

90 Stories Revisited

The Hall will be staging an exhibition in November called "90 stories revisited" about the lives of 90 Burnley men who served in the Great War, commemorating 90 years since the end of the 1914-1918 war.

Mike Townend, Keeper of History, would like to hear from anyone who may be able to contribute an interesting story of a family member (man or woman) from Burnley or Pendle who served at home or in a battle zone.

As well as showing medals and awards, the exhibition will include more personal items. These may be a letter, photograph, postcard, badge, souvenir or anything which relates to the person. Mike can be contacted at the museum on 01282 424213 or by email mtownend@burnley.gov.uk

Past Events

Tony Mitchell's slide show about Mining in Burnley was extremely well attended and rightly so, for it was a revelation to see photographs of how the landscape around this area has changed.

Photographs dating from the early nineteen hundreds to the last pit closure had the audience enthralled as we tried to guess which colliery we were looking at. Many were followed by a recent photograph and the difference was startling. Certainly much more than just a slide show – a lifetime for many past and present residents of our town.

The History of Cricket was a very pleasant ramble through the early beginnings of the game and how the M.C.C. became the governing body based at Lords Cricket Ground. For lovers of cricket it was full of insights and interesting snippets of information, delivered in a humorous style by Stephen Green, former Curator of the M.C.C. Museum and Librarian at Lords. An excellent buffet was served following the illustrated lecture.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, 12th May 2007

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts, and Minutes of last year's AGM will be available at the meeting.

The 2007/8 Committee is:

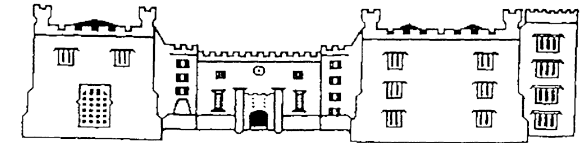
President: Colin Sanderson
Chairman: Tony Mitchell
Secretary: Rita Walsh
Treasurer: Peter Woodhead

Members: Irene Birchenough
John Hagan
Audrey Hall
Cynthia Sanderson
Gordon Thompson

The Curator of Towneley Hall, Susan Bourne, is an ex-officio member of the Committee.

If you are interested in helping with the work of the Society, or wish to nominate anyone for office, please advise the Secretary:

**01282 426063
07946 503000**



THE TOWNELEY HALL SOCIETY

April 2008
Newsletter

Patron

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

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

Dear Member

Beyond Reasonable Doubt

Tickets are now available for this intriguingly entitled event, the enclosed leaflet has the details. I can reveal that Society member Mary Corner and her friends Barbara and Stephen have put together an excellent evening's entertainment which will stretch your credibility (or gullibility). Come and enjoy the fun!

The Annual General Meeting

All members are urged to attend the AGM which is now to be held on May 12th and not the 19th as shown in your programme. As always your Committee invite nominations, or volunteers to come forward and join us planning our lecture programme and fund-raising events. The other important duty involved is spending the funds raised to purchase artefacts, amenities and equipment to enhance Towneley Hall which is beloved by us all. I can be contacted on 01282 426063 or 07946 503000.

Secrets of Peru

Towneley's Peruvian mummy featured in an hour long programme on the History Channel on Easter Sunday. The mummy is now on view after extensive forensic examination at York University. After the AGM we will view the programme and the mummy itself together with some early Peruvian pottery, all brought by W.T. Taylor to Burnley in 1913.

He attended Burnley Grammar School and became one of the first electrical engineers. He travelled the world setting up power stations and sent back exhibits to the newly formed museum in his home town.

Gordon Thompson

We were very pleased when Gordon accepted an invitation to join the Committee in 2004. With years of management experience and lots of contacts we knew that he would be a great asset to the Society. Sadly we have had to accept Gordon's resignation, as for some time he has been poorly and confined to home. Our grateful thanks go to Gordon and his wife Sandra for their enthusiasm in compiling the recent programmes, which have been excellent, and their unstinting support at fund-raising events.

Subscriptions

Our Treasurer, Peter Woodhead, will be delighted to issue receipts for cash or cheques at the AGM and would appreciate early payment of subscriptions.

Programme

The programme for 2008/9 is now being compiled and already we have a number of talks and lectures which will be unmissable. Susan Bourne will be delivering an illustrated lecture about the Whalley Abbey Vestments, and this ties in with our escorted tour of Whalley Church, in August. Peter Watson makes a welcome return visit to tell us about "Life in the Workhouse", and Edith Corner will lead a session entitled "Do you remember?"

We are also hoping to feature a presentation including live owls. The dates for all these and the other meetings, events and outings will be in the programme to be sent to you late summer.

Events & Exhibitions

Enclosed is a copy of the new brochure for Towneley Hall, which contains a map and lots of interesting information, and also an Events & Exhibitions leaflet telling you all about what is coming up throughout the year.

Art Gallery

April 28th is the centenary of the opening of the Oil Painting gallery by Lord O'Hagan. The Society will host a Reception from 6 to 8 p.m. to celebrate one hundred years and there will be a display showing how the gallery was converted from family bedrooms to house big Victorian and Edwardian paintings. Originally these were on loan, but the town built up its own permanent collection with the help of the Stocks Massey Bequest and the Towneley Hall Society.

Whalley Church

A visit to the Church of St Mary in Whalley has many connections for the Towneley Hall Society. There is a carved 17th century Towneley pew, the family coat of arms in stained glass and the monument to Thomas Dunham Whitaker 1759-1821. Whitaker was a friend of Charles Townley's and Townley recommended J.M.W Turner to illustrate Whitaker's 'History of Whalley' 1801. Towneley owns Turner's painting of the crosses and misericords at the Church. At that time, Burnley was part of the extensive parish of Whalley of which Whitaker was vicar. There is also a very rare set of choir stalls from the abbey dating from 1418-1484 which relate to sets in Nantwich, Chester and Manchester.