



World Heritage UK webinar – ‘Visitor Centres in a Changing World’ 18th February 2021

Speaker biographies:

Jane Gibson - Event Chair



Jane Gibson has been Coordinator for Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site for the past seven years and has also sat on the Board of Directors of World Heritage UK since its transformation from the Local Authorities World Heritage Forum. Having read Archaeology at Durham University, she spent 20 years in the National Museums’ sector, working in the field of Collections Management. She then returned to the North East of England as Head of Historic Operations at Beamish Open Air Museum and more recently has managed collaborative projects including the Cumbria Museums Consortium and currently coordinates and supports the partnership group of stakeholders responsible for Durham’s WHS. Durham is proud to be home to one of the UK WHS’s longest-established visitor centres dedicated to its WHS status and Jane is looking forward to hearing about new best-practice in this field from today’s speakers.

Sam Rose - Technical facilitator



Sam Rose is Treasurer and Founding Chair of World Heritage UK and is one of the facilitators of the event. Sam worked for 15 years in various roles managing the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, eventually taking the service out of Local Authority control into an independent charity in 2017 and taking on the role as Chief Executive for the first two years. Sam is currently freelance, working for a range of clients including the Flow Country Tentative List World Heritage Site Team, and also undertaking a Masters in Photography.

Patricia Alberth - “Transformation in the midst of challenges – World Heritage planning in times of uncertainty”



Patricia Alberth has been Head of the World Heritage Office of the City of Bamberg since 2013. In this capacity, she oversees the local implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and serves as the lead person for all matters relating to the site. Patricia is a World Heritage specialist with nearly a decade of experience at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Regional Bureau in Asia and Pacific. Her projects included the establishment of the UNESCO-ICCROM Asian Academy for Heritage Management, the development of the World Heritage Management Plan for Bamberg and, most recently, the inauguration of Bamberg’s Visitor Centre.

Patricia chairs the *International Association of World Heritage Professionals*, serves as an Expert Member of the *International Committee on Historic Cities, Towns and Villages* (CIVVIH) and is a member of the Bamberg Smart City Steering Committee. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Business (International Business School Groningen, The Netherlands) and a Master of Science degree in World Heritage Studies (Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus, Germany). Patricia is a Fellow of the Salzburg Global Forum as well as an alumna of the Responsible Leaders network of the BMW Foundation.

Justin Scully - "Visitor centres: gateway to the heritage attraction or barriers to discovery?"



Justin is General Manager of the Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal WHS. The site is one of the busiest properties in the National Trust welcoming in excess of 600,000 visitors per year: attracting significant domestic & international visitors as well as from all across the North of England. Justin has worked for the National Trust for 11 years and in his 4 years at Fountains has overseen multi-million pound investment in visitor infrastructure as well as the Skell Valley project a £2.5m Landscape scale conservation project. Prior to the Trust Justin worked in the charity sector in the UK & Africa, after a 10-year career in the private sector.

Anna Wilson - 'Wetland Centres – helping visitors to fall in love with the natural world again'



Anna has over 15 years' experience delivering visitor experiences, exhibitions, events and learning programmes internationally and in the UK, both as a consultant and whilst working for a variety of museum and heritage organisations, including the British Museum, the Natural History Museum, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and the Creswell Heritage Trust.

As a Principal Consultant for WWT, she manages a range of projects for external clients, providing interpretation and audience development planning, exhibition research and development,

feasibility study and visitor centre specialism to other wetland centres around the world. With a focus on marketing WWT's excellence in wetland centre design and delivery, her work contributes towards the charity's strategic programmes, by helping to engage people along global flyways with key wetland conservation experiences and messages.

Recent projects Anna has managed include the Yancheng Wetland Centre project, which has seen the design of a wetland centre complex in the Chinese city of Yancheng, to celebrate the designation of the nearby coastal wetlands as a World Heritage Site, and, closer to home, the design and build of the Severn Valley Country Park visitor centre extension for Shropshire Council.

Chris Jones - 'Re-imagining the Heart of Neolithic Orkney'



Chris is the Regional Visitor Operations Manager, Highlands & Islands, Historic Environment Scotland. He joined Historic Environment Scotland in 2014 with an MA in English and History from Aberdeen University and after a career in venue management around the UK. His current role of Regional Visitor Operations Manager seems him undertake responsibility for the front facing staff and site teams across the Highlands and Islands of Scotland at some 21 sites as diverse as Castles, Cathedrals, Distilleries and the Heart of Neolithic Orkney WHS staffed monuments of Skara Brae and Maeshowe Chambered Tomb; where he also sits on the WH Steering Group.

Teresa Anderson - 'Jodrell Bank: Rescue, Recovery, Relaunch'



Professor Teresa Anderson is the founder and Director of the Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre. Together with her husband, Professor Tim O'Brien, she made the case, over almost 10 years, for the inscription of Jodrell Bank Observatory on the World Heritage list in 2019. She now chairs the World Heritage Site Steering Group.

She also leads the £20million 'First Light at Jodrell Bank', which is principally funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project is creating a new heritage gallery which is due to open later this year.