

# CHANGING LIVES SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES





CHANGING LIVES

# THE WENTWORTH WOODHOUSE PRESERVATION TRUST (WWPT) WAS REGISTERED WITH THE CHARITY COMMISSION IN 2014 WITH THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF SAVING WENTWORTH WOODHOUSE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NATION.

Whilst a long fundraising campaign initiated by SAVE Britain's Heritage and then adopted by WWPT, had secured the funds to purchase the site, it was obvious to all that the greatest challenge still lay ahead. Taking on a Grade I listed site, which in parts was derelict, with water pouring through every one of its four acres of roofs was a huge risk.

In the Autumn statement of 2016, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced an award of a £7.6m grant to carry out critical emergency repairs at the site. Though the Trust did not at that time own the property, the announcement gave the small group of trustees the confidence to push forward with the purchase, knowing that the most critical roof repairs, needed in order to prevent further water ingress, could be delivered. In March 2017 the Trust took ownership of the site and as the repair programme began in 2018, WWPT published The Wentworth Woodhouse

Masterplan: A New Life, which set out an ambitious programme of mixed-use regeneration which would take up to two decades to deliver at a cost in excess of £130m.

BRITAIN'S  
GREATEST  
HERITAGE  
RESTORATION  
CHALLENGE  
WAS  
UNDERWAY!

# REBIRTH OF A SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LEGACY

Observing Wentworth Woodhouse most visitors see a magnificent building set in stunning parkland; an architectural pearl; a visitor attraction; a restoration in progress. If asked to comment on its key features they would probably mention:

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*A room for every day of the year*

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*Miles of passageways and corridors*

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*A 606 ft East Front, twice the length of Buckingham Palace*

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*An exterior that took around 40 years to build*

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Impressive as these statistics might be, they refer only to its physical manifestation. Historically, Wentworth Woodhouse has amounted to much more than its physical presence. Since it was built in its current form in the 1700s the house and its owners have played a significant role in stimulating and shaping the social and economic fabric of the surrounding communities and the lives of those living there. At its peak in the late 19th century the great house of the Fitzwilliam family was responsible for:

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*Extracting millions of tons of coals and iron ore*

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*Support and welfare of 180 tenant farm holdings*

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*Generation of the modern equivalent of £17 million per annum in income much of which was invested locally*

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*Directly and indirectly supporting the livelihoods of 1000s of workers in the South Yorkshire conurbation*

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*Managing a landed estate of 20,000 acres including farming, industrial, and housing*

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This wider social and economic impact is the estate's legacy to the local area. Naturally, with the sale of the house and stables in the late 20th Century and their separation from the wider estate, this legacy has been somewhat dissipated. However, with the commencement of the regeneration programme of the property, it is possible to trace an accompanying social and economic renaissance in wider impacts. Here we document what are early, but yet significant, shoots of recovery in other benefits and set out the sum of the parts which make up the impact that Wentworth Woodhouse is having today.

Outlined below are examples of ways in which Wentworth Woodhouse has begun to re-establish itself on local people and local communities.

Each is addressed in turn and estimates made where available of quantitative impacts. These can be monitored over time to chart the new social and economic legacy of the new life of Wentworth Woodhouse.

CHANGING LIVES



Wealth Creation



Volunteering Experiences and Value





Employment Generation

Pandemic Lifeline

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES



Education and Learning



Recreation and Wellbeing

**PANDEMIC LIFELINE:  
SUPPORTING THE  
LOCAL COMMUNITY  
DURING THE COVID-19  
PANDEMIC**



CHANGING LIVES

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**35,000**

visitors accessing 83 acres of parkland for exercise and fresh air

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**GREEN SPACE**

vital source of green space for those with no access to it elsewhere

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**VOLUNTEERS**

Wentworth volunteers contributed 1,000 hours to make access to the site possible and keep visitors safe during the pandemic



RECREATION AND  
WELLBEING: A  
LOCAL VISITOR  
ATTRACTION



SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

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**71,000**

visitors enjoying the experience – over half from South Yorkshire

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**£20M**

generated in individual wellbeing benefits

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**OUTDOOR  
EVENTS**

extensive range of outdoor events including The Flock, theatre, music festival, cinema, artistic performances, re-enactments and WE Wonder festivals

