

Manchester Heritage Buildings Network launch

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Organisations buildings



Historic England



THE ARCHITECTURAL
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MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Agecroft Cemetery Chapel Restoration Group - Agecroft Cemetery Chapel



The Agecroft Cemetery Chapel Restoration Group has been formed with the aim of saving and restoring this iconic building for the benefit of all.

Our initial aim is to raise the money required to undertake a feasibility study and ultimately restore and bring the building back into use. The Anglican Chapel is just one of a significant group of listed buildings in Agecroft Cemetery designed by Walter Sharp and Frederick Foster.

It is built of rock-faced buff sandstone, with red sandstone details, tile covered roofs and half timbering. The style is Gothic Revival with Arts and Crafts influences and art nouveau details in the stained glass. The chapel has a tower of four stages, a nave and half-timbered porch. The tower has four identical clock faces and is topped with a timber construction with pierced decorative panels. The Cemetery was officially opened in 1903.

Ancoats Dispensary Trust - Ancoats Dispensary



Now a neglected but much cherished shadow of its former self, the Ardwick and Ancoats Dispensary building in the Ancoats district of Manchester has a rich and poignant history for many people still living in the area today. It was where many of them visited for routine medical checks or to see a specialist doctor.

This is why saving this exemplar building of Victorian gothic is so much more than a building restoration project. It's about giving the Ancoats community a meaningful 21st century space that pays living and breathing homage to the philanthropic aims of a hospital which remained in operation up until 1989.

The people of Ancoats, along with the Ancoats Dispensary Trust and their development partners Igloo Regeneration, renowned specialists in socially responsible property initiatives, have a commercially grounded but truly inspiring vision for a born again Dispensary building. Their combined vision is for the building to become a vibrant focal point for the health and well-being of local people from all walks of life, along with a re-purposed upper floor space to inspire new generations of people to be as enterprising, creative and socially aware as their Victorian forefathers.

CEDE Foundation - Church of St Ignatius of Antioch



The Church of St Ignatius of Antioch is a Grade II listed building which was constructed in 1900 to the designs of Darbyshire and Smith. The building was constructed as part of the New Barracks Estate, Ordsall Salford, which was built between 1900-1904 on the site of a former early C19 infantry barracks. The estate was Salford Corporation's first housing scheme, which also provided community buildings, including Salford Girls' Institute (destroyed during WWII), Salford Lads' Club (1903, Grade II) and the Church of St Ignatius. These buildings were constructed on land owned by the Corporation, but were funded by private individuals; the Church of St Ignatius was built under the patronage of Lord Wilbraham Egerton (1832-1909) as a replica of a church in Borgadeira, Italy.

The building is an inseparable part of Ordsall community's tangible past and can offer excellent opportunities for the community's culture and economic future. The building is a source of local pride and identity and a reminder of Ordsall community's culture and complexity. The building depicts both a famous and recognisable dramatic of the community at the heart of the New Barracks Estate, which gives long-time residents as well as people who have lived or visited the area an opportunity to witness the aesthetic and cultural history of Ordsall.

Friends of Clayton Park - Clayton Hall



Clayton Hall is a Grade 2 listed building, and a rare example of a moated, medieval site. It is situated in Clayton Park, Ashton new Road, Clayton. The original hall was built for the Clayton family in the 12th Century, it later passed into the hands of the Byron family, of which the poet Lord Byron was a member. The Byron's lived here until they sold it to two London merchants, George and Humphrey Chetham.

Humphrey is famous for founding Chethams School and Library in the centre of Manchester.

Externally the building is finished mainly in red brick, with some square-panelled timber framing at first floor level. Viewed from the front, the right hand section is the older part of the building, dating back to the 15th century and altered in the 16th and 17th century. It was partly rebuilt and enlarged in the 18th century with further remodelling taking place in the early and late 20th century. Rooms in the later part of the building have been dressed in Victorian style and offer an opportunity to take a step back in time.

Access to the Hall is via a masonry bridge over the moat (now drained). The bridge is thought to date from the 17th century and is constructed of coursed square sandstone, over two segmental stone arches. Clayton Hall is now owned by Manchester City Council.

