



## A brief update (and a plea for help) !!



We have been open for only five days and have had over 1500 visitors to the tower during opening hours!

This is truly amazing, and I want to thank **everybody** who has assisted with making this happen.

Volunteers have been **essential** in making this work because the level of interest is so high. **But.....**

**We urgently need more volunteers to help on Saturday and Sunday openings, if only to let the others get a cuppa!**

No specialist skills are required as we can help bring you up to speed. Everyone will confirm that the level of positivity from visitors makes it all very fulfilling. You do not have to stay for the whole time.

If **you** are willing to help, then please let me know as soon as possible. A text

message will catch me quickest (07941 734736).

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### Laughter and joy!

Our first educational visit went really well yesterday with over 30 children participating in a variety of events, including an archaeology dig, tour and treasure hunt. Thanks to Sue and Liz for their help. It was lush to see happy smiling faces as they got back on the bus (the children NOT the supervisors).

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### Floowas

My own highlights of this last few weeks has been floowas – loads of them!



*Pic by Victoria Chambers*

In the garden, bees and butterflies are everywhere, enjoying sips of nectar from a magnificent range of flowering plants.



Once again volunteers have been hard at it, keeping these beds looking beautiful and we continue to get regular plant donations, which have all found a home and seem to be thriving.



*Pic by Victoria Chambers*

The spectacular and innovative flower installations by the Ellington Flower Arrangers Club have been so welcome, the ladies have become a regular sight topping up the water, adding new flowers and making a visit to the tower even more thrilling. We are really pleased to be working so well together and comments on the flowers are really complementary. It is hoped that a permanent installation can be created in the near future!

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## Volunteering opportunities

# WE NEED YOU TO JOIN OUR CREW

## Gardening and landscaping



*Pic by Victoria Chambers*



We are looking to continue landscaping works and maintenance to the woodland around the tower.

Work on the walled garden work will continue and it looks fantastic with borders brimming with flowers, buzzing with bees and gradually losing some of the weeds. Gardening is usually on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings 0930-1300.



*Pic by Victoria Chambers*

As always there are other opportunities for involvement;

- Education help
- Research and recording
- Making “dressing up” clothes for children – we have started to accumulate material for this but welcome any additional things – especially looking out for leather

belts, flat caps (and if you have any armour or a sword that would be canny).

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## Heritage Open Days

We are pleased to say that we will also be taking part on the HOD's - England's largest festival of history and culture!

Every September thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our fantastic history and culture. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are FREE to explore.

This year's theme is Heritage and Food, and we are hoping to have a GARDEN PARTY on one of the days (subject to confirmation).

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk>

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## Library

We have had loads of new additions to our library and would like to thank donors. A better list will follow but donations include; “Field Names in Northumberland” (Stan Beckinsall), “In Troublesome Times” – Spreddon Press and numerous field guides.

As always new items are welcomed, and we are especially interested in any old maps and photographs.

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## White lady update

Two pictures of the white lady have been shared with us recently, one is reproduced



here. In frames taken prior and after this particular image, the “face” does not appear.



We have chatted with lots of people who have had encounters of a ghostly nature and do not discount these at all. Its fascinating!

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### T'internet thingy

Huge thanks to Brian Cosgrove for really hard work on updating the website. Its absolutely brilliant and brings us right up to date with the use of technology. It will be worthwhile visiting regularly as we aim to make this interactive and to keep it up dated with news and information (in addition to our Facebook page).

If you haven't visited recently then please head to;

<https://cresswellpeletower.org.uk/>

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### Restoration

One question we are asked regularly is why the stonework on the restored tower differs from the rest.

The answer to this is that we were required to do so as part of the permissions, as it ensures the old (original) bits of the structure can clearly be differentiated from the restored areas.

Masonry in the vicinity of the tower has been utilised where there is certainty of its origin, and where it was suitable to do so.

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### Photography

Some amazing images have been shared with us since opening and we love to see them, especially if you are happy for them to be shared! Particular thanks to Victoria Chambers for the stunning flower photos included in this newsletter.

As always, we would love to hear from you about any aspect of the project! Especially if you want to help in any way.

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# CRESSWELL PELE TOWER



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