

# Ancestral homes

We reveal the fascinating dolls' house collection at **Hoghton Tower**

Visitors to a stately home in Lancashire are in for a treat when they come across a spectacular display of dolls' houses as part of the guided tour.

Hoghton Tower is the ancestral home of the de Hoghton family and the collection of about 25 dolls' houses is curated by Lady Rosanna de Hoghton.

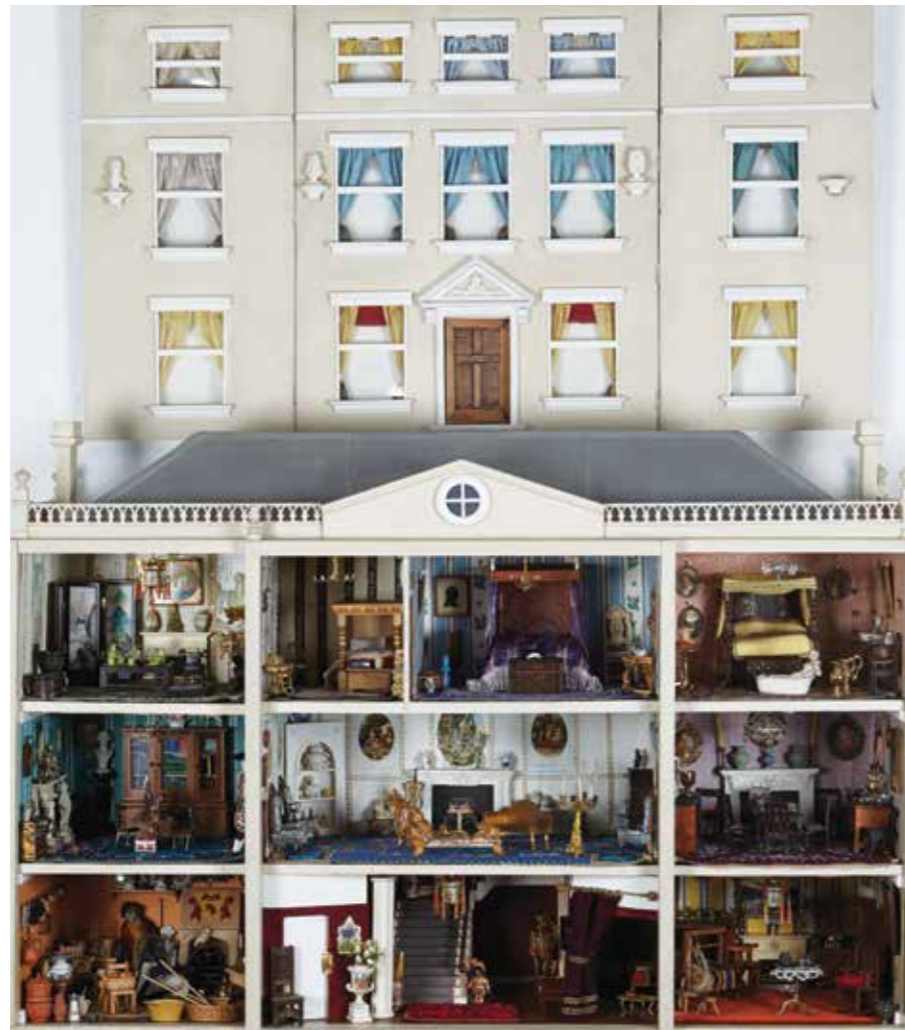
“Most people would want to spend more time browsing these little creations”

The display has grown over time. The Hoghton Tower Preservation Trust raised money to buy a collection that had been exhibited at the Tower for many years, but which risked being broken up and sold at auction. The original joint owners of this collection were Margaret King, a Manchester headteacher, and John Kim. The rest of the collection belongs to the de Hoghton family and was built up by Philomena, the mother of the current occupier of the Tower and 14th Baronet, Sir Bernard de Hoghton.

Lady Rosanna says her personal favourite is a large, eight-roomed house known as Proctors House. This was built almost 60 years ago by a local man who wanted to make an exact replica of the house that he had lived in as a child. The house and furniture took him more than five years to build.

Dusting the whole collection takes over a week and support is often sought from the volunteers who help the Trust throughout the year. Here are a few highlights:

- Pippa's cottage (circa 19th century). This house was discovered in Sherbourne, Dorset, in a dilapidated condition, covered almost entirely by newspapers. Apprehensively, Mrs



The mansion is a replica of an 18th century baby house. All the furnishings were handmade by John Kim.

King peeled off what seemed to be 50 years' worth of newsprint. As the last layer came away, she found a clue to the identity of the owner: a childish hand had written Pippa over and over again on the walls. The house is now completely restored and furnished in the appropriate style.

- A 1900s house, the Cheltenham Lodge, is another recipient of Mrs King's abilities. It was being used as a hamster's 'abode' before she found it. Cleaning it revealed a wealth of details such as delicate paintwork on the exterior walls and the fine craftsmanship behind its carefully

constructed conservatory. The furniture is very interesting. Much is inlaid and comes from the British-Japanese exhibition held in London in 1910.

- Peep Show House (1830). This is one of the oldest houses in the collection. It was never meant to be played with or even opened. The house is entirely sealed and you can only gaze through the windows and doors to see the wonderfully painted interior.

- Waring and Gillow's Craft House (1920). This was built by one of their craftsmen to exhibit his skills. It is a wooden house which sits on two

PHOTOS: T. DE HOGHTON PHOTOGRAPHY



The kitchen of Proctors House.



Proctors House is unusual in that it opens both at the front and back.

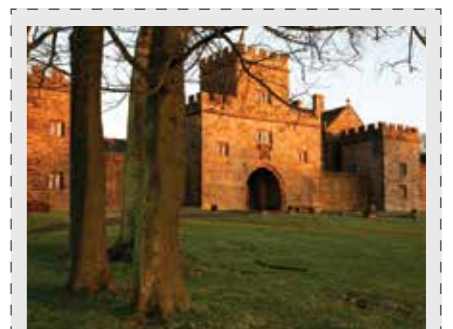
heavily carved drawers. Appropriately, the house is filled with wonderful Art Nouveau furniture and the walls are covered with Sanderson wallpaper based on a William Morris design.

“Visitors to the house are taken to the Dolls House room as part of their guided tour, as are school children on educational trips,” says Lady Rosanna de Hoghton. “Feedback is always

positive and most people would want to spend more time browsing these little creations. From baby houses to shop facades to superbly decorated interiors, there is something for every enthusiast.”

## CONTACT DETAILS

Find out more at [www.hoghtontower.co.uk](http://www.hoghtontower.co.uk)



## VISIT HOGHTON TOWER

Hoghton Tower is a Grade 1 Listed Building and has been the ancestral home of the de Hoghton family since the time of William the Conqueror. View the banqueting hall, staterooms, underground passages, dungeons and dolls' house collection. Learn about the Tower's fascinating history and the role the house and family played in the history of Lancashire and further afield. Outside, a leisurely wander through the gardens will reward you with magnificent views from the ramparts. Why not bring your family for a wonderful day out? Take the long drive to the 16th century and follow in the footsteps of William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and King James I.

Private group tours of the house, including the dolls' house collection, can be organised by prior arrangement.





An oriental influence in the mansion.