Friends of Alexandra Park - Alexandra Park



Alexandra Park was one of the earliest and most complete of Manchester's Victorian Parks and is regarded as being of national importance. It was listed as grade 2 on the English Heritage Register. The park is 24 hectares and was bought by Manchester Corporation. The park design was by London based garden designer Alexander Gordon Hennell.

The land was a mixture of farm land and rough pasture in Moss Side, which was not at the time in Manchester city, but was still a rural area. The park opened in August 1870.

Gordon Hennell's design catered for the fashion of 'promenading' by large numbers of people and it exploited the flat and featureless site by creating a series of broad sweeping and curving footpaths. The design was considered unusual in that it integrated the ornamental features and sports facilities.

The original Park also had two magnificent buildings: the larger Superintendent's house Hulme Lodge and the smaller, Park Deputy's House called Chorlton Lodge. The buildings and a clock tower were the work of architect Alfred Darbyshire. There was also a Pavilion with café and a band stand and several water fountains. The Bandstand was very popular and the use of free concerts in the park was supported by Manchester City Council to help keep families together on Sundays.

Friends of Heaton Hall - Heaton Hall



Heaton Hall, the Grade I-listed jewel in the crown of Manchester's Heaton Park. The hall was the home of Sir Thomas Egerton, who later became the 1st Earl of Wilton, and it was designed by architect James Wyatt.

The Orangery was added to the house around 1823. It was designed with a domed, glazed roof, with a garden at the front with two large copies of the Borghese Vase. The whole park was purchased by Manchester City Council in 1902.

The state rooms include the Library, the Music Room, Dining Room and upstairs, a rather rare Etruscan Room. The rooms of the hall were exquisitely finished by the finest artists and craftsmen of the period, with most of the furnishings and mahogany doors being made by Gillow's of Lancashire. Most of the decorative paintings, the Pompeiian Cupola Room and the case for the 18th century chamber organ built by Samuel Green in 1790, were the work of Italian artist, Biagio Rebecca. The organ fills one wall of the Music Room. The ornate plasterwork was created by the firm of Joseph Rose II of York.

There are 13 rooms occasionally open to the public in the central core and east wing. Manchester City Galleries restored the decorative detail in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Friends of Stretford Public Hall - Stretford Public Hall



Stretford Public Hall was built by John Rylands, a local philanthropist, aka 'The Cotton King' and Manchester's first multi-millionaire. It was designed by N. Lofthouse in a mixed gothic revival style and built in 1878 at a cost of £30,000. The building was, and still is often referred to as the 'Town Hall' although it was not used for any administrative purpose. Originally it housed the Overseers Offices, Lecture rooms and free lending library with 3,000 volumes, the first in the town.

Once home to Stretford Civic Theatre, Stretford Public Hall was built for the local community by John Rylands in 1878. Since then it has had over 100 years of community use until its closure in 2012.

In 2015 the Hall was passed into the stewardship of The Friends of Stretford Public Hall, and our intention is to turn the hall into a fantastic community venue.

A space for arts, for learning, for meeting, for work, for leisure. Maybe to watch a gig, or get married, somewhere to meet and have a coffee, or go to a fitness class. A building for you, owned and run by the community, for the community.

It's a fast moving project and our first stage was opening Artists Studio's in December 2015, and shared Office Space from January 2016.

Greater Manchester Fire Service Museum



Greater Manchester Fire Service Museum was opened in 1983 in a former workshop building behind Rochdale fire station by a group of volunteers, and now operates as an independent, charitable museum trust.

It portrays the history of firefighting and fire engineering in the Manchester region, provides an educational service to schools and is an accredited visitor attraction.

The collection comprises over 20 large fire appliance objects, alongside many smaller exhibits, uniforms, equipment, curios etc. and has an extensive archive and image collection.

We are now endeavouring to expand the operation through acquisition and sympathetic restoration of the vacant 1933 fire station building adjacent.

Heritage Works - Manchester Tennis and Racquet Club



Heritage Works hold their meetings at the Manchester Tennis and Racquet Club. The building is a Grade 11 listed Victorian Building c1880 by George T Redmayne. A perfect example of a Victorian Sporting Club with many impressive original features. It is the oldest sports facility in Greater Manchester to have retained its use in the present day.

