

 WEST MIDLANDS  
Historic Buildings Trust 



*The 3 Trusts*

# Trustee Recruitment Pack

March 2019

## Introduction

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Trustee of our three building preservation trusts.

West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust (WMHBT), Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust (WBPT) and the City of Wolverhampton Regenerating Buildings Preservation Trust (CWRBPT) = ('The 3 Trusts') are a consortium of building preservation trusts that have been working together since 2017. These are challenging times for all charitable organisations and the quantity of historic buildings at risk across our area of interest continues to be significant. By joining forces and sharing our experience, knowledge and resources we believe we can be stronger together.

We share our board of Trustee Directors and have recently undertaken a skills review which has identified some important gaps in our expertise that we need to fill in order to grow and strengthen our Trusts. In particular we are looking to recruit people with buildings conservation knowledge, business and fundraising experience and someone to help us develop our public profile including that on digital media.

We have also recently undertaken a Strategic Review which has helped us to clarify our vision for the future and set ourselves achievable aims and objectives to secure our long term sustainability. We need Trustees who are looking for a position where they can make a hands-on contribution towards delivering our goals and in return you will have the satisfaction of being involved with conserving historic buildings at risk across the West Midlands and engaging with local communities who care passionately about their history and heritage.

This pack contains information about the 3 Trusts and how to apply to become a Trustee.

*Sue Whitehouse*

Chairman

## **About the 3 trusts**

All three of our Trusts are registered charities and companies limited by guarantee. They were originally established to operate as revolving fund buildings preservation trusts where buildings at risk were acquired, repaired and conserved, and then sold on to new owners. Any surplus from this process would be reinvested in the next project. This model does not work well in the current economic climate and increasing competition for grant funding. Hence all three Trusts are seeking to move away from this model of working in order to become more financially secure and independent in future whilst still adhering to the core activity of rescuing historic buildings at risk.

Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust was originally established in 1964 as a revolving fund trust covering the County of Hereford and Worcester but was amended to cover the County of Worcestershire only, in 1998. To date the Trust has completed six rescue projects: Church House, Areley Kings; Wyre Hill, Bewdley; The Sergeant's House, Ledbury; Belle House, Pershore; Load Street, Bewdley and most recently the Weavers' Cottages in Horsefair, Kidderminster completed in 2017. One new project in Droitwich is currently being pursued.

West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust was established in 1985 and is empowered to operate within and around the West Midlands County conurbation covering the local authority areas of Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton and surrounding districts. To date the Trust has completed three buildings rescue projects; 19-20 High Street, Kinver; The Harris and Pearson Building, Brierley Hill and the Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapels, Stourbridge. Several other potential projects have been investigated over the years but for various reasons have not been pursued or have been taken forward by others. One new project in Warwick is currently being developed.

