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# World Heritage UK

## May 2022 newsletter # 2



### **“World Heritage in Transition. About management, protection and sustainability”**

**UNESCO Conference, Florence, 18-19 November 2022  
A call for abstracts**

Half a century has passed since the ratification of the [Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage](#), adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

In this timespan, different things have changed: starting from the definition of heritage, which has become increasingly inclusive, embedding visions and cultures that would not have received the same prominence fifty years ago; to the extension of the geographical scope in which the principles of the

conservation, modalities of access and fruition, numbers of users, and the nature of the objects have changed.

However, the objective of identifying, protecting, preserving, enhancing and passing on to future generations the cultural and natural World Heritage of the planet, through the implementation of a system of international cooperation and assistance, remains unchanged.

The commitment of the States Parties to the Convention to make the protection of the World Heritage more integrated with wider territorial planning tools, through adequate safeguard actions from the legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial point of view, remains valid. At the same time, efforts have been made to strengthen the focus on education and the awareness-raising of heritage values, through the training of qualified personnel, the establishment of interdisciplinary and intersectoral specialised centres, as well as international cooperation.

In addition, changes in settings and contexts have affected the risks World Heritage properties are exposed to: alongside natural and anthropogenic degradation phenomena, in recent decades risk factors related to climate change, the rapid increase in tourism numbers and the intensification of political instability and armed conflicts, in combination with the role in identity-making attributed to monuments, have intensified, with consequent impacts on physical, social and cultural fabrics.

Fifty years after the ratification of the Convention, it seems useful to attempt to reflect on what happened in these past decades:

- to propose an interpretation of how the processes of protection, management and enhancement of World Heritage have evolved over time
- how the increase in the number of sites and the involvement of different geographical and cultural areas have affected decision-making processes
- how the emergence of new phenomena has influenced the process of inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List

On the occasion of both the official celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Convention, titled [The Next 50](#) and held in Florence, as well as the [40th anniversary of the inscription of the Historic Centre of Florence on the UNESCO World Heritage List](#), the **University of Florence and the Municipality of Florence are promoting two days of dialogue and discussion** with the aim of involving scholars, professionals and decision-makers to reflect on the main themes of the Convention and its future development and implementation.

production and dissemination of theories, strategies and practices to protect and safeguard cultural and natural heritage, in a perspective of a people-centred sustainable development based on the understanding and on the wider use of heritage values.

For full details of the programme and how to submit an abstract, please click [here](#). **Deadline for abstracts is 15 June 2022.**

WHUK's President Chris Blandford is one of the conference's scientific committee and will be joined from the UK by Christina Sinclair, Director of Edinburgh World Heritage.

*Photo by [Ilse Orsel](#) on [Unsplash](#)*



## Revisit World Heritage Day with the City of Bath WHS

The City of Bath World Heritage Site hosted a day of free Zoom presentations by UK World Heritage Sites to celebrate this year's World Heritage Day.

The talks demonstrated the breadth and variety of the UK's World Heritage, and different ways of interpreting heritage and of working in partnership with communities and stakeholders. The talks are all available online with helpful chapter links to take you to specific talks.

Presentations are from the [City of Bath/Great Spa Towns of Europe](#), [Cleveland Pools](#) (Bath), [Beckford's Tower](#) (Bath), [the Flow Country](#), [the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales](#), [Jodrell Bank](#) Observatory and the



Recordings can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbGhNPYSI5c>. Subtitles can be selected from the toolbar function on the video screen. You can move between the presentations using the chapter settings in the text shown below the video screen. The start times of each talk are in the programme below.

00:00:00 Introduction to the City of Bath and Great Spa Towns of Europe - Tony Crouch

00:11:21 Volunteering achievements at Cleveland Pools - Alice Le Page

00:27:26 Re-interpretation of Beckford's Tower - Dr Amy Frost

00:59:27 Introduction to the Flow Country - Dr Steven Andrews

01:43:44 Introduction to the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales – Louise Barker

02:29:00 Introduction to Jodrell Bank Observatory – Professor Teresa Anderson

03:12:00 Introduction to Historic Town of St George and Fortifications, Bermuda – Dr Charlotte Andrews



## Secretary General wanted at the Great Spa Towns of Europe WHS

The **Great Spa Towns of Europe** was inscribed on the World Heritage list in 2021 as a transnational serial Site comprising 11 famous spa towns in 7 European countries. The Great Spa Towns of Europe are now looking for a **Secretary General** to lead the project.

This wide-ranging post requires an exceptional person with leadership qualities

levels who will be the spokesperson and figurehead of the property. The post-holder will work closely with and take direction from the 11 Mayors of the spa towns and 11 site managers, so proven diplomatic, communication and motivational skills are a must.

The working language of the project is English and availability for extensive European travel is vital. Administrative, communication and financial management support is provided. This exciting and challenging role requires a self-employed or independent consultant to be available for an average of 4 days per week for an initial contract period of three years.

See the website [www.greatspatownsofeurope.eu](http://www.greatspatownsofeurope.eu) for a [full job description](#) and further details of the property.

Deadline for applications is **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July** at 17:00 CET. Interviews will be held in Františkovy Lázně in the Czech Republic between the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 with the post commencing in early 2023.

For details of application procedure contact Catherine Lloyd via email:

[cl@simonsassociates.co.uk](mailto:cl@simonsassociates.co.uk)

[www.greatspatownsofeurope.eu/the-great-spa-towns/work-with-us](http://www.greatspatownsofeurope.eu/the-great-spa-towns/work-with-us)



## **"Liverpool - After World Heritage" webinar Thursday 23 June 10.30am - 4.30pm**

This conference explores the tensions between **conservation and regeneration**; the **responsibilities and consequences of inscription**; and the **importance of effective communication** between UNESCO,

The day will be split into three:

Session 1 - A national perspective with DCMS, Historic England and ICOMOS-UK.

Session 2 - An international perspective from Bordeaux and Dresden.

Session 3 - A local prospective with representatives from across Liverpool.

It's not too late to book your place for this online conference.

Click [here](#) for the full programme and to book your ticket.

Held in association with the Heseltine Institute, University of Liverpool.

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## Please support the work of World Heritage UK

WHUK is a small but unique charity. We're always looking for new members or donations.

If you aren't a member, or know someone who would like to be a member, please go to our [Membership page](#) to join.

If you or a friend or colleague would like to make a donation to WHUK, please go to our [Donation page](#), to help us support the UK's WH community.

Thank you!



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