

JOYCE TOWER MUSEUM | COMPANY NO: 714135 | RCN: 20206583

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

LATEST INFORMATION AND UPDATES
ABOUT JOYCE TOWER MUSEUM

**PREPARED BY:
ALICE RYAN**





A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

It is with great pleasure that I present to you our Annual Report for 2023. This report encapsulates the dedication of our community to preserving the legacy of James Joyce.

Thanks to Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council's commitment to support the Tower with annual funding of €100,000 in 2022, we were able to recruit a full-time curator/manager and thus introduce a new era in the development of the Tower as a key cultural attraction.

In 2023, we received over €19,500 in donations and €8,500 in ad hoc grant funding. These funding streams are crucial to realising our ambitions to care for our unique collection and building. In addition, our commitment to good governance has been reaffirmed through our registration in 2023 as a charity with the Charities Regulator.

Looking ahead, as we continue to grow and evolve, we are excited to launch our new Friends programme in 2024 to build a wider community and help ensure the long-term sustainability of Joyce Tower Museum.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated team, volunteers and supporters for their unwavering dedication and commitment to the Joyce Tower Museum. Your help is instrumental to our success, and we look forward to the journey ahead as we continue to inspire, educate, and celebrate the work of James Joyce.

Thank you for your support.

FRANK COGAN
CHAIRMAN

MEET THE TEAM

Curator/Manager

Dr Alice Ryan was appointed curator/manager of the Joyce Tower in December 2022. Alice is an enthusiastic Joyce scholar with a PhD from the James Joyce research centre, UCD and a MA in Anglo Irish Literature, UCD. Previously Alice was a senior manager in the Irish Green Building Council and has experience of running a charity including financial control, facility management and events coordination.

Volunteer Coordinators

Each day volunteer schedule is managed by the day volunteer coordinators Olive Rolstone (Tuesday) Julie Larkin (Wednesday), Denis Gill (Thursday), Grainne O'Malley (Friday), Eoin O Cuirc (Saturday) Kay Gleeson and Cristina Abaca (Sunday)

Trustees

There are eight members of the Board of Joyce Tower and Museum CLG which was incorporated in February 2022. Chairman Frank Cogan, Company Secretary Seamus Cannon, Treasurer Brian Rankin, Deirdre Black (DLRCC Heritage Officer), David Lawless (DLRCC Tourism Officer), Patricia Cronin, Helen Gallivan and Andrew Basquille

In photo L to R: Alice Ryan, Patricia Cronin, Brian Rankin, Frank Cogan, Seamus Cannon, Andrew Basquille, Dave Lawless, Susan Lynch (DLR Lexicon) Deirdre Black and Helen Gallivan. Thanks to DLR Lexicon this portrait of Basil Blackshaw from our collection is displayed for public viewing in the library.





ABOUT JOYCE TOWER MUSEUM

Mission

The mission of Joyce Tower Museum is to manage, operate and promote the Joyce Tower as a key cultural attraction and to contribute to Joyce's literary legacy, under license from Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

Vision

Inspired by the setting of the opening episode of *Ulysses*, our vision is to be a world-class site of literary pilgrimage championing the work of James Joyce, caring for our unique collection, and providing a high-quality visitor experience with the support of local volunteers.

Values

The following are the core values central to how the Joyce Tower Museum achieves its mission:

- Lifelong Learning – Curating a collection that enriches the study of Joyce's work
- Social Inclusiveness – Building community through our strong volunteer network
- Light touch – Respecting the architectural significance of the building and minimising our environmental impact
- Prioritising Safety – Providing a safe and secure environment for visitors, staff and volunteers
- Collaboration – Working closely with our key stakeholders
- Transparency – Being open and accountable through good governance