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**£556**

average individual benefit per visit

WEALTH CREATION:  
PROVIDING MUCH  
NEEDED INCOME  
FOR THE LOCAL  
COMMUNITY



CHANGING LIVES

**£13.5M**

generated in gross  
valued added to  
the South Yorkshire  
Economy

**£7.9M**

95% of total capital  
spend (£7.9M) spent  
with local companies

**35%**

outperforming the  
South Yorkshire Region  
in terms of wider social  
and economic impact  
by 35%

EMPLOYMENT  
GENERATION:  
CREATING LOCAL  
JOBS FOR LOCAL  
PEOPLE



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**57**  
direct new jobs  
created

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**68**  
indirect jobs created in  
local businesses

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**32**  
construction jobs  
supported p.a. during  
the major roof repair  
programme on site

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**93%**  
jobs filled by local  
people

EDUCATION AND  
LEARNING: A  
VERSATILE LEARNING  
RESOURCE FOR  
YOUNG AND OLD



CHANGING LIVES

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**7,500**

children and young people have benefited from learning and education activities

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**EDUCATION**

local schools and colleges developing curriculum- related experiences

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**5**

new apprenticeship opportunities and experiences created

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**QUALIFICATIONS**

numerous adult qualifications achieved including NVQs

**VOLUNTEERING  
EXPERIENCES AND  
VALUE: HARNESSING  
LOCAL TALENT AND  
POTENTIAL**



SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

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**200+**  
over 200 local  
volunteers actively  
engaged

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**75,000**  
volunteer hours in  
support of activities

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**£1.5M**  
in-kind volunteering  
support equivalent to  
£1.5m

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**VOLUNTEERING**  
wide range of  
volunteering  
experiences available  
suitable for all skillsets

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**30%**  
of volunteers secure  
enhanced employment  
linked to volunteering  
experience

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**SATISFACTION**  
high levels of  
volunteering  
satisfaction

The stimulation of the wider social and economic benefits of Wentworth Woodhouse's impact are central to the core values of the Trust. They will be embodied in the following future themes of our action strategy:

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**Regeneration:**  
*highest conservation standards;*

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**Engagement:**  
*listening and working with local communities;*

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**Opportunities:**  
*for advancing skills and life-long learning;*

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**Reach New Audiences:**  
*through inspirational and enjoyable experiences;*

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**Entrepreneurial Experience:**  
*creative solutions and commercial flair;*

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**Professionalism:**  
*openness, transparency and best practice;*

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**Caring for Environment:**  
*committed to sustainable policies and practices;*

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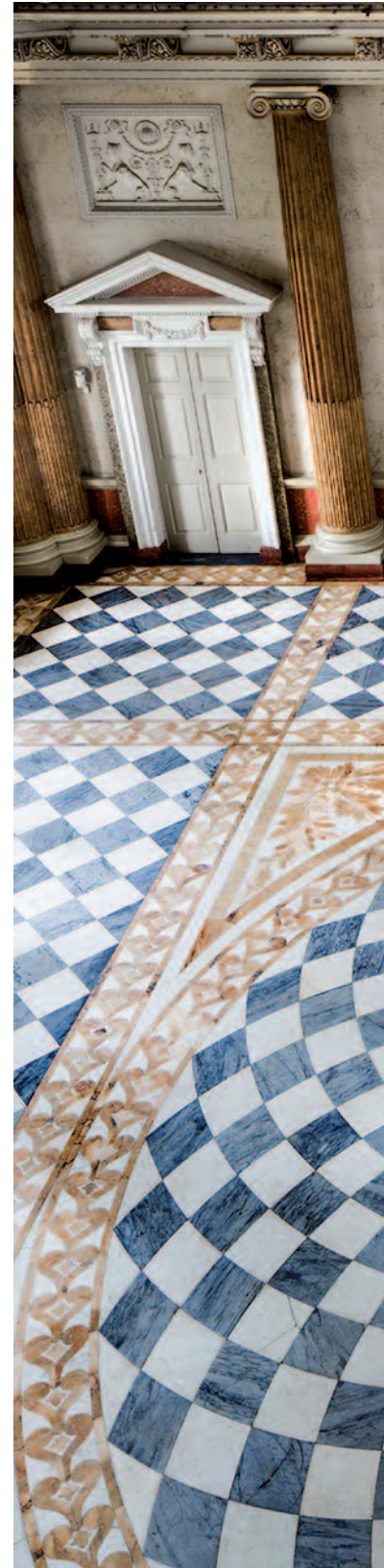
**Working Relationships:**  
*develop appropriate and effective partnerships;*

