



NEWSLETTER

International National Trust Organisation

Working Holidays special

News from INTO and its members

INTO now has 66 member organisations in 48 countries.

'I'm delighted to introduce this first edition of our INTO Newsletter, especially as it is a 'Working Holiday' special. For me, the working holiday seems to sum up the values of the National Trust family: practical conservation; citizen engagement and passion for an ideal. I had the pleasure of doing a working holiday myself last year and whilst it was incredibly enjoyable – what's not to like about repairing footpaths, building a bicycle obstacle course and litter picking on the beautiful Welsh coast? – it also showed the importance of involving people in everything we do. The duty of INTO members, the children of the National Trust movement started over 120 years ago, is not just to places themselves but to the people for whom they hold value, both today and in the future.'

Catherine Leonard, INTO Secretary-General

'Conservation doesn't stop at national boundaries. We are all under pressure. At times like these we need good networks more than ever. And the energy and dynamism of the voluntary sector is key. The ball is in our court.'

INTO Chair Fiona Reynolds'
WORLD HERITAGE DAY SPEECH, 18 APRIL 2016

INTRODUCTION

We'd like to thank you to be part of the family of global National Trusts. You will find here a few examples of how INTO members are helping to preserve our common heritage. We hope you will find it informative and inspirational.

Please don't hesitate to share your ideas and experiences. We all need to learn from each other.

History of the National Trust movement and its social origins

The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty is one of the UK's largest charities. It was founded on 12 January 1895 by Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Hardwicke Rawnsley in response to the impact of industrialisation of the environment and on the quality of people's lives. The Trust was created 'for the benefit of the nation' because the founders believed that everyone should have access to places of beauty and inspiration regardless their social class.

The first practical step was a letter that Octavia Hill sent to Robert Hunter in 1884. She wanted to know if there was any legal way to preserve permanently a garden in Deptford in London. Hunter replied that the legislation simply didn't exist. Then, they started to think about different ways and means to do that job and it took 10 years to turn it into a reality. The National Trust purchased its first house for £10 in 1896.



Octavia Hill

3 December 1838 –
13 August 1912

Octavia was the third daughter of merchant James Hill and his third wife, Caroline Southwood Smith. She received no formal schooling as her mother educated the family at home. By 1840, James was bankrupt and Caroline brought up her children alone in Finchley, London.

At 14 years of age, Octavia started managing toy making at the Ladies Guild, a craft workshop for unskilled women and girls from a Ragged school. At the same time, she was mixing with the intellectual elite.

Then, she began her most significant work in housing management, finding and improving housing stock for the poor. Over the years her influence spread and she campaigned hard against building on existing suburban woodlands. She wanted her tenants, and all urban workers, to have access to open spaces. Her involvement in the Open Spaces movement led to the foundation of the National Trust.



Alfriston Clergy House, the first property of the National Trust
©National Trust Images/John Miller

National Trust's Working Holidays

The National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Island offers a varied programme of working holidays including short stays, youth discovery or family holidays, all of which provide opportunities to acquire new skills, make new friends and have a good time, while helping the National Trust to preserve properties and landscapes.

People can spend nice and useful holidays at low cost. Activities are varied as well, such as construction, gardening, farming, cleaning beaches or helping with the smooth-running of an event; so many ways to participate in the work of the National Trust and to get new experiences. Another great way to get people involved in heritage conservation!

For more information please visit: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/working-holidays>



Rempart Anniversary



We want to wish a Happy Birthday to Rempart that celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. 50 years of actions in favour of heritage, individuals and civic engagement. We are delighted to count you as a member!

Rempart is a union of 170 non-profit French organisations promoting heritage conservation. Thanks to that union, they can discuss issues relating to their activities and share experiences. To celebrate its anniversary and pay tribute to all those who have contributed to its success, Rempart has launched a crowdfunding campaign to create an exhibition and a book which give voices to volunteers, charities and other partners.

