

Turton Tower Officers Report
November 27th 2024

VISITS

The tower shut to the public on Sunday 27th although the shop is open for weekends until Christmas. It will then shut until March.

We will reopen the ground floor decorated for Christmas for the weekends of 7/8 and 14/15 December. These are free of charge.

Re-open on Thursday 27th March 2025

WEDDINGS

The wedding bookings have been growing with 6 delivered in 2024 and a further 12 booked for 2025. We are still getting enquiries but will reach a point where we are at capacity for the year.

We have trained a casual member of staff to support which has allowed us to increase the number we are able to accommodate without affecting the main visitor experience.

SCHOOLS

We have had a busy year and are developing the Tudor sessions with food This is now our most popular session.

Victorian Christmas is full for 3 days 9/10/11 December. This is the first time we have been at capacity since pre-covid.

THE FOOTBALL YEARS

This initial project has come to an end and we have developed a strong narrative around JC Kays and Turton Towers role in the development of the FA including a short film for schools (see link below).

In 2025 we are developing a programme around the football including some redevelopment of the 'priests' room back into the smoke room. We are in discussions with Blackburn Rovers about a football trail in the borough as well as British Textile Bieniale about telling the story. This will hopefully raise awareness and develop new audiences.

https://youtu.be/Yh_TCAqkW2k

TEAROOM

The tender for the tea room is on the chest. David Bellis has had the tender for 5 years so it has had to be advertised for renewal. We hope to finish the process by the end of December so that there is some stability moving forward.

THE FRIENDS OF TURTON TOWER

FoTT held their final meeting on 1st November and are now in the process of closing the accounts down. There is around £45,000 which will be transferred to the trust. They have requested that this is spent on 'outdoor' provisions including support for the gardening groups. The gardening group will present their reports to Trustee meetings annually.

There is a small group who wish to continue to do fundraising activities. We have agreed to honour life memberships with free entry to the Tower.