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**Diversity:**  
*model of accessibility and inclusion;*

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**Innovation:**  
*harness technology and digital innovation to maximise creative experience.*





# CREATING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



CHANGING LIVES

Providing opportunities to young people through apprenticeships and training is at the heart of the Trust's work.

There are now two apprentices bringing new ideas and enthusiasm to the team and WWPT plans to recruit more, in line with its core values of providing opportunities and employment, particularly for people in South Yorkshire.

History-lover Victoria Kica was 18 when she became WWPT's first Business Administration Apprentice and a valued member of the growing admin team.

Rebecca Vickers, Finance Apprentice, is aiming for a career in accountancy. She chose an apprenticeship over university and joined the Trust at 18. She gained a Level 2 AAT in accounting modules and is working towards Level 3.

“

My apprenticeship has allowed me to be more independent and gain skills that can be used in a variety of roles. I've learned a lot about all aspects of the organisation.”

Victoria Kica,  
Apprentice

“

In my role with the Trust I've gained experience in a wide range of tasks, it has been an amazing start to my career.”

Rebecca Vickers,  
Apprentice



“

Ben and Oliver are our first apprentices. A project on the scale of Wentworth Woodhouse has enabled them to learn, experience and hone a plethora of different conservation and restoration techniques,”

Sean Knight,  
Managing Director,  
Heritage Masonry Contracts

In addition, apprentices training with some of the contractors who worked on the roof repair programmes gained valuable heritage construction skills.

Owen Nightingale, of Thrybergh in Rotherham, was an apprentice site manager with Robert Woodhead Ltd, the lead contractor on the repair programme.

The experience made him determined to pursue a career in heritage construction and conservation. Owen is studying at Barnsley College for a Level 3 qualification in construction and the built environment and has since been taken on into full-time employment.

Specialist Lincolnshire masons Heritage Masonry Contracts worked on repairs and restoration of the roof's historic life-size statues, giant urns, balustrades and hand-carved corncicing.

Its two apprentice stonemasons, both recruited from South Yorkshire, worked alongside their MD, Sean Knight. Ben Halifax gained a Level 3 banker masonry qualification and Oliver Atkin completed his Level 2 while at Wentworth and the experience led to him deciding to specialise in fixer masonry - the installation of stone into a building.



# JOBS CREATED

When the Trust took over in 2017, just a handful of staff were employed at the site. It now hosts a workforce of 60 with a diverse range of ages, backgrounds, talents and skills.