For more information please visit: <https://dartagnans.fr/fr/projects/rempart-50-ans/campaign>

Volunteer Workcamps

Each year, Rempart organises many 'chantiers' throughout France and abroad. The purpose of these working holidays is to preserve, restore and bring back to life military, civil, religious, industrial and natural heritage, using varied techniques as masonry, dry wall construction, stone-cutting, carpentry, roofing, stained glass, etc.

The various associations endeavour to rediscover, preserve and transmit traditional techniques and local know-how. Volunteers can be from all over the world. Usually they need to be 18 years old and over but there is no upper age limit.

For some offers please visit: <https://intoorg.org/23151>

International Workcamps

Every summer, Rempart association members host thousands of young people who help restore French architectural and natural heritage. These volunteers come from all over the world to spend their holidays in a useful way. It is also a good opportunity to discover France and its heritage.

Rempart is developing its activities on an international scale, and organises work camps with its foreign partners in Spain, Italia, Portugal, Germany, Poland, Sweden, England, China, Romania, Algeria, Tunisia, Canada and the USA. Rempart is always looking for new volunteers and partners to develop its activities and exchanges so don't hesitate to visit the website or contact the organisation if you're interested!



SUMMER
2016

- > Workcamps for teens and for adults
- > Technical training sessions
- > Cultural activities

Volunteer
WORKCAMPS

Enjoy holidays anyone
can afford



www.rempart.com

Rempart 'Chantiers', By Noémie Caillat

My story with Rempart began in spring 2014. I was thinking of doing a 'chantier' since I was at University, to get a new experience and to contribute to heritage preservation. Some of my friends assured me that it was a great experience, so I took the plunge.

Rempart offers a wide range of 'chantiers' all over France, then I decided to select an interesting heritage site in a nice area that I wanted to visit. Thus I achieved my first working holiday at the medieval Castle of Montalet in the South of France. I notably learnt stone cutting, how to rebuild a bulwark using medieval techniques and how to renovate a wall while avoiding water infiltration. For me, who was studying architectural heritage, it was a very good way to discover the practical aspect of my subject of study. But it was also the occasion to meet many different people sharing similar interests both other young Rempart's volunteers and people who lead the restorations mainly retirees and all volunteers, very involved in this project.

My first 'chantier' was so wonderful that I repeated the experience the next year at the Calmont d'Olt Castle in the Aveyron department. It was a very good opportunity to spend useful holidays and take a break from the writing of my Master Thesis. It's a really good feeling to get involved in heritage conservation. I did masonry again and for the first time I took part in an archeology project. It was amazing as we found several skeletons on the site, which appeared to be part of a Merovingian necropolis.

During both, I learnt a lot, I enjoyed an awesome group life and I discovered the surrounding areas through several visits and activities. Working holidays are wonderful cultural, professional and social experiences and I would recommend them to everybody. It's a very good way to involve people, and especially young people, in heritage preservation.



Rebuilding of a wall at Montalet Castle and excavations at Calmont d'Olt Castle



Calmont d'Olt Castle during a working holiday
Excavation on the left, stone cutting on the right

'Service Civique' for INTO

These experiences led me to start a 'Service Civique' - a French voluntary commitment to serve the general interests - for INTO, through Rempart Union. That is a good opportunity for me to get involved in heritage issues in a different way and to discover several organisations all around the world, starting with the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Island as I am based in its head office. For six months, I shall endeavour to support communication activity, to make French translations, to assist with fundraising initiatives, to strengthen relationships with members and any other tasks I would be able to carry out.

Erasmus Heritage Leaders Project

In October 2015, Rempart organised an international seminar focused on the training of working holidays' facilitators/leaders. The goals were to insure a better recognition for them, encourage their international mobility and share practices with European partners.

With the support of the European Programme Erasmus+ and the Culture and Communication Ministry, the Erasmus Heritage Leaders meeting involved exchanges between 6 partners: the National Trust (England, Wales and Northern Island), Palombar (Portugal), Dala Foundation (Romania), Din l'Art Helwa (Malt), Gruppo Archeologico Romano (Italy) and 4 Grada Dragodid (Croatia). Together, these organisations mobilise more than 5000 working holidays' volunteers each year and hundreds of facilitators.

