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World Heritage UK

June 2025 newsletter



World Heritage Webinars - Observatories

The second webinar on World Heritage Observatories will be on **Tuesday 17th June** and will showcase **Jodrell Bank WHS** with **Prof. Teresa Anderson**.

The series comprises 4 webinars all focusing on observatories within WHSs and Tentative List Sites. Others in the series include:

- Tuesday 20th May 2025 - Stonehenge & Avebury with Dr Amanda Chadburn and Prof Clive Ruggles (YouTube recording)

- Tuesday 22nd July 2025 – Maritime Greenwich WHS with Paddy Rodgers and Ann Carter from Royal Museums Greenwich, with Jamie Fobert and Liz Smith from Jamie Fobert Architects

Webinars run 7 to 8pm, and are held on Zoom. Zoom details are usually sent out the Monday before the webinar.

Single webinar tickets are £5 each. A series ticket for all 4 webinars is £15. Tickets are available up to 4pm the day before.

Each webinar is recorded and uploaded to WHUK's private YouTube channel. All ticket holders will be sent a link to the video, to revisit or catch up if the live talk was missed.



To book, please click [here](#).



WHUK Learning & Engagement Special Interest Group

You may remember that a World Heritage UK **Learning & Engagement Network** was established in 2019. This was organised by Ashleigh Taylor as part of the World Heritage Youth Ambassadors programme, which hosted online group meetings until 2022. As part of our new project, *Realising the Benefits of World Heritage to Local Communities 2*, we are reestablishing the Learning & Engagement Network as a Special Interest Group. Meetings will take place online at various periods over the next two years and attendance is open to World Heritage network professionals, organisations and individuals involved in work relating to learning and engagement within World Heritage Sites.

What does the Learning & Engagement Special Interest Group do?

The purpose of the group is to support Sites and organisations in pooling resources and provide methods to increase resilience at individual Sites, as well as for the sector. Therefore, the group offers a space for discussion, peer learning, and sharing best practice across the network as well as facilitating collaboration efforts and providing opportunities to demonstrate the value and worth of learning and engagement.

What do we mean by 'learning and engagement'?

Overall, we mean the strategies and activities that help people to understand the significance of a Site and connect emotionally or intellectually with it as well as participate in its care, preservation, and future.

curriculum-linked resources and educational workshops. Or it can take the form of informal learning that takes place on-Site through interpretation (panels, guides, apps), exhibitions, and talks. Learning also happens within the context of community knowledge exchange that involves local narratives that may not be in the official history of the Site.

Engagement is used quite broadly but often means creating opportunities for meaningful connections and participation. This could include methods to involve local communities in interpretation or management decisions through co-creation. Events and storytelling such as heritage festivals, oral history projects, artwork or performances are also forms of engagement. Online and digital engagement, including social media outputs, virtual tours, and online campaigns (especially to reach underserved or younger communities) are also useful examples. Finally, volunteering and citizen science activities that include getting people involved in Site monitoring, conservation, or research are also examples of hands-on engagement methods. Overall, engagement is focused on equity and access to ensure that everyone, regardless of background, can feel welcomed and represented.

Why is this group important?

People tend to care more for what they understand and feel connected to, so being aware of learning and engagement strategies and activities is essential for sustaining long-term protection of World Heritage Sites. UNESCO also states that parties are expected to promote education and public awareness, so finding avenues to do so are encouraged. Finally, it offers opportunities to explore diversifying whose stories are told, and how.

How can I be involved? If you'd like to be added to the mailing list, would like to present at a group meeting, have a suggestion for a topic of discussion, or want to find out more, please contact leah.hewerdine@worldheritageuk.org



WHUK 2025 Annual Conference - book now!

This year's WHUK Annual Conference will be held in Saltair WHS, on **Thursday 9th & Friday 10th October.**

The theme will be **"Engagement with World Heritage"**, exploring how communities, tourists, politicians, media, funders etc, do or don't engage with World Heritage and World Heritage Sites. Details of the programme are almost all confirmed and tickets are now available.

Confirmed speakers include UK City of Culture, Heritage Alliance, UKNC, Action with Communities Cumbria, ICOMOS-UK, the University of Bradford and more.

Tickets available include WHUK member and non-member options, and online and in-person. Click [here](#) to book.

We hope to see you there!

The 2025 Annual Conference is kindly supported by the National Trust and North Yorkshire Council.

Please support the work of World Heritage UK

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

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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