

The Seafront

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A TOWERING LOVE AFFAIR, AND A NEW FUTURE FOR THE SQUARE TOWER

Steve Hender is a man in love— with one of Portsmouth's favourite iconic heritage landmarks, the Square Tower, and he's absolutely passionate about sharing this unique venue with everyone.

When Steve Hender, a management trainer, was tasked with hosting a training session in the Square Tower a few years ago, he took one look at the building and fell in love.

"I was amazed by the building," said Steve, "and so surprised that it was not possible to open it more often for the public. When I found it was just a case of someone taking the lead, I was champing at the bit to get involved."

After many years of what he describes as 'pestering' the council to allow him to manage the tower as an events and functions venue, Steve recently took over the running of the building, and now he has great plans for its future.

"The tower is the perfect venue for so many different types of public and private events: weddings, receptions, craft and gift fairs, exhibitions, conferences, seminars. We've also recently registered as a venue for funerals, because we discovered that there is a perfect dignity in the

tower that families are really drawn to when saying goodbye to their loved ones."

If you're planning a function or event, or even just curious to see inside this much loved landmark, there will be plenty of opportunities for you to visit over the coming months (see our unusual gifts article below).

"I'm really happy to listen to people's ideas if there's something they'd like to put on here, and I'm very keen to link up with more local groups, using the tower not only for exhibitions and gallery events, but even pop-up shops, a theatre venue or for arts events. I'm so passionate about opening the tower far more often for the public. And I'd love to hear from your readers because I bet people have got ideas I would never dream of!"

You can see the Square Tower events calendar on the website: www.squaretower.co.uk or contact Steve directly on email: enquiries@squaretower.co.uk or by telephone on 07519 505785.