Heritage Works is a registered charity that regenerates historic buildings whose cost of repair is uneconomic for the private sector. Working with a range of partners including Manchester City Council, English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund, Heritage Works is able to acquire, refurbish and resell (or lease) property, operating as a 'developer motivated by heritage rather than profit'.

We are based in Manchester and operate within a 50 mile radius. Previous projects in the city include an options appraisal examining the potential for future re-use of the Ancoats Dispensary and the restoration of Murray's Mills and St Peter's Church in Ancoats.

Services include: options appraisals for historic buildings; market assessments; conservation management plans; funding applications (e.g. Heritage Lottery Fund bids); audience development plans, community engagement and activity plans; management and maintenance plans; public consultation activities.

Levenshulme Old Library Group - Levenshulme Library



Levenshulme Library was opened in 1904 as one of many Carnegie Free libraries, with an endowment of £2,500. £500 was raised locally via a 'penny on the pound' levied by the old Levenshulme Urban District Council. Since then it served as our local library until 2016, when a new library was opened as part of the Arcadia Leisure centre, following an active community campaign to retain a local library service.

Notable users of the library include the famous architect Lord Foster, who has described how he first developed his love or architecture in the building.

The building is now empty but we hope to reopen it as a new arts and culture centre. We have researched the original endowment and that has provided us with inspiration. In our letter to the council requesting an asset transfer we said:

"We have consulted widely on our vision for a centre that can serve not only residents of Levenshulme but the whole of Manchester can be proud of. With a strong focus on community based arts, culture, wellbeing and in particular raising the aspirations and opportunities of young people. We feel our vision is wholeheartedly in keeping with the spirit of the original endowment of the building to Levenshulme by Andrew Carnegie."

Love Withington Baths - Withington Baths



In January 2013 Manchester City Council in the face of severe Government cuts announced its intention to close Withington Baths.

The Baths had been in the heart of the Withington community since 1911 with generations of Mancunians learning to swim there and was, although somewhat neglected, still well loved.

The Save Withington Baths group was quickly formed and campaigned to keep the Baths open. Working closely with

the Council the campaign was successful and in May 2015 the Love Withington Baths group was formed as a social enterprise to continue to operate the Baths as a community facility.

This operation has been incredibly successful with over 1,500 members joining and a wide variety of new community activities for all ages now taking place in the building. The medium to long term aim is to take full ownership of the site via a community asset transfer and restore the building back to its original Edwardian splendour.

Manchester Cathedral



Manchester Cathedral is a Grade-1 listed building in the city centre with a rich history dating back to the early thirteenth century.

We are a working cathedral serving a large urban diocese, and a cultural destination welcoming visitors to exhibitions, concerts and other events every year.

Part of our mission is work collaboratively with others, forming exciting new partnerships that celebrate diversity, music and the arts.

We have a team of 70 volunteers active in the interpretation of the Cathedral's culture and heritage.

The Manchester Transport Museum Society Ltd



The Manchester Transport Museum Society Ltd is a registered charity, and has been in existence in different forms since 1961.

We restore heritage trams from the North West, and Manchester area in particular, and have operated these in Heaton Park since 1980 in a joint venture with Manchester City Council, the Manchester Tramway Company Ltd, also a Registered Charity.

We operate on Sundays and Saturdays in Summer, providing both a heritage experience and transport service within the Park.

We operate partly on original track from a 1905 tramway building, and have 14 trams from an 1880 horse tram to a 1992 Metrolink.

We maintain a small tramway museum in the Park, and have published a range of 35 books based on information in our archives as a contribution to the ability of the community to access information on this aspect of Manchester's history and heritage.

The Pankhurst Trust - Pankhurst Centre



Number 62 Nelson Street was the home of Emmeline Pankhurst and her family for over eight years. In 1903 this address played host to the very first meeting of the Suffragettes. By 1908 all the Pankhurst's had moved to London to be at the centre of the growing campaign.

By 1979 the house had fallen into disrepair and the North West Health Authority applied for permission to demolish both number 60 and number 62 Nelson Street.

The application produced a storm of protest from women's groups and from conservationists. Permission to demolish the houses was refused and the Health Authority agreed to lease the houses to the Pankhurst Trust. The trust was established to restore the buildings and put them back into public use. Through extensive fundraising the Trust raised the half a million pounds required to carry out the project.