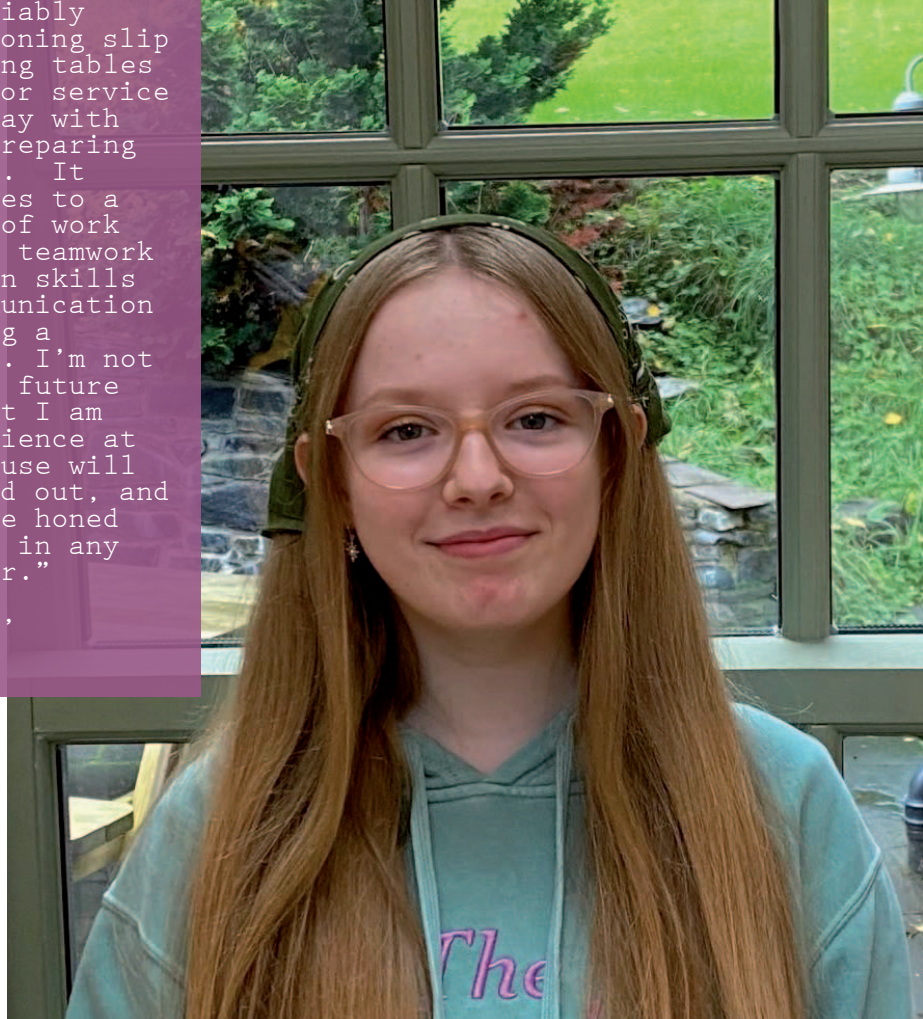
The Trust's youngest employee is 15-year-old Evie Constantine. A pupil at Ridgewood School, Doncaster, Evie works six hours a week with the kitchen team.

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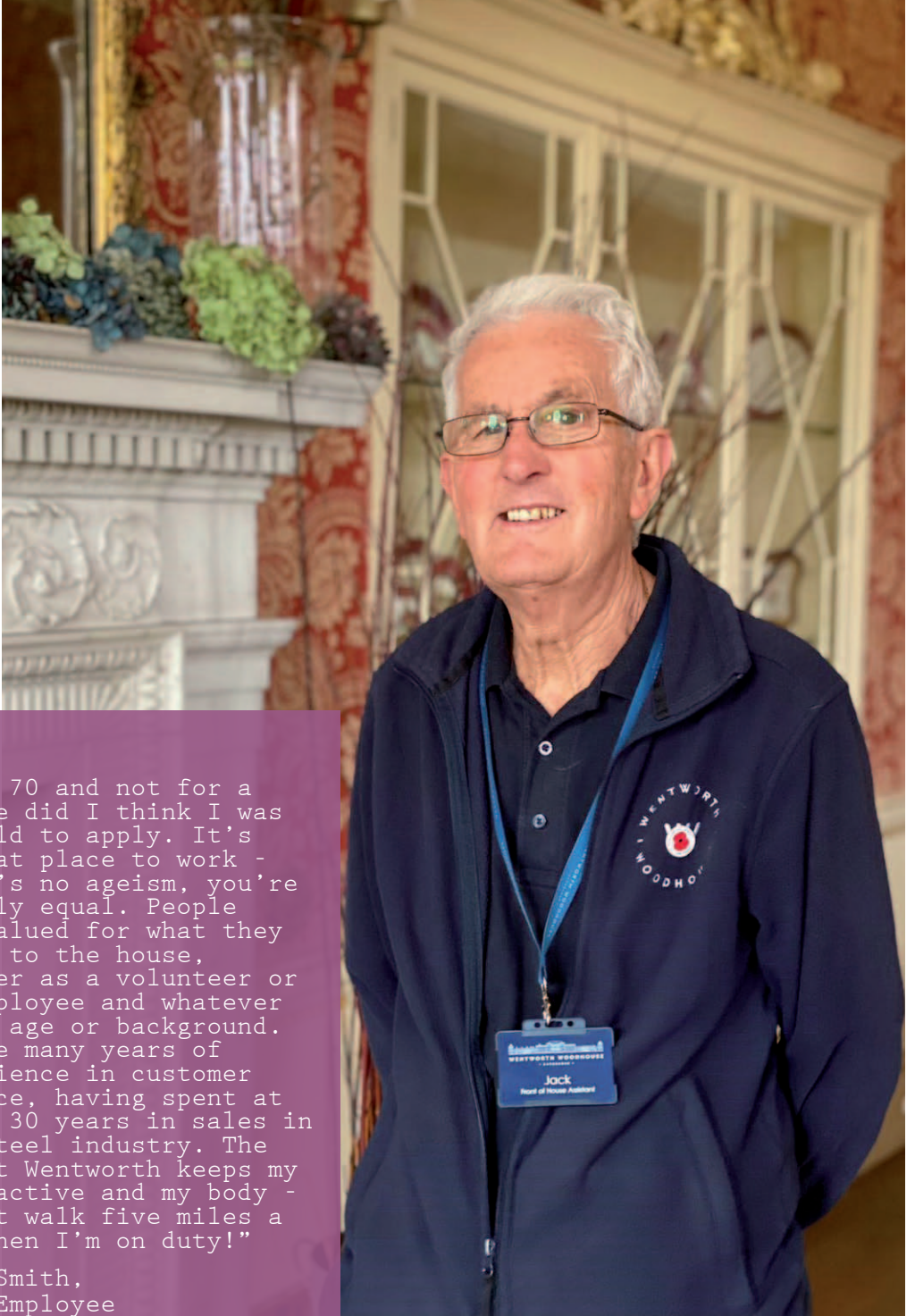
The job is undeniably full-on, from ironing slip cloths and setting tables from 9am ready for service to closing the day with washing up and preparing for the next day. It has opened my eyes to a whole new world of work and developed my teamwork and communication skills - effective communication is key to running a smooth operation. I'm not certain where my future will take me, but I am certain my experience at Wentworth Woodhouse will allow me to stand out, and the skills I have honed will be valuable in any workplace I enter.”