VOLUNTEERS

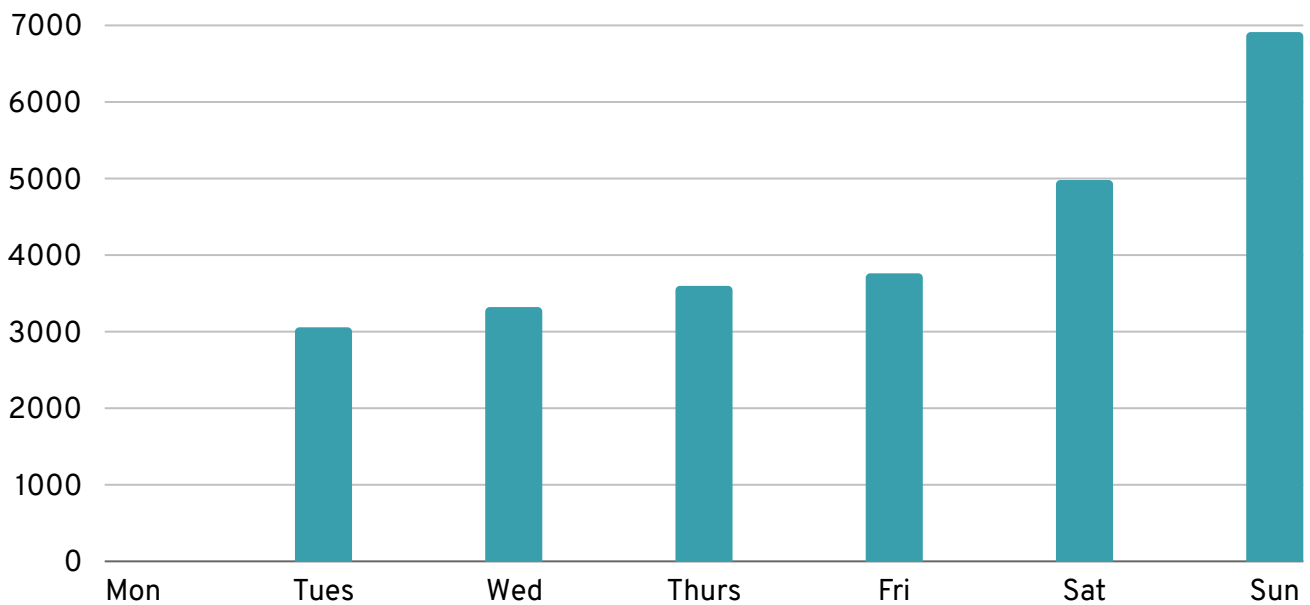
The warm welcome and engaging tours offered by our tireless volunteers are key to the success of the visitor experience at the Tower. We now have over 120 regular volunteers and six Day Coordinators. After an outreach campaign with Volunteer Ireland to fill the gaps that we had on Sunday and Tuesday, 17 new volunteers were recruited ensuring that by the end of 2023 full capacity for volunteers was reached. Cristina Abaca took over from Kay Gleeson as Sunday coordinator and many volunteers paid tribute to Kay's invaluable contribution as coordinator over the years. To support the Day Coordinators with their scheduling, a Super Subgroup was set up of volunteers who are able to fill in at short notice.

A new Volunteer Handbook was drafted to give volunteers an insight into our organisation, along with an overview of procedures and practical advice to support their volunteering role. A training session was developed by the Curator for volunteers and six training sessions were delivered in 2023 with 65 volunteers attending at least one session.

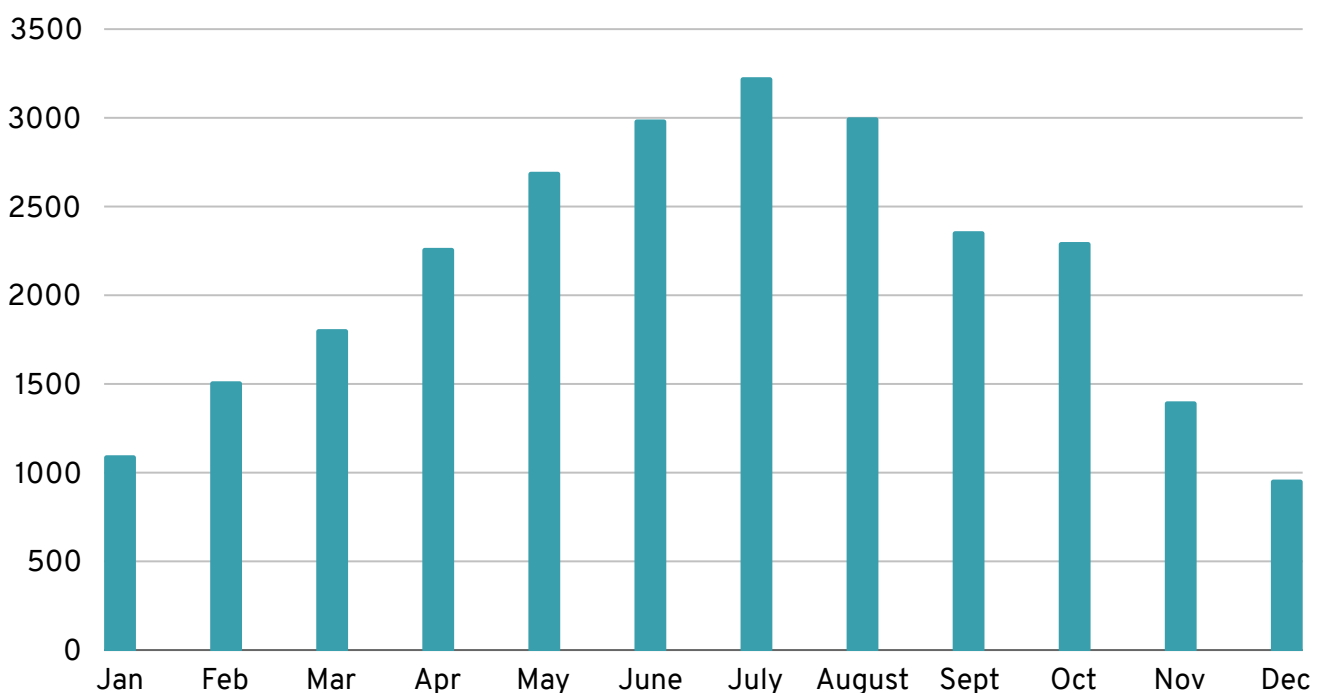
To say thank you to volunteers, three events were organised in 2023. The February birthday table quiz had approx. 40 in attendance, the June volunteer party, organised by Declan and Lua McIlraith, and supported by JTM, had approximately 80 volunteers in attendance and the Christmas party at DLR assembly rooms was attended by about 90 volunteers.