In 1984 the restoration work started. Progress was slow as labour was recruited through Community Programme Schemes to ensure that women were employed on the site.

The Centre was opened by Helen Pankhurst – Sylvia's granddaughter – and Barbara Castle on 11 October 1987: the anniversary of the first meeting of the Suffragettes in 1903.

The Salford Victoria Theatre Trust - Salford Victoria Theatre



The Salford Victoria Theatre Trust has been formed to protect this architectural gem, designed by the eminent theatre architect Bertie Crew in 1899. Much of the Victorian stage machinery has survived and the auditorium is intact although in need of renovation.

Although cosmetic changes were made to accommodate equipment, this period of occupancy did preserve the theatre intact. However, the business was unsuccessful. After standing for some time in a disused state during the 1980s, the theatre was purchased by independent owners and reopened for bingo. The theatre was also used as a 'live' theatre location for TV and film.

The building has been closed for several years and is showing signs of neglect as well as some architectural theft so speed is of the essence.

Our intention is to raise funds to purchase the building and create a community performance space now sadly lacking in Salford with some professional companies and a youth based performance initiative.

Stockport Building Preservation Trust - Woodbank Hall



A 'Park Friends' group were concerned about a building which had fallen into disrepair and needed urgent help. A group was created to rescue the building but also recognised the wider implications for other buildings in the town. Stockport Building Preservation Trust was born.

We are restricted to the preservation of buildings of historical, architectural or constructional interest in and around Stockport Metropolitan Borough which prove to be beneficial to local people.

Our aims can be summarised as rescue the building, respect its past and respond to its future. Enable the public to view and enjoy buildings or land preserved by the Trust.

In 2013 we received Charity Registration and also became a Company Limited by Guarantee. Our prime intention is to source funding to help preserve these buildings and encourage community support to achieve a positive

outcome. Woodbank Hall Grade II* listed is our main project.

Partner - Heritage Lottery Fund North West, Carver's Warehouse



The Grade II* listed Carver's Warehouse, built in 1806, is the oldest surviving warehouse in Manchester city centre. It is the only one whose external walls are constructed wholly from stone and retains virtually all of its original timber and cast iron internal structure. We have converted the building into commercial office and studio space, with the addition of a contemporary two storey building fronting onto Dale Street to accommodate meeting rooms and a café. A four storey steel and glass atrium links the new and existing together with bridge links at each floor level. The building was completed in February 2008.

Partner - Historic England, Canada House



Canada House is an Art Nouveau-style office building on Chepstow Street in Manchester, England. Constructed originally as a packing warehouse, the building opened in 1909. Designed by local architect William Higginbottom, the building has features consistent with art nouveau and has a terracotta exterior.

Canada House is one of many warehouses in Manchester alongside Watts Warehouse, Asia House, India House and Churchgate House. Canada House is a Grade-II listed building.

The building was extensively renovated during the 1990s.

Partner - Macc, Swan Buildings



Swan Buildings was originally built as a carpet and linoleum warehouse during the Victorian industrial era, and still retains a wealth of original features including stained glass, mosaic tiles and the distinctive swan motif.

Partner - Manchester City Council, Manchester Town Hall



Manchester Town Hall is a Victorian, Neo-gothic municipal building in Manchester, England. It is the ceremonial headquarters of Manchester City Council and houses a number of local government departments. The building faces Albert Square to the north, featuring the Albert Memorial and St Peter's Square to the south, home to The Cenotaph.

Designed by architect Alfred Waterhouse, the town hall was completed in 1877. The building contains offices and grand ceremonial rooms such as the Great Hall which is decorated with Ford Madox Brown's imposing Manchester Murals illustrating the history of the city. The entrance and Sculpture Hall contain busts and statues of influential figures including Dalton, Joule and Barbirolli. The exterior is dominated by the clock tower which rises to 280 feet (85 m) and houses Great Abel, the clock bell.

In 1938, a detached Town Hall Extension was completed and is connected by two covered bridges over Lloyd Street. The town hall, which was granted Grade I listed building status on 25 February 1952, is regarded as one of the finest interpretations of Gothic revival architecture in the world.