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World Heritage UK

July 2023 newsletter



Paul Simons - World Heritage UK's new Chair

World Heritage UK is delighted to announce its new Chair and Trustee, Paul Simons.

to thank her for leadership for the past six months and her continued support for the charity.

Paul studied architecture in London and after training was awarded a 'Lethaby Scholarship' by SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings). He did not go into practice but established and became the first Director of the Chiltern Open Air Museum. Subsequently he was Project Director at Arkwright's Cromford Mills and Brunel's Bristol Old Station. For 40 years he was a Director of McCurdy & Co., which specialises in the conservation of historic timber structures, and built the replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and the Jacobean Playhouse in Southwark, London.

He has been Director of Tourism in Bristol, Norwich and Bath. In 1998 he established a project team to regenerate the historic spa in Bath which had been closed since 1974 now known as "Thermae Bath Spa".

Since 2003 Paul has worked as a consultant specialising in historic spas, World Heritage and sustainable tourism projects. He is a member of ICOMOS UK. He was a founding member of the European Spas Association (ESPA) and the European Historic Thermal Towns Association where he was President of its Scientific Committee.

In 2013 he was appointed Secretary General of the 'Great Spa Towns of Europe UNESCO project'. This is a serial transnational World Heritage Site covering seven State Parties and representing eleven of the most important spa towns in Europe. The Great Spa Towns of Europe were inscribed on the World Heritage List in July 2021. Other current World Heritage projects include work in St. Kitts and Nevis, Galicia Spain and Romania. Paul is a member of the Advisory Panel of the Railway Heritage Trust and was Chair of the National Heritage Training Group (2005-2015).

Paul is Chair of Trustees of the Cleveland Pools Trust in Bath which has just received a 2023 Europa Nostra award for Conservation and Adaptive Re-use. He is also a Trustee of the Oxford Literary Festival and the Dance

Scholarship Trust and was previously a Trustee of Clevedon Pier, the Vivat Trust and the Brunel E.C. Trust, Bristol.

WHUK's Board and staff look forward to working with Paul.



World Heritage UK Autumn Webinar # 1 - Birkenhead Park Wednesday 13th September 2023, 7-8pm, on Zoom

Number 1 in a series of 4 webinar talks, on the **UK's World Heritage Tentative List**, following on from WHUK's successful WH & Nature webinars.

Birkenhead Park, the pioneering People's Park

Located in North West England, Birkenhead Park is widely acknowledged to be the earliest purpose-built and publicly funded public park. Designed in 1844 by Joseph Paxton, it was laid out in response to a rapidly growing urban population during the Industrial Revolution. Whilst parks had generally been private estates, it was open for all people, regardless of their position in society. This 'People's Garden' was so revolutionary it greatly inspired Frederick Law Olmsted, the co-designer of New York's Central Park, when he visited the Birkenhead Park in 1850.

Today still, Birkenhead Park provides a green oasis for everyone to enjoy, and continues to serve the social purposes for which it was created. For several years, it has been an ambition of Wirral Council and partners to seek UNESCO's recognition of it as a World Heritage Site. In April 2023, Birkenhead Park was officially included on the UK's Tentative List for potential future nominations to UNESCO.

Future webinars are:

- Wed 11 Oct - Gracehill Moravian Church Settlement, 7pm

Tickets for a single webinar are £5. Tickets for all 4 webinars are £15.
Click [here](#) to book either ticket.



The Role Visitor Centres in UNESCO Designated Sites - report

The final report of the 4th regional workshop on the Role of Visitor Centres in UNESCO Designated Sites has been released online. It provides insight from participants on fostering tourism sustainability and effective visitor management. The workshop, held in Buzau in November, brought together managers from 22 UNESCO sites across 16 European countries, offering a platform to exchange valuable experiences and perspectives.

UNESCO designated sites, including World Heritage Sites, attract a diverse range of visitors and hold the potential to support various ecologically and socially sustainable uses, such as tourism, which can significantly contribute to local development.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, many destinations in Europe have seen a strong rebound in tourism arrivals and spending, resulting in the recovery approaching its pre-COVID level, while important economic, social,

Click [here](#) to download the report.



Invitation to Tender

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is looking to undertake a review of World Heritage in Scotland, how the sites are managed and resourced. Details can be found at the Public Contracts Scotland portal [here](#).

If this sounds like a project you would be interested in undertaking, please do register your interest via the portal.

If you have any questions about the tender, please raise these through the Public Contracts Scotland portal. If you would like to discuss the terms of the review further, [James Bruhn](#) at HES is happy to discuss.



World Heritage Landscapes

A series of 7 online (Zoom) talks from The Gardens Trust, to mark 50 years of UNESCO World Heritage, starting on Tues @ 10.00am 12 Sep, at £5 each or all 7 for £28.

To mark 50 years of UNESCO World Heritage, this 7-week series will celebrate some of the UK's World Heritage landscapes. Starting with an overview of World Heritage values and the changing nature of the UK list, the series will aim to enthuse people about individual sites around the country, highlighting what makes each one exceptional, the advantages and challenges of being inscribed on the list, and the issues around sustainable future management of these global assets.

Week 1. 12 Sep: Introduction to World Heritage with Chris Blandford, WHUK President

Week 2. 19 Sep: The Lake District with Harvey Wilkinson, National Trust, Cultural Landscape Curator

Week 3. 26 Sep: Birkenhead Park with Marie le Devehat and Rob Belcher

Week 4. 3 Oct: Blenheim Palace with Roy Cox

Week 5. 10 Oct: The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew with Georgina Darroch and Simon Toomer

Week 6. 17 Oct: Studley Royal Park with Mark Newman and Sarah France, National Trust

Week 7. 24 Oct: Derwent Valley Mills with Adrian Farmer

This ticket costs £28 for the entire course of 7 sessions or you may purchase a ticket for individual sessions, costing £5 via the links below.

Click [here](#) to book your ticket.



World Heritage UK annual conference "World Heritage for All" - hold the date!

2023's WHUK annual conference will be on **Mon 2nd** and **Tue 3rd October**. It will be held at The Engine Shed at Stirling, Scotland.

This year's theme will be **Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity**. More details on the programme soon. We hope you can make it in person. If you can't, we'll be broadcasting via YouTube too.

The WHUK annual conference is supported by Historic Environment Scotland.



Job Opportunity - City of Bath WHS

Job title: Principal Officer - World Heritage

Salary: £42,503.00 - £45,495.00 per annum £22.03 - £22.58 per hour

The international significance and importance of [Bath](#) is recognised by its two World Heritage Site inscriptions. They are looking to appoint a full-time Principal Officer, World Heritage to manage the co-ordination of these designations. The main tasks are:

- be the Bath & NE Somerset Council's lead adviser in the provision of specialist expert advice on matters relating to UNESCO World Heritage status, working closely with the Chair of the World Heritage Site Advisory Board
- oversee the conservation, presentation and interpretation of Bath's World Heritage Site inscriptions
- act as the intermediary between UNESCO, the UK Government and the City Council relating to World Heritage matters
- ensure that the UNESCO World Heritage status of Bath is managed and retained, and the benefits of this are maximised for the City Council and wider community and used to inform and guide Bath's future development and regeneration
- manage the production of the World Heritage Site Management Plan, in conjunction with the Chair of the World Heritage Site Advisory Board

This is a rare, exciting and high-profile role for an experienced historic environment professional on a permanent basis. You will work within a team

Heritage Services, Regeneration, Transport, Housing and Sustainability. You will work closely with community representatives and relevant national bodies.

For full details and to apply, click [here](#).

Deadline for applications is 18 August 2023. Good luck!

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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