



Wish Tower Friends Newsletter

Edition 1 February 2014

Welcome to the first edition of the Wish Tower Friends Newsletter in which we bring you up to date with the happenings at Martello Tower 73 and tell you how you can get involved.

New Beginnings

The group took on a lease, with the assistance of ExtraVerte Community Projects CIC on 1st December 2013. The lease lasts two years, with an option to renew if wider plans for the Wish Tower slopes site allows.

It's a very exciting collaboration and we're expecting a lot of interest from visitors as the tower has been closed for around 13 years.

We plan to open the tower to the public for free guided tours and make the Tower a space for occasional paid-for events.

Working party – January 2014

The weekend of 17th/18th saw an intrepid band of Friends don hard hats, hi-viz vests and gloves to start removing the debris that had accumulated in the tower. The debris consisted of everything from old shelving supports, to big sheets of chip board, to the display cabinets from the old Puppet Museum.

Care had to be taken not to pull anything that was attached to the walls or floors since that could damage our Grade II listed, Scheduled Ancient Monument Tower. Luckily, Steve had professional power tools and did a great job safely cutting up the bigger cabinets to allow us to remove them.

Special respect goes to Terry, Lee, Antony and Roy who heroically hoisted many large sheets of immensely heavy MDF from the basement up to the first floor.

We completely filled the first 12yd skip by the end of Saturday and stacked most of the other waste inside the tower, near the door ready to go.

Thanks to all the volunteers for your hard work and we're looking forward to reconvening on 15th February to try and finish the job.



Links with the Redoubt

Did you know that the Wish Tower and the Redoubt Fortress were related buildings?

Both were built at the beginning of the 19th century to protect Eastbourne from the threat of invasion by Napoleon Bonaparte.

We're very lucky to have two Napoleonic buildings in the town in such good condition.

The Friends and ExtraVerte will be working with the good folk at the Redoubt to stage some joint projects bringing the relationship between the two buildings to life.

Thanks to Jo, Fran and Lyndsay for their help and interest so far and we're looking forward to more collaboration as things progress.

Working with Schools

We believe it's really important that everyone gets a chance to enjoy the experience of visiting the Wish Tower and we want our town's school children and older students to be able to learn more about our heritage.

But the Wish Tower could be a cross curricular resource, we believe. There's history, engineering, architecture, maths and other subjects that all come together in the story of the Tower.

So, we're starting to work with a few local schools and colleges to develop some educational materials and to help us write a guide to the tower that will appeal to as wide a range of people as possible.

If you would like your school or college to get involved as we develop, please contact us.

Be Our Friend?

Would you like to be our friend?

If you're interested in what's going on, you can find us on Facebook, Twitter and our own website on www.wishtower.org.uk.

Also, we'll email this to our email subscription list – joining is free, just email wishtower@extraverte.org.uk to be added to the list. You can leave the group any time you like.

We'll also leave a few copies each month around in cafes and other places around town. More information as we start distribution.



First Fundraiser

Our first Wish Tower fundraising event will be on Saturday 1st March 2014. We have Robert Lloyd Parry (aka Nunkie Theatre) coming to the Redoubt Fortress to retell two of M R James' ghost stories in the depths of the Fortress.

You might have caught a glimpse or two of Robert during a documentary about the life of M R James over the Christmas break. James was probably the foremost writer of eerie stories and Robert captures the spirit of the tales as he recounts them to us.

Casemate 21 in the Redoubt is our venue for the evening, tucked away from the wind and rain, but still atmospheric.

By buying a ticket and joining us it's a great way to meet other people interested in the Friends' group and helping us raise some money towards the work we want to do.

Tickets cost £12 (inclusive of booking fee) and are available via our website.