Evie Constantine,  
WWPT Employee

CHANGING LIVES



The oldest employee is 72-year-old Jack Smith, who originally joined the team as a front-of-house volunteer at 69. A job vacancy came up six months later.



“

I was 70 and not for a minute did I think I was too old to apply. It's a great place to work - there's no ageism, you're totally equal. People are valued for what they bring to the house, whether as a volunteer or an employee and whatever their age or background. I have many years of experience in customer service, having spent at least 30 years in sales in the steel industry. The job at Wentworth keeps my mind active and my body - I must walk five miles a day when I'm on duty!”

Jack Smith,  
WWPT Employee

# INCLUSIVITY

ArtWorks is a not-for-profit organisation empowering over 80 artists with learning disabilities and/or autism across South Yorkshire to achieve their creative potential.

Its artists are making a real impact at Wentworth Woodhouse and have taken part in a series of projects and placements on the site over the past four years.

Their creative talents are now on display in several locations, including one of the garden day cabins for hire in the grounds. Six ArtWorks South Yorkshire artists, Alistair Clayton, Elliott King, Dom Youd, Jack Shillitto, Andy Brady and Tim Prestwood, were commissioned by the Trust to create a tranquil, relaxing piece of art for the cabin wall. ArtWorks also staged an international art exhibition in the Pillared Hall featuring works of art from disabled artists across the world, and hosted free art workshops for visitors.

Additionally, the passageway to the mansion's gardens now provides a beautiful entrance thanks to the stunning floral scenes hand-painted by ArtWorks. A team from Artworks also regularly work alongside Head Gardener Scott Jamieson, learning new skills, building confidence and making friendships in the gardens.

“

Our partnership with Wentworth Woodhouse has been so valuable to ArtWorks and all the artists we support. We have seen our group grow in confidence as they exhibit and create work in such an impressive setting. The gardening programme has also helped our group's wellbeing and empowered them. Scott's welcoming and collaborative approach gives them pride in their work and a sense of ownership.”

