walking difficulties. Seats are still available (contact Sandra) and payment in full is required by June 30th.

Chethams Library, Manchester

Flash your pass and take the bus to Manchester for our private afternoon tour exploring the medieval buildings and learning more about this Library, the oldest free public reference library in the United Kingdom. Chetham's Hospital, which contains both the library and Chetham's School of Music was established in 1653 under the will of Humphrey

Chetham, for the education of "the sons of honest, industrious and painful parents" and a library for scholars. The library has been in continuous use since 1653. Numbers for this visit are limited.

Outings and Events

To book for any of the above please sign the appropriate sheet which will be available at the AGM and all the other upcoming events or, with the exception of the Garden Visit, contact me by phone or email. 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.

Funding Request

You will note under Hall Report below that the Management wish to set up the Green Regency Room as though ready for a Grand Dinner. The Committee was happy to agree a donation of £5,300 for the purchase of a replica Regency Dining Table with two Carver Chairs and eight Dining Chairs. I hope you going to be impressed by the new look which should be on show fairly soon.

Past Outings and Events

"Laughter and Song" it said in the programme and that is exactly what we got. Jack Hargreaves brought a smile to all our faces on a rather gloomy January day. Indian Chief "Sitting Bull" was brought to life by Graham Kemp at February's meeting which was very well attended and again many members asked if we might hear from Graham again in the new programme. I'm only too happy to oblige. Thirty members and friends enjoyed our visit to The Chocolate House in Blackburn later that month. The History of Freemasonry turned into a very lively discussion following the presentation by four local Brother-Members at our March meeting. Do you think they revealed all the secrets of the Brotherhood during our interrogation, which stopped just short of thumbscrews, thankfully. Forty-two members and friends arrived for the guided Tour of Towneley Hall in late March, and about half began with a walk around the exterior of the Hall lead by President Tony Mitchell. Later, two groups set off for a comprehensive look at the interior of the Hall guided by Ken and Derek. Everybody seemed to be very pleased with the afternoon, having been escorted to some parts which are not on the usual tour route and all agreed that Towneley Hall is a beautiful and intriguing place. Many thanks to our three extremely knowledgeable guides.

"Travel in the 17th Century" presented by the charming Sheila Gordon outlined the extensive journeys of Lady Anne Clifford throughout the Yorkshire Dales and the Eden Valley which began when she inherited the family estates at sixty years of age. One journey recorded in her diary, 100 miles from Skipton Castle to Penrith is now known as Lady Anne's Way.

The Events Car Park - President Tony Mitchell writes

This additional car park has proved to be a great asset to the Hall. Several wedding and corporate events have been able to make use of the facility since it opened last year and there are a large number where it will be used in the near future. As you know, this was made possible by a substantial gift from our Society and it helps to make the Hall more attractive to people booking weddings and other events. For our monthly meetings the car park is open for our use but members often prefer to use one of the public spaces because it is more convenient. May I ask you to consider using our car park instead because this frees up spaces for paying visitors. The Hall relies on all fees to keep the wolf from the door and car parking is an important contributor. Visitors are often fickle and if they can't park near to the Hall they simply go away. Now I know that some of our members are less able than others and the extra walking distance from the car park may prove to be an issue but I ask that all those who can, please help in this way, and please don't forget to display your parking pass wherever and whenever you park at the Hall.

Hall Report - Ken Darwen writes

Having just completed our year end it might be interesting for the members to have a brief update on the year at Towneley, April to April 2019. The Shop reception reported sales of £109,201.14 which includes admission fees, hire fees, tours, school trips, merchandise and car park passes. In addition, income from all car parks in the Towneley Estate amounting to approximately £80K is ring fenced to help improve the Hall and Park. Visitor numbers during the year were approximately 40,581 plus 2,274 children on organized school visits. We now have 30 plus dedicated Hall volunteers helping to look after the Hall's rooms and collections, and with the help of 2 volunteers the local craft museum is now open 5 days a week in spring and summer and at the weekends throughout the winter. Building work on the restoration of the north wing is due to start in October of this year and will take a good 12 months, which means that from October the two Exhibition Galleries will be closed. We are hoping to keep open the main Art Gallery once the ceiling on the staircase has been repaired. Planning for the re-opening of the Galleries and Exhibitions is underway with the Evelyn de Morgan paintings, and possibly a number of loans from the Charles Towneley collection at the British Museum penciled in for 2021. The council have also secured funding to extend and improve the special needs toilet and baby changing area. Improvements to the displays for this year include the purchase of a replica Regency dining room set for the green regency room which will be dressed as if ready for a grand dinner and new information books in rooms around the hall. Extra fire and heat detectors are being installed in parts of the building not already covered.



THE TOWNELEY HALL SOCIETY

(www.towneleyhallsociety.co.uk)

April, 2019 Newsletter

Patron

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

*The Towneley Hall Society is a Registered Charity
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