

Towneley News

Issue 9 Autumn/Winter 2012



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**HIDDEN HISTORY
DIAMOND JUBILEE
PARK IMPROVEMENTS
WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING**

DIAMOND JUBILEE SUMMER

In keeping with the rest of the country, Towneley has had an eventful celebratory summer. What a pity the weather hasn't been kinder to us.

After the success of the Easter Trail, it was decided to have a Scavenger Hunt for children, where families found, felt and collected various items in and around Thanet Lee.

All the correctly answered sheets went into a prize draw (£10 Asda Voucher), kindly donated to the Friends of Towneley Park by the Princes Trust "Business in the Community" in association with 'Asda'. Congratulations to Suzie (4) and George (8) Halstead on being the lucky winners.

The 'Friends' have got together with Towneley Hall Society to raise funds to re-instate the fountain in the Italian Garden. Jubilee Day was the first joint effort. FOTP had a bulb and plant stall, along with the Scavenger Hunt, whilst THS organised a Garden Party and Tombola. Approximately £500 was raised. Thank you to all who supported us.

The sun eventually shone, and everyone enjoyed the Stacksteads Brass Band Concert, but unfortunately the rain returned, and what should have been a memorable day with Blue Peter live on air, followed by the Big Olympic Day, had to be cancelled.



TOWNELEY TALK...

What have Scooter users said?

"Gave my son a feeling of independence and my aching arms a rest from pushing the wheelchair."

"Wonderful to have these scooters to gain access to the grounds. We had a really enjoyable time."

"Excellent facility – able to walk with my wife around the park for the first time."

What are the Friends of Towneley proud of?

"May Day and Jubilee plant sales and stalls were very successful. Spring flower beds were fabulous."

"The Easter Egg hunt, Hat parade and the new Scavenger hunt which involved all the family."

"Fit 4 All Keep Fit equipment being used, even in the rain. People of all ages are having a go."

"Visit with children to see the daffodils and plant wild flower seeds was an enjoyable day"

"The Brass Band was excellent and the refreshments were all sold."

A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

While walking in Towneley Park areas, you might have admired swathes of pink orchid type flowers on stems about 4-5' high from July to October. This plant is definitely "a wolf" – it is Himalayan Balsam, an invasive non-native species that spreads rapidly by seed.

Why is it a problem?

It endangers our native plants by shading and crowding them out and as it produces much more nectar, this encourages insects to pollinate it, instead of other flowers. In waterside environments, because it is an annual with shallow roots, it can lead to erosion of bankside structures in autumn and winter. During high rainfall Balsam can impede water flow, increasing still further the risk of flooding.

What can we do?

In Towneley Park various organisations have done much to reduce the spread, with an annual programme of pulling up plants before they set seed, from mid July onwards.

The Friends of Towneley Park, with a grant from LCC's Green Partnership Awards, have produced a leaflet to raise awareness of the issue, to encourage the public, and hopefully groups to help with this long term project. From May until July 2012 the Friends have picked along the River Calder, in Smallholdings Wood, the woods behind Lime Avenue and in Thanet Lee Wood.

Please help us in 2013 by picking up a leaflet at the Rotunda or Towneley Shop, and play your part in helping to control this "wolf" in our midst.



HIDDEN HISTORY OF BARWISE CAR PARK



Barwise Car Park is named after Joseph Barwise who ran a Dahlia Nursery from the site. Mr Barwise was internationally famous for the dahlia varieties he introduced from 1920 until his death in 1965.

Born in Cockermouth (1874) the family moved to Lancaster where Joseph trained as a wood carver. In 1920 he moved to Burnley, and in 1923 was listed as Nurseryman of Towneley Nurseries. Seedlings were raised, and about 1930 he submitted new varieties for trial at the RHS grounds at Wisley, where many of his varieties received Awards of Merit, including the National Dahlia Society Gold Medal for 'Fortune'. One of his greatest honours was the coveted Victoria Medal awarded by the RHS in 1958 for outstanding services to horticulture. He named one of his dahlias 'Burnley' in recognition of the award. A further 28 were named after his nursery, from 'Towneley Cheer' in 1933 to 'Towneley Lily' in the 1960s. Many were also named after local areas and villages.

His previous woodcarving career seems to have been successful. According to reports his work can be seen in the 'Savoy Hotel' London, 'Caledonian Hotel' Edinburgh, and many Scottish baronial mansions. Locally he also carved the Lectern at St. Stephen's Church, (1949).

He continued to work long after retirement, aged 86 he was still working 11 hours a day in summer. Could some of his dahlias still be grown locally, handed down through the years? FOTP would like to hear from you if you have memories of Mr Barwise and his nursery, or if you think you might have inherited one of his dahlias.



PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Woodgrove Car Park

Towneley Holmes Road is a clearway and parking is not permitted at any time. However, when Unity College closes around 3.15pm, the road is very congested because of drivers waiting in cars to collect students. This problem will be resolved when a new landscaped, pay and display car park opens in Autumn 2012 on the site of the former Towneley all-weather pitch. It will be available for everyone to use and adults picking up students will be allowed to wait free of charge for 15 minutes, keeping Towneley Holmes Road free of traffic.

Trees

As part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, the Friends have applied to the Woodland Trust, for 105 trees which will give all year round colour, plus a commemorative Old English Royal Oak. If the bid is successful the trees will be planted on the edge of the Smallholdings Wood.