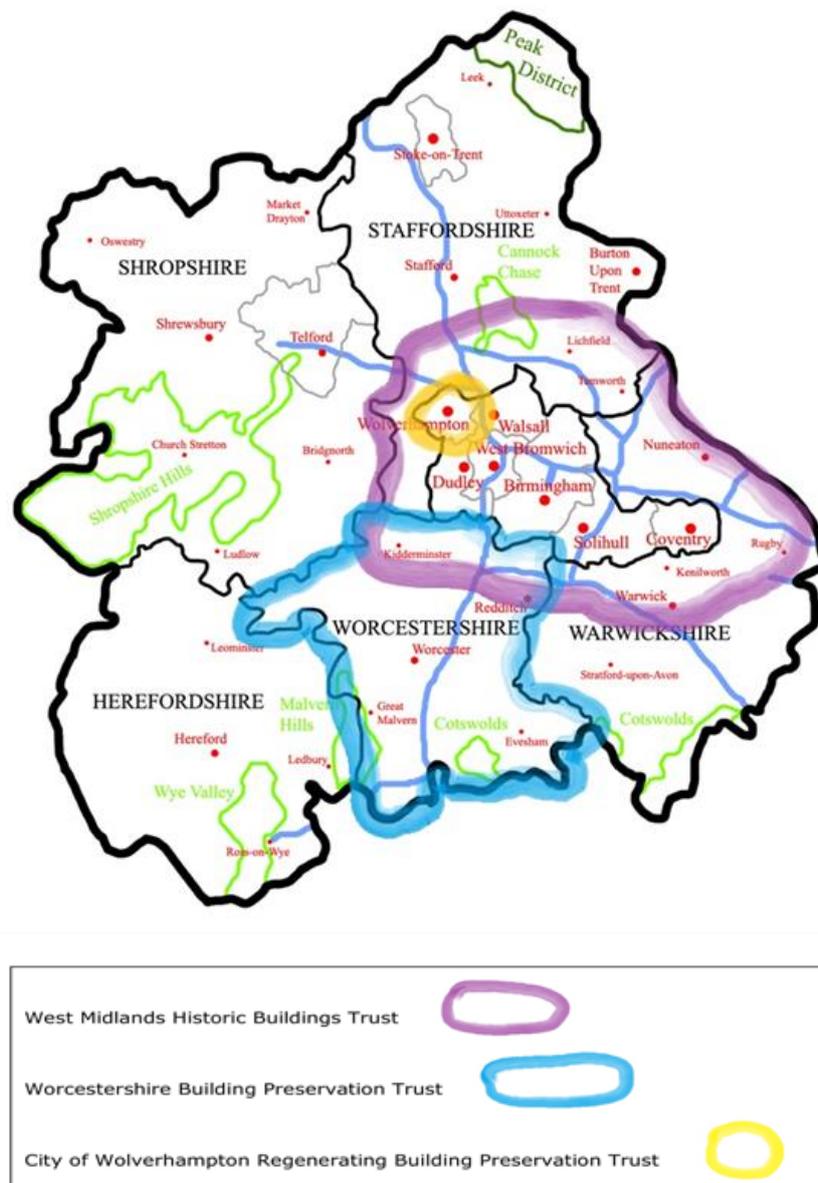
The City of Wolverhampton Regenerating Buildings Preservation Trust was established in 2002 covering the area in and around the City of Wolverhampton. To date the Trust has completed one rescue project at 12 George Street Wolverhampton and secured the installation of protective railing around the Grade II listed war memorial in Heath Town Park, Wolverhampton.

In 2009 the Trust also took possession of documents and artefacts related to Weller Associates, a prominent local architectural firm that designed a number of large houses for prosperous clients in the Arts and Crafts style at the turn of the 19th / 20th centuries. The Trust is sponsoring research to establish Weller Associates work in context, in particular in the Arts & Crafts Movement, and to promote the work of the practice to a wider audience.

The 3 Trusts have a supporters group, membership of which is open to anyone with an interest in safeguarding historic buildings. A range of activities are organised to encourage people to get involved with their built heritage, including: a regular newsletter; specialist talks, events and visits to historic buildings; arranging public access (as appropriate) to buildings before, during and after repair; commissioning and publishing research into historic buildings; encouraging the involvement of schools and colleges in conservation projects; and disseminating information via the Trusts' website.

## Our purpose

We have estimated that there are likely to be in excess of 500 listed buildings at risk across our combined area of interest. The figure may well be higher depending on how you might define 'at risk'. Our purpose is to act as a champion for historic buildings at risk and seek, by whatever means possible, to rescue them from decay or demolition. We can take direct action by acquiring and managing building conservation projects ourselves or undertake studies that demonstrate to others that a solution can be found. We can also offer advice and support to those seeking to rescue a building at risk. Ultimately our purpose is to highlight heritage at risk and find solutions.



Map showing the areas in which we operate within the wider West Midlands Region.

