

Dear Member

Christmas Event

We are having our Christmas Event as a part of the Flower Festival on Friday, December 5th. A leaflet is enclosed with information and early bookings would be appreciated. At £5 per ticket including mulled wine and mince pies, this offers excellent value as the admission price to the general public is £8.

Festival of Flowers – 4th / 7th December

Volunteer stewards are required to assist with this event. The opening hours are Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be three shifts of between two and two and a half hours. Please contact Rita Walsh (426063) if you can help.

Tea at Towneley

We have been fortunate in securing two diverse, but equally attractive lectures for our afternoon sessions in November and January. Edith Corner is well known for her talks which are always well attended and the one at Towneley has a particularly intriguing title: *"Ah yes I remember it well At least I think I do!"* In January, Park Ranger Graham Gavaghan will be presenting a highly recommended slide show looking at the flora and fauna of Towneley Park. It promises to be a highlight of what often turns out to be a rather dull month following the excitement of Christmas.

The Great War Remembered

The ninetieth anniversary of the end of the First World War will be marked by a special Exhibition running from November to December, entitled 90 Stories Revisited. Local people served in every branch of the armed forces throughout the war and nearly 4000 Burnley men lost their lives in the conflict. Three were awarded the Victoria Cross. Letters, diaries, photographs, badges and personal items will be on display, some from the museum collection but others loaned by local families.

Past Events

The trip out to **Whalley Parish Church** was a revelation to most of us who couldn't believe that we had never before visited such a treasure house of history, and right on our own doorstep. How many more such wonders are there to be found locally – wait and see!

For once the weather was kind for the **Heritage and Woodland Festival**.

The crowds turned out, all the exhibitors and stalls were well supported, the Civil War re-enactments were thrilling and our little market made a profit of around £200. A great time was had by all.

Once again, Towneley Hall itself provided the substance for a riveting illustrated lecture about the **Whalley Abbey Vestments** presented by Susan Bourne based on research by Tony Kitto. Members were joined by a group of ladies from

St Peter's Church. What an experience to view 16th Century embroidery close-up!

The **Birds of Prey** were close-up too, and how amazing they were. The dozen or so birds brought to the meeting all had their own personality and we were encouraged to hold and stroke them. There was Purdy, a little owl that liked to dance the twist, Jammu, the European eagle owl and Zulu, the great grey owl from Alaska who soundlessly flew from one end of the Great Hall to the other. A memorable evening!

Noel H Leaver Watercolours

In Spring 2009, there is to be an Exhibition of this valuable collection of paintings, left to the Society by the artist. A Preview Evening, with lecture, will be held on Friday evening April 24th. This surely, is an event not to be missed and a note in your new diary will make sure you don't forget.

Towneley Hall Gift Shop

Do have a browse around the shop whilst you are visiting the Hall. The items on offer may just solve the problem of that special Christmas present you are looking for.

New Year's Eve Ball and Dinner Dance

Bring in the New Year in style at Towneley Hall. A few seats are available for this special event, telephone 424213 to book or check availability.