Building a Sustainable Future

Another Erasmus+ Project took place between the 28th of June and the 12th of July in Uva, Portugal. Over 15 days, this project “Building a Sustainable Future: Youth and European Traditional Construction Techniques” (BaSuf), gathered young Croatians, French, Romanians and Portuguese to share their countries’ approaches to traditional construction. The main goal was to highlight the importance of European traditional construction techniques – not only as heritage, but also as a source of sustainable solutions for contemporary constructions. Thus, engaging young people was an obvious choice, as they are the ones who will build the future. It’s essential that they are aware of construction issues and that they have an active role in heritage conservation.

This exchange was based on the renovation project of the ‘Curralada’; a traditional house in Uva. The local association, Palombar, plans to refurbish the ‘Curralada’ to create, amongst other things, a conference room, a shop, accommodation for volunteers and other facilities. The programme was composed of plenary work sessions, practical on-site workshops and visits to discover the regional and traditional architecture. During the exchange, the volunteers, including architects, reflected on the project and made plans. They also started the renovations. In particular, they worked on the wood door, the entrance floor, plastering and dry stone walling, a good opportunity for everyone to share their knowledge and learn from other people!

The project’s results were shared during Palombar’s 4th Sustainability and Traditional Architecture Meeting which took place between the 8th and the 10th of July and, finally, an e-book is expected soon. It will explain the project and the different traditional techniques - seen during the BaSuf exchange - that might be source of sustainable solutions for constructions.



The BaSuf team working on the project in the ‘Curralada’



Left to right: Working Holidays in Romania, Czech Republic and Slovakia

INTO Working Holidays

For the fifth consecutive year, INTO offers a selection of very popular overseas working holidays. The number of these holidays grows every year as there were 4 on the first year whereas we organise 18 of them in 2016. In total, it represents about 55 holidays in different countries all over the world whether in Spain, Czech Republic, Japan or China.

This year our offers are varied such as painting restoration or traditional blacksmithing in Romania, saving renaissance treasures in Slovakia, archaeology in Spain, stone masonry at a historic alpine fort in France or Temple restoration in China. We expect to develop this programme during the coming years.

For more information please visit: <https://into.org/programmes/working-holidays>
or send an email at: Julie.Thompson@nationaltrust.org.uk

Working Holiday in Slovakia, by Penny Banks

"I've done several National Trust working holidays in the past but the manual work and communal living is getting slightly beyond me so when the latest brochure arrived, I was intrigued to see the new 'International Working Holidays' section. Canada – yes please – oh, 18 to 25 yrs. France – oh yes, I speak French, but this was restoring a ruined chateau and sleeping in tents – I've done that and, no thank you. Ah, Slovakia wanted English-speaking guides! Right up my street. No, I don't speak Slovakian but then, they did want English-speaking guides.

And this is how I ended up in Liptovský Hradok for a most memorable and happy holiday.

After a long journey via Vienna and Bratislava, we were met at the railway station by Michaela Kubikova, Director of the Slovakian National Trust, and escorted to Castle Hradok, or Grand Castle as it is known. The owner, Mrs Machova, was away but her daughter was in charge. Ria Machova is one of the new Slovaks, a graduate in law and very modern in outlook, dress, etc. Ria had grown up with the hotel being transformed from a ruin to a viable enterprise, and was very helpful.

Communication difficulties aside, my fellow volunteer Maria and I used notes from previous working holiday participants to prepare our tour and one day, Mrs Machova, who had arrived back, came to find us to say that two English ladies had just booked in on a tour. We readied ourselves and Michaela – as this was an unusual thing – came to see who they were as well. They turned out to be the British Ambassador and her mother!

Our time went very quickly and we made good friends amongst the many people we met. An overnight stop in Vienna on the way home and we were soon back in UK, but I look forward to returning to Slovakia."



Rempart/Ruan Yisan Heritage Foundation Working Holiday in 2011

Experience in China

During the month of August 2012, 8 British and 8 Chinese young people came together to assist with the conservation of an old hospital site, previously a private residence, in a small water town called Tongli. Callum McCaffrey, an Apprentice Joiner from Northern Ireland was part of the team. It was a good opportunity to share practices and learn about the fascinating differences in their culture.