## Our Achievements

The 3 Trusts have a consistent record of delivering high quality conservation projects involving the rescue of historic, normally statutory listed, buildings at risk. Recent examples of completed projects include:



A Georgian townhouse at 12 George Street, Wolverhampton (2002) – CWRBPT



Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapels (now Stourbridge area Register Office) (2016) - WMHBT



The former Victorian office building of The Harris and Pearson Company, Brierley Hill (2003) - WMHBT



18th century Weavers' Cottages in the Horsefair, Kidderminster (2017) - WBPT

## Our Values

The 3 Trusts take pride in adhering to the highest standards during the design and delivery stages of each project employing architectural practices specialising in historic building work and specialist conservation contractors. Our projects are frequently short-listed for or in receipt of local and nationally recognised awards.

Historic buildings form key components and important landmarks within communities. Whilst the fundamental aim of the 3 Trusts is to continue to act as a 'safety net' for historic buildings at risk we also believe that people value their heritage and that we should do our best to connect with them and enhance wider appreciation of the historic environment by providing opportunities for active participation in the work we do. The 3 Trusts uphold the

view that the preservation of such assets is a responsibility of this generation, acting as custodians, to pass on for the benefit of the next. This gives our work added value and significance for the future.

### **How we work**

The 3 Trusts have a Charity Board currently made up of 15 Trustees. Trustees are expected to attend Council of Management (Board) evening meetings every 2 months and the 3 Trusts AGMs. The time commitment includes reading meetings papers and, where appropriate, Trustees might occasionally represent the 3 Trusts at events and meetings with other organisations. Trustees are also expected to contribute their expertise to relevant working parties and sub-committees. Time commitment will vary according to any specific role or special interest.

At the moment the Trusts employ no staff directly. A lot of work is undertaken by Trustees and supporters on a voluntary basis. We are very much a hands-on organisation. We do employ professional teams to deliver and manage projects but we encourage our Trustees to make the most of the opportunity to take an active role in the identification and implementation of projects and community engagement activities.

### **Role of Trustees**

Trustees will normally be appointed initially for a period of 3 years but may stand for re-appointment should they wish to do so and subject to agreement.

Trustees have ultimate responsibility for the operation of the 3 Trusts and are collectively responsible for its governance and ensuring the charity complies with all legal and regulatory requirements. As such applicants are required to have an understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship and meet the legal requirements for becoming a company director. The Charity Commission publication 'The Essential Trustee – What You Need To Know' provides further information regarding the responsibilities of charity trustees. <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/detailed-guidance/trustees-staff-and-volunteers/theessential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3/>

Trustees are unpaid and are not entitled to receive any payment out of the charity's funds, other than reasonable 'out of pocket' expenses to be agreed in advance where necessary.

Trustees will be required to provide information for the 3 Trusts Register of Interests and sign a code of conduct.

### **Our current trustees**

Sue Whitehouse - Chairman  
Ed Barron – Vice Chairman  
Robin Seller - Treasurer  
Peter Arnold – Assistant Secretary  
Steve Mason – Membership Secretary  
Nick Hogben – Newsletter Editor  
Philip Adams – Events Co-ordinator

Katherine Andrew  
Mark Balkham  
David Bills MBE  
Nigel Brown  
Nicolas Crombie  
Andy Foster  
Nick Joyce  
Jayne Pilkington

## **How to Apply**

To apply for a Trustee role applicants are asked to apply in writing, detailing over no more than two A4 pages how they feel their work history, experience and interests fit with the purpose and values of the 3 Trusts and how specifically they feel they could support and enhance our work. Please also provide a current curriculum vitae.

Role descriptions for current vacancies and further information about the work of the 3 Trusts can be found on [www.wmhbt.org.uk](http://www.wmhbt.org.uk)

For an informal discussion about the trustee role, please contact [sue.whitehouse@wmhbt.org.uk](mailto:sue.whitehouse@wmhbt.org.uk) stating which trustee role you are interested in to arrange a call back from the Chairman or another designated Trustee.

We shall aim to get back to applicants within 3 weeks to arrange for interviews.

Should you wish to post your application, please send it to: WMHBT, Adam House, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, Stourbridge DY10 2SH.

Registered Charity Numbers: 516158, 214258 and 1093354

Company Registration Numbers: 1876294, 837970 and 4347006