

Dear Member

Lecture by Stephen Green

Booking is open to members now, contact Rita Walsh (07946 503000). The price per ticket is £27.50 which includes a welcome drink, buffet, and the illustrated lecture by Mr Green, former Curator of the M.C.C. Museum and Librarian at Lords. A leaflet is enclosed with further details.

The British Association of Friends of Museums.

The programme and booking form for the North West Regional Meeting of the Association to be held at Towneley Hall on Saturday, April 19th 2008 is enclosed. We are hoping for good support from our members at what will be an interesting and informative event offering an opportunity for us to meet like-minded people from other parts of the country and officers of the Association.

Annual General Meeting

Please note that due to prior commitments the Treasurer has requested that the date of this meeting be brought forward from May 19th to **May 12th**.

It's Your Choice

The pioneering exhibition which allows visitors to select exhibits from the stores continues until March 13th. The displays change as visitors fill in their voting slips so it's not too late to request a favourite or unfamiliar object you would like to see.

Secrets of a Peruvian Mummy

The mummy sent to Towneley in 1910 by W.T. Taylor, a Burnley electrical engineer who travelled the world setting up power stations, has been analysed by York University and will feature in a TV programme in the spring.

There will be a display showing the findings from February 23rd to May 31st in the Orientation room. These South American mummies are much rarer in British museums than Egyptian mummies as it is not protocol to bring them here. Consequently they are much less studied and there should be some interesting findings on display.

Towneley Park

Heritage Lottery Funded improvements in the Park during winter are now evident. The rhododendrons in Little Lime Walk have been cut back to allow light in and to regenerate the shrubs. Planting under the trees by the Hall car park is complete and work has started on restoring the garden around the cenotaph to its original design including the reflective pond.

Barwise car park is closed for improvements and will re-open in April. Soon work will begin on the main lime avenue behind the Hall. The trees and shrubs will be trimmed, the path resurfaced and the grass replanted. New colourful rhododendrons will line the walk.

Information on all these schemes may be seen in the foyer at the Hall.

Noel H Leaver

62 watercolours by Burnley artist Noel H Leaver have been bequeathed to the Society by Dr Bracewell. He saw the artist's paintings at Towneley twenty years ago and started his collection.

Members will see these pictures at the February meeting and eventually there will be a large exhibition of the bequest. Members will be familiar with Leaver's North African scenes and views of English Cathedrals and continental forms. He lived most of his life in Burnley and taught at Burnley College of Art. His work is still very popular with visitors and collectors.

Christmas Concert

Although not very well attended our Christmas event was an evening of outstanding entertainment starring Burnley Junior Alliance Band who played their socks off, followed by Richard Sanderson, who performed songs from the shows, entrancing the audience with his superb voice. A free raffle of Christmas items was very well received. Thanks to those Committee members who donated items for this.

Past Events

The lecture by Professor Alan Smith celebrating the installation of the Millennium clock was well attended and those present were astonished to learn the background to the re-construction of this famous time-piece.

Thanks are recorded to Committee member Audrey Hall who provided a most excellent afternoon tea of home-made cakes.

In January, Susan Bourne, assisted by Tony Kitto presented a fascinating look at the Tower of Babel, described in the Bible and a subject depicted by many artists, including the Flemish Renaissance painter Marten Van Valkenborch whose fine canvas is on exhibition at Towneley Hall.