

HOGHTON TOWER



This building can be described as a fortified Tudor house. The house is almost 500 years old and was built by Thomas De Houghton between 1560 and 1565. However, he only lived there for four years. As a Catholic recusant he was a "person of interest" to the authorities and fled to Douai on the French / Belgium border, never to return to live in the fine house he had built.

Much of the house remains as it was during the Elizabethan age. It has a state room containing original Tudor furniture, a large banqueting hall complete with a minstrel's gallery, wonderful glazed windows and original fireplaces. The house also contains a grand ballroom renovated by the Victorians and the Buckingham Room said to be named after George Villiers. He was the famous (or infamous) favourite of King James 1st of England who came to visit the house in 1617. It was during this visit that a sumptuous loin of beef was knighted by the King and given the title "Sirloin of Beef".

The house is said to be one of the most haunted in the country. A number of visitors have attested to this. The land on which the house stands has been occupied by the same family since William the Conqueror's forces arrived in Lancashire. Today the family are still involved with the activities of the trust charged with caring for the property, thus ensuring the continuation of the house, gardens and lands for future generations.

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