Emma Harnett,  
ArtWorks Creative Arts  
Coordinator

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“

This placement has given great purpose to our artists. They are very proud to be affiliated with such an amazing site; it provides exercise, community inclusion and development of work and social skills. This has developed into our artist' designing and building artwork and sculpture which has been featured at events such as the Tour De Yorkshire, WE Wonder festivals and the rooftop tours. We are about to have our designed merchandise included in the gift shop, and we have created stalls and installations at numerous fairs on-site. All of these opportunities have been made possible through the continued support of Wentworth Woodhouse, who share similar goals and values to ourselves around community engagement.”

Kayleigh Cruickshank,  
Director, ArtWorks

Lucy Nadin joined the Trust's Front of House team in October 2019 aged 21, fresh from graduating in English. She has blossomed in confidence and developed strong customer service skills. Lucy says her part-time role has given her an extended family. She has suffered from a rare, disabling condition from the age of five. Charcot Marie Tooth Disease affects the peripheral nerves which control her muscles.

After university Lucy wanted a job to give her purpose and utilise her intelligence, but thought it would be difficult to find an employer accepting of her condition. The disease, which has affected her legs and arms for many years, began to damage her eyesight in 2021. Everyone, including Lucy, is finding ways to work around it. She now has an iPad with software which allows her to enlarge text she has trouble seeing, and lots of support from colleagues.



“

I feel supported and valued here. I wanted to work for an organisation I could give a lot to and where I wouldn't be marginalised. I feel valued by the Trust. I get positive feedback on my work and empathy for my health issues. I have lots of honest chats with managers about what I feel I can and can't manage on a given day. If anyone sees me struggling, they help. I'm treated like a human being, not a victim of my condition.”

Lucy Nadin,  
Front of House Assistant,  
WWPT

# DIVERSITY

WWPT is employing and upskilling local people whilst supporting local culture, creativity and wellbeing. It is also committed to encouraging and supporting diversity and inclusivity, so Wentworth Woodhouse can truly be a place for everyone.



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In 2021 its community engagement work, led by specialist Dr Suzanne Carter, reached out to people of different ages, abilities and economic and cultural backgrounds to find ways of supporting their communities and encouraging them to become part of the Wentworth Woodhouse story

Children from Rotherham's Yemini community and young people from Rotherham's African community were encouraged to participate in the WE Wonder Festival, presenting a series of traditional dance routines. Local members of Headway, the charity improving life after brain injury, and the Rotherham Wildlife Trust have also benefited by having free access to the gardens for activities.

Emerging female Pakistani artists, The Zanib Collective, were invited to stage an exhibition in the mansion's chapel. The Suitcase told of Pakistani women's journeys to Rotherham in the 1960s-70s to join husbands working in South Yorkshire industries.



“

Thanks to the Trust giving us the chance to stage our first exhibition, our work got recognition through press coverage, which is important for new artists, and led to a second exhibition at Clifton Park Museum in Rotherham. The Trust's engagement work has been outstanding. It has opened the mansion's doors to all and helped break down barriers and engage diverse communities. It is a warm and welcoming place and the Trust have taken on the feedback they received from our community and listened.”

Artist Zanib Rasool

“

People from minority communities often get 'funny looks' when they go into spaces and places where white people go. Walking into a room full of white people is unnerving - you feel awkward because people stare - they make you feel like you don't belong there.

I remember saying 'this is a white space, they will not want to see our art'. Now that space does not feel so white, if you know what I mean”.

Exhibiting artist of The Suitcase at Wentworth Woodhouse



# RAISING ASPIRATIONS



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Wentworth Woodhouse has taken a lead in inspiring young women to set their sights on careers in male-dominated sectors including construction.

“After today I feel I know a lot more about the variety of different jobs you can go into in the construction industry”  
Lydia Hanson,  
Wath Academy,  
Rotherham



Headline speakers at the Trust's Sky's the Limit events have included women with key roles in the regeneration of the site, and organisations that inspire women and girls to achieve their potential as engineers, applied scientists and technical leaders.

At the first event In July 2019, 19 local schoolgirls were invited to the site to meet the female experts involved in its restoration. Inspired by International Women in Engineering Day, the event opened their eyes to career possibilities in the male-dominated sector.