Initiated by the Ruan Yisan Heritage Foundation and INTO and generously sponsored by the British Council, this exchange enabled all those involved to discover the different ways conservation organisations see a historic building and thus find out more about world heritage. In particular, they tried to understand why a Chinese building looks quite new after renovation whereas that kind of restoration seems unthinkable in the UK, where the age and character of a building must be apparent. Callum thinks it might be the result of the uniform structures and similar style in China; then the Chinese are able to bring a building back to what it was like originally.

“All in all I had a great time in Tongli and learnt a huge amount not just from the project and the work, but from the people I worked with, people from all different backgrounds and from all over the world coming together to share skills and experience.”

Callum McCaffrey

The local people are curious!



Czech National Trust Pilot Project

The first property of the Czech National Trust officially opened on the 11th of June. We want to congratulate the CNT team and wish them all the best for the next stage. INTO has been involved with the CNT for the past five years in different ways like early discussions about how a National Trust might work, adding the CNT's working holidays to our programme, the attendance of Irena Edwards (chair), Eva Žalmanová (Director) and Martin Krcma (member of the Board) at ICNT 16 in Cambridge and an INTO small grant for the pilot project.

History of a Trust

Irena Edwards left the Communist Czechoslovakia in the 1980s to make her home in England where she discovered the National Trust. She thought this was just what the Czech Republic needed with its 40,000 heritage sites. She helped found the Czech National Trust in 2014 and thanks to generous donations, raised the money to run it for the first three years.

The pilot project was restoring the tomb and chapel of Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach – a feminist, writer and philanthropist – but also clearing 2 hectares of derelict land that used to be a grand park. Thanks to Irena's work and with the help of working holidays' volunteers combined with the involvement of the local community, the site is returning to its former glory. The opening on the 11th of June marked the end of the first phase of the project.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.czechnationaltrust.org/memorial-to-marie-von-ebner-eschenbach/>



Small Grant Programme

Grants can be up to £1,500 and are open to INTO members in good standing. Projects might include formal training for staff, developing a community event, or publishing an informational leaflet. 50% match funding is required, which can include "in kind" resources of staff time or other organisational resources.

Last year, INTO awarded Small Grants to the National Trust of Zimbabwe and the Portuguese National Trust. The former was a Cultural Education Heritage Project at the Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition engaging local communities and schools in practical craft skill projects, such as sculpture, spinning, weaving and pottery. The latter a schools project aimed at bringing children closer to nature and teaching them to value their environment – cultural and natural.



Ndoli jowej and elders, Moyambawo, Kori Chiefdom, Moyamba District
©Sierra Leone Monuments and Relics Commission

This year, we're very pleased to make a Small Grant Award to the Sierra Leone Monuments and Relics Commission, our newest members. The INTO grant will support an awareness raising campaign on Bunce Island, the site of European slave trade operations in the 17th to 19th Centuries.

Bunce Island sent as many as 20% of its captives to the North American Colonies, particularly South Carolina and Georgia where rice was grown. The British parliament finally outlawed the Slave Trade in 1807, and the slave trading operations on Bunce Island came to a halt following the Abolition Act. The Island was proclaimed Sierra Leone's first National Monument in 1948 which gives the Monuments and Relics Commission mandate over its preservation, protection and management.

The Island is exposed to numerous risks from both natural, such as floods and rain, and human made threats – pollution, erosion, material decay, development, inappropriate site management, and looting. The project seeks to combat these risks and negligence by increasing awareness of the importance of preserving the island and the potential socio-economic benefits the communities will derive from the island if preserved.

It includes Training of Trainers Workshops, printing of posters, Focus Group Discussions and Radio and TV Discussions. The Commission intends to work with 40 youths drawn from the three neighbouring communities for the project implementation. It is envisaged that these 40 youths will be fully abreast of heritage management issues after this exercise, and that they will serve as agents of change to go back into their communities and share this newly acquired information with their peers and community people.

*The International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) is a non-profit organisation registered as a limited company in England and Wales (No 06718966) and a registered charity (No 1128224).
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