

## Turton Tower Officers Report September 2023

### Visits

Visits to the house 5<sup>th</sup> June – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023, adult, concession and junior – 970  
We are now above pre- pandemic figures from 2019 despite opening for less hours a week.

### Wedding bookings

We have held 4 weddings this year and have a further six booked for 2024.

### Schools:

This year we have achieved good level of school visits despite the challenging times with cost of living, coach costs and school strikes affecting visits. There have been a further six class visits inside the Tower and a further 11 with Communitree which takes the total for the 22/23 school year to 47 schools.

On top of this there has also been:

- One outreach session to two separate classes at Turton & Edgworth PS
- Five days Forest Holiday Club through HAF funding with communitree
- Three days Teacher Training Forest School Level 3

### Events

We continue to develop events in partnership with others as well as delivering some of our own the following are the main events held:

- Turton Tower represented at Magic Fest – Oswaldtwistle Civic Theatre (15/06)
- Kitchen Garden National Open Garden event with the Alpine Hornblowers (17/06)
- FOTT Mad Hatters Tea Party (09/06)
- Living History day no 1: Sealed Knot (re-enacting 1642-1647 English Civil War) (05/06)
- Outdoor Theatre Dean Taylor productions : The life of Walter Raleigh (06/06)
- Living History day no 2: Visit the Victorians: Schoolroom, Past times Playtime & Object handling (13/06)

Looking ahead for this year:

Tower House to close Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October

Victorian Christmas for schools 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> December

### Filming

Darwen Aldridge Community Academy Enterprise Studio came on 24 & 25/06. The film was crewed by staff and students creating opportunities for young people to gain

vital experience of working on a film set. Bruce Jones (Les Battersbea) was in the lead role and gave students tips and advice.

An enquiry and recce visit has taken place considering the Chetham Room for a Hallowe'en commercial.

### Volunteers

- There are now 65 volunteers supporting throughout the Tower and Gardens
- 2 new house volunteers have recently joined the team
- 2 Guided tours at Chetham Library were arranged for our volunteers. These were free of charge as we are 'part of the Chetham Library family'
- 6 volunteers have set up a 'Research' group to find out more information about our collection. One of these volunteers has applied to FOTT for funding to purchase 3 ipads (one for each floor) to enhance the visitor experience.
- The Collection Care group of volunteers have been 'dressing' some of the rooms. Adding small items such as reading glasses and embroidery to make it look as if someone has just left the room
- W/b 5 June National Volunteering Week - Turton Tower Volunteers featured on the video shown on social media and big screen outside Town Hall.
- We have been working with Chipln youth volunteering project and CVS to widen the volunteer recruitment and the diversity of the volunteers.

### Turton Tower – The football years

A funding bid for £26,000 to fully research, develop a narrative and deliver a series of activities and events has been submitted to Arts Council England.

### The Bothy – Kitchen Garden

The work on the Bothy is now complete and the kitchen garden group are working hard to landscape around it and incorporate it into the garden. They are developing a wildlife habitat with a pond and bee friendly planting next to the new bee hives.