Three months later, 40 women came to meet members of the University of Leeds' Electrifying Women project and the Women's Engineering Society Centenary Trail Project.

It was a chance to learn about ground-breaking women from the past who carved out important roles in male-dominated sectors, and pick up tips on how to follow in their footsteps from women working at the mansion in construction, engineering and heritage careers. Attendees had a private tour of the site and the mansion's rooftops, gaining an insight into the scale of the Trust's historic undertaking.

The University of Sheffield's Faculty of Engineering and the Women's Engineering Society gave talks to the students, who then met with inspirational women at Wentworth Woodhouse working in facilities management, quantity surveying, scaffold engineering and transport planning.

In February 2020, the Trust's chair Dame Julie Kenny DBE DL met with 60 schoolgirls from Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham to talk about her own journey to success. She urged them to make their mark in male-dominated sectors, to break through the glass ceiling and strive for equality.

“

This event has broadened my knowledge on the careers available to women.”

Bethany Wood,  
Abbey School,  
Rotherham

“

I found out there are lots of different ways to gain a career in the construction industry. You don't have to go to college or university, which can often put a lot of pressure on people.”

Emily Binney,  
King Edward VII  
School, Sheffield



# ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY

Wentworth Woodhouse has been the location for Oscar-winning films and many hit TV series. Now it's to become the setting for an aspiring film-maker's first ever venture.



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“

Writing has been my hobby for many years - it's been pure escapism. I've been fortunate enough to help the scripts of many talented writers go from page to screen, and reading every one of those pro scripts has been an opportunity to learn how they do it. I'm absolutely thrilled to have won this competition and am hugely grateful to the Trust for creating such an amazing opportunity. It's already giving me confidence to have more faith in my writing, so who knows where it might lead.”

Richard Knight,  
Screenwriting Award Winner

In summer 2021, the Trust launched the Wentworth Woodhouse Screenwriting Award to give emerging writers the chance to make their mark in a hugely competitive sector.

Entrants from across the UK had to use Wentworth Woodhouse as their inspiration and tell a unique storyline.

The award went to a Sheffield man who had been working in the film industry for over 20 years - but only ever to help make other people's films happen.

Richard Knight worked as a location manager for decades and was involved in numerous hit movies, including Dead Man's Shoes, This Is England and Four Lions by award-winning Sheffield production company Warp Films. He went on to join Screen Yorkshire as a Careers Support Manager to help students across the country begin film industry careers. Throughout his working life he had written film scripts, but just for fun. The Trust was delighted to give an opportunity to someone who has nursed their ambition for so long. The film will debut as part of a major event at the site in March 2022.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES



# BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

In 2020 The Trust staged The Flock, a spectacular community art installation that involved thousands of people and became an important part of social history.

An inspiring symbol of how families and communities pulled together in the first COVID-19 lockdown, The Flock saw 10,000 small wooden birds take over the site's East Front lawns.

Conceptualised and created by artists at Planet Art, the installation formed the shape of a giant land art tree.

It was made possible by local people of all ages - from schoolchildren to care home residents - who hand-decorated each and every bird with images and memories of the spring lockdown.

Heart-felt and inspirational messages included 'Love and light will shine through the dark' and 'The first hug of loved ones will always mean the most'.

Many birds bore images and messages of support for Wentworth Woodhouse, which had been closed for months due to pandemic restrictions.

Over the autumn, thousands flocked to see the spectacle of colour, creativity and emotion, and to walk through the sea of birds, reflecting on the unprecedented times we had experienced and the need to protect each other from the virus still shaping our society.



“

Being a large school, we had a number of children in as key worker children and a lot of families who wanted to take part in this project at home. It gave us an opportunity to come together not only as a school community but also as a wider one.”

Sarah Cullumbine, Thorpe Hesley Primary School



# BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND REACHING GOALS

CHANGING LIVES



“

“Being a trustee has enabled me to meet some amazing individuals I would never otherwise have met, which has improved my social skills and the way I communicate. The team has helped push me on with ideas and also supported me with personal goals.”