VISITOR NUMBERS

The Joyce Tower Museum was delighted to welcome over 25,600 visitors in 2023. The average number of visitors per day for Tuesday to Friday was 67, for Saturday 96 and Sunday 136. This was an increase on the 16,900 visitors who came in 2022 (however, there was limited opening in 2022 due to Covid restrictions).



Visitor numbers by day in 2023



Visitor numbers by month in 2023

GOVERNANCE

The Joyce Tower Museum registered as a charity with the Charities Regulator in September 2023 with the stated charitable purpose of advancing education and community welfare.

In order to ensure good governance as a charity, the process of compliance with the Charities governance code has been commenced.

In addition, with a view to caring for our unique collection, our application for eligibility to join the Museum Standards Programme Ireland (MSPI) has been accepted and we can now start the process of applying for interim accreditation.

To further support our commitment to good governance, detailed financial processes and procedures have been drafted.



EVENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Events are key to engaging visitors and the wider community both nationally and internationally with the work of James Joyce.

In 2023 our events programme kicked off with the birthday lecture in February at the DLR Lexicon. Professor Sam Slote of Trinity College Dublin gave a talk entitled “Ulysses 101” to an audience of over 100 people.

A number of events were held for the Bloomsday festival in June including performances by Noel O’Grady, Paul O’Hanrahan and Caitriona Ni Threasaigh.

On Bloomsday, there were over 500 visitors to the Tower, TV3 set up a live broadcast outside the Tower in the early morning and a zoom call presentation was delivered by the Curator from the top of the Tower to the Princess Grace Irish Library in Monaco in the afternoon.

The Tower participated in the DLRCC Cositval festival in July with a special run of “Telemachus at the Tower” with Paul O’Hanrahan.

Funding was applied for and won via the “After Hours at the Museum” Nighttime economy programme to deliver the Joycenights festival in September to celebrate the 6 nights that Joyce spent at the Tower. Over 300 people attended 12 events including recitals, readings and performances. The festival finale with Noel O’Grady and Camile O’Sullivan was reviewed by Frank McNally in his Irish Times column.

Design consultancy DMW undertook a review of the branding at the Tower and prepared a visual design brief to develop the logo and visual design for the Tower in 2024.



ULYSSES
by
JAMES JOYCE

SHAKESPEARE AND COMPANY
12, Rue de l'Odéon, 12
PARIS
1922

COLLECTION

Caring for our unique collection is central to the work that we do. In 2023, our application to join the Museum Standards Programme Ireland (MSPI) was accepted and we are now officially working towards interim accreditation. Over the next five years the museum will prepare suitable policies and procedures, in line with the standards, to ensure the appropriate care for our collection. At the centre of the process is the collection policy which determines what the museum is collecting.

The two items of the Joyce Tower collection that were on loan to the Dublin Writers Museum have been transferred to the DLR Lexicon. Joyce's piano is in meeting room 2 and has a new protective cover and the Basil Blackshaw portrait is now hanging in the library on the same floor.

After attending very informative museum basics and care for collection training with Irish Museums Association, new temperature and humidity sensors have been placed in the magazine and the exhibition. In addition, a grant was applied for and awarded from DLRCC Heritage to undergo an assessment of the paper collection. This crucial conservation work will continue in 2024.

BUILDING & FACILITIES

Conserving the building fabric of the Tower is crucial to the success of our mission. To this end, Shaffrey Architects, with the assistance of CORA Engineers and Old Builders contractor, produced a report into possible interventions to minimise the water ingress at the Tower. This report was used to apply for funding under the Community Monument Fund.

An office for the Curator was created by installing a temporary partition in the exhibition hall. A replanting of the garden was undertaken in tandem.

The landline was reestablished and wireless broadband was installed. As part of the process of developing disaster plan, all keys for the exhibition displays have been located or replaced. The toilet lights and fire alarm were fixed.

The Safety Statement was reviewed and key volunteer responsibilities, with regards to Health & Safety, were included in the volunteer handbook. A First Aid Responder training was undertaken by the Curator, an AED (defibrillator) was purchased for the Tower and the first aid kit was updated.

Once JTM achieved charitable status, it was possible to install a new machine for taking card donations, and to include a donation page on our website.

“Tales from the Tower”, a memoir by the previous curators, Vivien Igoe and Robert Nicholson, was launched in early November. With the addition of the new card machine it has been possible to sell copies of the book at the Tower. 27 copies were sold in 2023.

