**Turton Tower**

**Volunteer Collection Care Group**

Volunteers for the Collection Care group work at the Tower on alternate weeks throughout the year, with some additional days on special occasions. The purpose of the group is to keep the house and its contents in a good condition, and help to enable visitors to see the house as it might have been during significant periods of its history.

The group has a number of areas of work and volunteers are able to work in those areas which best match their interests and skills. Some of the work requires the use of specific techniques. Training is provided where needed.

**House Domestics**

This involves cleaning rooms open to the public. Tasks include:

* vacuum cleaning floors and carpets
* dusting furniture, window sills and panelling
* cleaning windows
* removing cobwebs

**Fine cleaning**

This involves cleaning more delicate items within the house, using techniques recommended in museum service guidelines. Tasks include:

* washing tiled fireplaces and marble surrounds
* cleaning marble, plaster or bronze statues
* cleaning carved woodwork
* dusting books

**Sewing**

This involves providing bespoke covers for furniture during those periods when the house is closed; and providing costumes. Tasks include:

* measuring furniture and drafting patterns for dust covers
* sewing dust covers
* making children’s costumes for use by organised groups (Tudor or Victorian)
* designing and making bespoke costumes
* laundering costumes and repairing them where necessary

**House dressing**

This involves preparing the house for visitors. Tasks include:

* removing and storing dust covers
* seasonal flower arranging (using artificial flowers only)
* cleaning artificial flowers where necessary
* dressing the rooms to make them looked “lived in”
* dressing the rooms for special events such as Victorian Christmas