Fulledge Wetlands

The Friends are working with the Council, Ribble Rivers Trust, and the Environment Agency on a scheme that will deal with problems of silting of the wetland adjoining Unity College.

The project will also deal with subsidence that has taken place next to the pond, re-routing the path to avoid flooding and re-seeding a barren area. It will provide a new footbridge across the overflow to enable the public, once again, to walk in a circuit around the wetland area.

Pathways

Further extensions of the path network in the park are planned to take place in autumn. A 3 metre wide path will be created around the edge of Higher Towneley Playing Fields, and there will be improvements to the straight pathway that runs from the pavilion to the field boundary. These new paths will benefit the weekly 5K Parkrun, cycling activities, and extend the mobility scooter route.

TOWNELEY TALK...

What concerns the Friends?

- The state of the Hall road but glad of the 20mph limit.
- Daffodils picked and strewn on the Barwise carpark, but Hanbrig and Riverside looked unspoilt.
- Not many people interested in the ipod walks, but we hope for more people next year.
- The state of the footpath between Fulledge and Unity College, but it should be remedied by 2013.

What's On

AUGUST

- 1, 8, 29 Pre booked tours of the Hall – between 1pm & 4pm
- 8 Hidden Treasures of Towneley Exhibition (until 20 Sept)
- 4 Silk Painting Workshop 1pm – 4pm - Pre book
- 6, 13, 20, 27 Picnic & Play in the Park. Organised by Burnley Sport & Play Development Unit. 5 – 13 yrs. Meet on the grass by the play park. 10.45am – 12.45pm
- 12 Walk & Tour of the grounds, meet outside the Hall shop 2 – 4pm
- 27 Origami/Paper Folding Workshop 1pm - 4pm
- 27-30 National Family Week, Craft Workshops all week in the Regency Rooms 1pm – 4pm

SEPTEMBER

- 8-9 Heritage Weekend, Free Entry & Free Tours of the Hall, Costumed re-enactments, Craft Stalls 12 – 5pm
- 9 Woodland Festival, Free Afternoon out for all the family. Displays & Exhibitions, Refreshments and Entertainment. 12 – 4pm
- 29 Stitch & Sketch, Textiles and Artwork by a local group

OCTOBER

- 7 Woodland Walk with the Park Ranger . Meet Hall Shop 2pm
- 7 & 20 Wedding Fayre 12 – 4pm
- 13 **Friends of Towneley Park Annual General Meeting in the Lecture Theatre 2pm. New members most welcome.**
- 29, 30, 31 Half Term Activities – Craft Workshops 1 – 4pm
- 31 Spooky Tours & Tales 12 – 4pm and 7 – 10pm. Pre book/ Charge
- 31 Illuminated Calligraphy Workshop (Spooky themed) 1- 4pm

NOVEMBER

- 3 "Most Haunted" – Themed Dinner
- 11 Remembrance Day. Come along and join the service at Towneley Memorial, 10.45am
- 25 Annual Christmas Craft Fair 12 – 5pm. Free Entry. Over 30 stalls, Festive Entertainment & Refreshments.
- 25 Origami/Paper Folding Workshop 1 – 4pm
- 25 Jinnah Exhibition, Burnley People, Pakistani Roots, Memories of Pakistani Immigration to Burnley (until 13 Jan)

DECEMBER

- 1-6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16 Craft Stalls in the Regency Rooms 12 – 4.30pm
- 10.12 Carol Concert & Festive Buffet – Cash Bar – 7.30pm - £18 Pre book
- 11 NSPCC Carol Concert & Buffet - Pre Book
- 15 Christmas Party Night – Dinner/Dance 7pm – Midnight - £38 Pre book
- 16 Santa comes to Towneley, organised by the Friends of Towneley Park. Bookings only 01282 426449
- 17 Nelson MV Arian Choir – Pre Book £10 – Doors 7.30pm Concert 8.30pm
- 21 Formal Christmas Dinner Dance – Live Band/DJ 7pm – Midnight - £40 Pre book.

For Information & Bookings please ring Towneley Hall 01282 477130.

Where to Find Us

Towneley, Towneley Holmes, Burnley, BB11 3RQ

Friends of Towneley Park Meetings

AGM – Sat 13th October – 2pm

Thurs 22nd - Lecture Theatre - November – 10am

Weds 23rd January – 10am

Monday 25th March – 10am



Useful Information

- **Friends of Towneley Park** contact
Maureen Frankland on 01282 432423,
Pat Colbran on 01282 426449
email: maureenfrankland159@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. Tel. 01282 477130
- **Springwood Nurseries** on 01282 832271
- **Towneley Garden Centre** on 01282 424162 or visit www.towneleygardencentre.co.uk
- **Offshoots** on 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**, Graham Gavaghan 01282 831053
- **Keith Wilson** at the Forest of Burnley 01282 477432

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.

STOP PRESS

- 5K Parkrun every Saturday 9am – free to enter. To register visit www.parkrun.org.uk
- Visit the Children's Playground and see the new equipment.
- Is anyone willing to put in an application to the Heart Foundation for a defibrillator in the park?
- Buy a copy of the DVD "Step Back in Time", stories of the Towneleys – only £5 from the shop.
- Mobility Scooters available free Saturday-Thursday 12 – 4pm. Tel. 01282 477130 to book.
- Please help to feed the birds over the winter at Riverside Car Park, with seeds, nuts, and fat balls.

The **co-operative** membership
community fund



Thanks to Councillors Sumner and Briggs who have sponsored this edition of Towneley News.