Toni Paxford, Youth Trustee WWPT

Rotherham's youth champion Toni Paxford became a junior member of the Trust's board when she joined as an apprentice Trustee in 2019. She is now a fully-fledged trustee and leading on establishing a Wentworth Woodhouse youth forum. Toni, of Kimberworth, is a youth and community worker. She rose to prominence in the town in 2017 when she launched Paige's Project, a social action group for 11-25-year-olds with 'invisible' illnesses. She went on to become a member of the Rotherham Youth Cabinet and the UK's Youth Parliament and has worked with Rotherham Council, church organisations and the NHS Youth Forum.

# LEARNING NEW SKILLS

After retiring in his 50s from a high-powered job in sales and marketing, Steve Ash missed being part of a team. When he discovered the Head Gardener at Wentworth Woodhouse desperately needed volunteers, he signed up, even though he hated gardening. He came to love it as he worked outdoors every week with a team who rapidly became friends. Steve also loves being part of the Trust's vision to regenerate not only Wentworth Woodhouse, but the local economy.

His answer was an immediate yes when asked to establish a digital team to record the Trust's progress and create films for marketing, communications and social media. An emergency grant, awarded during the first pandemic from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, allowed for the purchase of film equipment and vital training. Steve's experience in leadership and digital marketing proved invaluable. He assembled a team of 20 novice volunteers who participated in intensive digital training, often online in their own homes during the lockdowns. Since 2020 they have created over 50 fascinating short films about the Trust's people and places, tasks and achievements.

“

I've had the chance to master technical skills I never imagined I'd learn, I've been able to create my own team and be part of its development and I've gained strong friendships with people motivated by the same goal. Heading the Digital Team keeps me very busy, but I still head to Wentworth's gardens for some therapeutic digging.”

Steve Ash, Volunteer



# ENCOURAGING ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

To give supporters a fun creative goal during the first UK pandemic lockdown in March 2020, Wentworth Woodhouse staged a Lockdown Art Contest. Entries came from people aged two to 75 and from as far away as Australia and the house was immortalised in paintings, drawings, cardboard models and even a pavement chalk picture. The winning design, by Rawmarsh mum Zoe Rowbottom, now features on the Trust's fundraising T-shirts. The contest also resulted in a young Barnsley textile designer gaining her first commission.

Ellie Fisher was in the final year of a textile design degree at Leeds Arts University and entered an intricate print she had created for her final coursework. It featured scenes from the house and grounds and so impressed the judges it is now featuring on a gift collection in the mansion's shop and on the My Wentworth membership card. The Trust commissioned Ellie to create more designs as it expands the gift shop's range of locally-made products. Ellie is now teaching art and design at a Doncaster secondary school and freelancing as a fabric designer.

“

The support and opportunities given to me by the Trust have been incredible. It has given me a huge confidence boost and the motivation to follow my passion for local design. I am truly grateful for its belief in my work and my style. I'm so excited to share the final products with the public and continue to work with the Trust to regenerate Wentworth Woodhouse.”

Ellie Fisher,  
Designer





# IMPROVING MENTAL WELLBEING

Tour Guide Neil Power worked for over 30 years in Rotherham's mental health services.

He managed the town's children's and adolescent services and ran operations for a 144-bed medium-secure hospital in Doncaster before taking early retirement at 51 - common in a stressful profession where many suffer emotional burnout.

After six months he realised his life had no daily structure. When he saw an appeal from the Trust for volunteers, he jumped at the chance and within weeks was spending his first day clearing up rubbish in Bedlam Wing. Neil still volunteers regularly, but is also employed as a tour guide.



SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

“

Working for the Trust is good for my mental health. It gives me focus and a purpose. I love every day I spend at the house. I would recommend it to anyone who has issues with mental wellness.

“Being a tour guide gives me such a buzz. I'm making people happy and helping them find out more about the house. If I'm rewarded with a round of applause at the end, it is so uplifting.”

Neil Power, Tour Guide and Volunteer

None of this would have been possible without the support of our funders, donors, supporters, staff and volunteers.



The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Historic England



Fitzwilliam Amenity Trust  
 Ian Addison Charitable Trust  
 Sir Siegmund Warburg Voluntary Settlement  
 The Tony Bramall Charitable Trust  
 The Earl Fitzwilliam Charitable Trust

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Charity number 1155374