

Doors Open Day: 23 September, 2017– Report

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1. As Doors Open Day coincided with the UG Open Day, we decided to keep the visitors only on level 7 (as there were tours for prospective students on lower levels). We only had one person who accidentally wandered upstairs.
2. We couldn't take visitors to level 9 as originally planned but the view was great from level 7 and for all the morning slots it was sunny
3. If we were to run it next year, I'd consider doing it on Sunday (e.g. McEwan Hall did Sunday this year) and doing actual tours of level 6, 7 and 9.
4. We've included demos that were moderately successful, but most visitors did participate once they've realise you can only look out of the windows for a time before you get bored – again for next year, I'd try to source more interactive demos. Having said that we didn't have a lot of kids, mostly older visitors.
5. I have prepared a talk about the history of the Tower, but the first group didn't seem too interested so I skipped it later – which was a mistake according to feedback we've received. I would probably go with a visual display for next year, so that interested visitors can inform themselves (and those who aren't can skip it).
6. We had a lot of alumni of the University, either of Informatics, or people who used to attend classes in AT. The one mentioned in the news story came with two friends: one also alum of the Department of CS, the other one graduated in Chemistry but worked as a programmer. All three ended up working in IT. Irene Buchanan told us that when she graduated, 6 out of 19 graduates were female (which makes the gender balance better than it is now). And the most surprising visitor was the daughter of Alan Reich (quoted in the story).
7. Last but not least: I would like to do it again next year.

For more information see: <http://www.ed.ac.uk/informatics/news-events/stories/appleton-tower-popular-doors-open-day>