

## Turton Tower Service Report January 2024

### **VISITS**

In the open season there were a total of 5741 visitors  
3600 visitors  
1813 school children  
200 wedding visitors (approx.)  
128 attendance at booked meetings/events

In comparison to 2022 we had an increase of house visitors of 508 from 3092 to 3600. Next year we will be able to compare with the wider groups and weddings but these weren't counted included in previous years.

	Adult	Conc	Junior	Free pass
2022	1356	976	660	100
2023	1428	1104	552	516
Difference	+72	+128	-108	+416

### **SHOP**

The shop has had 1449 unique visitors who don't go into the Tower.  
We have 18 local suppliers

### **WEDDINGS**

There 6 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

We are continuing to grow this area of work and in 2024 are working with Turton and Edgworth and Eagley schools to develop a specific local history programme focussed on Turton and John Charles Kay.

We are looking at recruitment of some additional freelance educators working with Blackburn Museum, The Haworth Art Gallery and Towneley Hall as all are needing more capacity. We are hoping that a collaborative approach will improve the amount and quality of applicants.

### **EVENTS**

Throughout the year we have done a series of events with some others delivered in partnership. Key events have been:

4 Tower organised events (Sword Fencing display, 2 x Living History days and Outdoor Theatre)

Family Craft Events on Special Occasions (Easter, Coronation weekend, Hallowe'en)

The Victorian open weekend on 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> December was particularly popular this year and we look to develop that further.

### **Re-open on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

- House Volunteers now stands at 31 with at least another 30 in the gardens.
- In preparation for 2024 season they have got IPADS funded by FoTT to hold the room information which means it can be updated and accessed quickly. This has been led by the 'Research' group who have been updating and adding new information
- 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
- We have been working with ChipIn youth volunteering project and CVS to widen the volunteer recruitment and the diversity of the volunteers and are looking at developing an additional collections volunteer role alongside the Museum.

#### **TURTON TOWER – THE FOOTBALL YEARS**

An Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant has been awarded for £26,900 to further research and understand the role that Turton Tower had in the early development of the Football League.

We will be working with researchers, the football community and local community to develop the narrative knowledge, collections and display.

Project will run from December 2023 to July 2024 with a plan to get further funding for a permanent exhibition in the Tower.

We currently have a callout for anyone who has information. We are working with Turton FC and Blackburn rovers to get this call out.

#### **TEAROOM**

The tender for the tearoom will be back up for renewal in 2025. This process will need to start in Autumn 2024. The delivery has altered considerably since the last tender due to changes in delivery models in Covid so the paperwork needs revising and will need to decide on the model we want going forward.