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World Heritage UK

Annual Conference update # 2



“Climate Change and World Heritage” Tue 21- Thu 23 September 2021

This year's World Heritage UK annual conference is soon upon us, starting next Tuesday at 1pm.

2021's conference will be exploring and debating how World Heritage Sites can manage the impacts of Climate Change.

Here is another selection of the speakers you can expect at this year's

For full details and to book tickets, click the BOOK NOW button below.

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Anna Baker - Cleveland Pools

Anna is the Project Director of the Cleveland Pools restoration project in Bath. This community-led project will bring back in to use the oldest surviving outdoor swimming pool in the UK, which has been derelict since the late 1980s. The Cleveland Pools were originally fed by the adjacent river. This is no longer possible, but instead Anna has led the development of a low carbon energy solution which is linked to the river by installing a water source heat pump to meet the heat demand of the newly restored pools.

phase to provide the primary delivery route for materials due to its location in a quiet residential area of the city. Drawing on her experience working on listed buildings, managing projects with tight logistical constraints and exhibition design and production Anna is delivering an ambitious scheme which completes the World Heritage City of Bath's story of water. When she's not working, Anna can be found hillwalking in her native Scotland, or travelling much further afield.

In her presentation, '**Warm feet are happy feet - low carbon heating for Cleveland Pools**', Anna will discuss the balancing act of climate ambition versus funding realities and operational viability in the context of this unique heritage site.



**Jenny Bruce - Old & New Towns of Edinburgh
WHS**

Heritage Site. She splits her time between the City of Edinburgh Council and Historic Environment Scotland advising on the impact of urban developments on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site and coordinating and driving forward the implementation of the WHS Management Plan. Prior to taking up this role in 2010, she managed the Listed Buildings Team at the City of Edinburgh Council. Jenny is a chartered town planner and member of both the RTPI and the IHBC.

Jenny's presentation title is **“Understanding climate change threat in the context of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site and informing the next Management Plan”**.

Recognising that climate change poses a threat to our World Heritage Sites that needs to be understood and managed at a local level, the site partners are seeking to make this a focus of the next Management Plan (2022) for the ONTE WHS. This presentation will discuss the approach taken to understand climate change risk to the WHS and its communities, using a bottom-up approach, and how we plan to translate the data collected into the Management Plan review process. We will present two value-based risk assessment methodologies we used, the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) developed by Edinburgh World Heritage, that relies on extensive community engagement, and the Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) process developed by James Cook University Australia, applied for the first time in an urban World Heritage Site.



Steven Andrews has come to World Heritage from a background in research and teaching (University of Aberdeen, CASP [Cambridge], University of Exeter, University of the Highlands and Islands). Having spent extensive periods investigating the past environments of East Greenland and northern Scotland he developed an affinity with wild and beautiful landscapes and the need to preserve them for future generations. Growing up on the fringes of the Flow Country, the World Heritage project coordinator role which he took up in February 2021, has provided a great opportunity to raise awareness and help protect one of the very special environments that Northern Scotland contains.

Steven's presentation on '**The Flow Country: The UK's Next World Heritage Site and its Role in Fighting Climate Change**' will introduce the site, where it is, what it is and why it's there? The importance of this very special ecosystem will then be considered with respect to the role it plays in the fight against climate change. In particular the threats to peatlands will be examined, alongside what we can do to restore damaged areas, and how we can monitor the health and recovery of these systems.



Paul Simons – The Great Spa Towns of Europe

Paul Simons trained at the Architectural Association in London in the 1970's and became a Lethaby Scholar at the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. He has spent his career in heritage management, cultural tourism and the work of preservation trusts (Vivat Trust, Clevedon Pier, Brunel's Bristol Old Station, Arkwright Society and currently Cleveland Pools Bath). He has worked in tourism in Bristol, Norwich and in 1994 moved to Bath as Executive Director of Tourism, then being seconded as Project Director of 'Thermae Bath Spa', Bath's Millennium Project in 1998. Since 2003 he has been in consultancy and is currently the Chair of the Scientific Committee of the European Historic Thermal Towns Association, one of the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes and since 2013 he has been the Secretary General of the Great Spa Towns of Europe, now a new UNESCO World Heritage Site. He is a member of ICOMOS, the City of Bath World Heritage Advisory Board and is currently working on World Heritage nominations in Spain and the Caribbean. Until 2015 he was a Director of McCurdy & Co, historic timber framed building specialists who built the replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London.

The World Heritage nomination of the Great Spas of Europe became a possibility in 2010 following an ICOMOS conference held in Baden-Baden. That spa town, along with others in Belgium, Czech Republic and France had looked with some envy at the inscription of the City of Bath as, at that time, the only spa town on the World Heritage List. However, this timing also coincided with the move to consider thematic, serial nominations which may, or may not, also cross national boundaries. At that time relevant examples of 'serial transnationals' to look at included the Frontiers of the Roman Empire, the buildings of Le Corbusier, the Pile Dwellings of the Alps and the Wadden Sea, challenging concepts in themselves but nothing prepared the steering groups for the complexities of presenting whole, economically vibrant historic cities and towns with a common purpose and continuing living spa tradition. That was the start of a fascinating journey and learning experience that has only just begun with the success of the nomination in July 2021.



**Sarah France & Justin Scully - Fountains Abbey
and Studley Royal WHS**

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.

Sarah is World Heritage Coordinator at Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal WHS and has worked for the Trust for 10 years. Prior to the Trust Sarah spent almost 20 years working in planning and heritage for National Parks in England, Scotland and Wales. Her current role is to coordinate delivery of the World Heritage Management Plan and that has included a whole variety of projects from leading on the buffer zone for the WHS, to reinstating the lost statue of the Dying Gladiator in the Studley Royal water gardens. More recently Sarah has worked with Nidderdale AONB and other partners to develop the Skell Valley Project and led the successful bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a £1.4m grant.

Their presentation will be on **'The Skell Valley Project - from Yorkshire to Uganda, working with partners to adapt our World Heritage Sites to climate change'**.

Two World Heritage Sites that couldn't be more different, are both facing threats to the Outstanding Universal Value of their sites due to climate change. This talk will start with an overview of the Skell Valley project which was developed by the National Trust in partnership with Nidderdale AONB to address the threats to the Studley Royal water gardens and ruins of Fountains Abbey in North Yorkshire from flooding and siltation. We'll focus on our work with communities, farmers and landowners beyond the boundaries of the WHS. Travelling further afield we'll give an overview of our work with Rwenzori WHS in Uganda which has seen rapid loss of the mountain glaciers and flooding and how we're sharing skills and knowledge on addressing the impacts of climate change and engaging communities in that process.

Thank you to our sponsors this year - **CADW, the Welsh Government's historic environment service** and **Historic Environment Scotland**.



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