



The Whitworth

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Trustee Information Pack



The Whitworth Centre Ltd (Registered Charity No 1122436)

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Station Road, Darley Dale, Matlock, DE4 2EQ

Welcome

Welcome and thank-you for your interest in joining the Whitworth Trust, the charity that operates the Whitworth Centre for benefit of the people of Darley Dale and neighbouring parishes.

Our Grade 2 listed building and 10 acres of beautiful parkland are steeped in Victorian industrial history. Lady Louisa Whitworth, wife of the industrialist Sir Joseph Whitworth, had a vision of creating a place where people could meet for leisure, recreational and educational purposes. The Whitworth is unique in that it is the only surviving Whitworth foundation that continues to operate under the terms of its original endowment.

Today the Whitworth is the heart of the Darley Dale community, offering a public park with sports fields and playground and hosting a number of groups and clubs. We run the Terrace Café in the building and host Darley Dale Town Council. The versatile ballroom, hall and two other meetings rooms host a wide range of events from weddings to workshops, yoga classes to children's parties.

The Whitworth Trust is dependent on the support of Darley Dale Town Council, local people and businesses. Every penny that comes from the sale of an ice cream in the cafe, or a donation made to us, is reinvested in the building and park. Proud of our heritage, we are looking to the future to continue to realise the vision of our founders and meet the needs of the local community today.

You would be joining at a significant moment for the Trust, as we focus on the difference we can make and securing the legacy of the Grade II listed building and park. Our board of trustees and staff team are diverse but we all share a passion for the Whitworth, what it has given us and our families, and the important role it plays in community life.

I hope this information pack helps you find out more about joining us. You can find out even more about us on our [website](#) or if you'd like an informal chat about the role please contact us.

Chris Ragg

Chair of Board of Trustees

Trustee role profile

The role

Could you join our trustee board and help us to achieve our vision and ensure the long-term success of our charity?

As a trustee you'll have an essential role in achieving the sustainability and future direction of the Whitworth.

You'll contribute towards decisions to develop our charity in line with our strategy, vision and purpose. You'll also ensure our compliance with the Charity Commission and other legal and governance regulations.

You don't need to have been a trustee before or have worked for a charity. All we ask is that you are keen to learn if it's a new role to you.

Who we're looking for

We're looking for two trustees this year. We're particularly keen to hear from people who can bring skills in one or more of the following areas:

- Managing health and safety in a similar setting
- Property management, particularly of heritage buildings and parks
- Community engagement and volunteering
- Grant applications for heritage buildings

Values are important to us, so we also ask people to also bring a commitment to:

- Honesty and integrity
- Passion and ambition
- Community and the environment

We want to ensure our board is diverse and represents Darley Dale as a whole. We welcome applications from groups who are under-represented at the moment, including women, people with a disability and people of colour.

Ideally, all our trustees will live in Darley Dale or one of the surrounding villages, Matlock or Bakewell.

Board members are encouraged to serve a three-year term.

Key responsibilities – what you will be doing

As a member of the board of trustees, you'll be involved in:

Setting the Whitworth's strategic direction, setting goals/targets and monitoring progress

- Ensuring the effective and efficient administration and financial stability of the Whitworth and its assets
- Joining a sub-committee or working group of the board based on your skills and experience and contribute to delivering identified priorities
- Ensuring The Whitworth complies with its Memorandum of Association, charity law, company law and other relevant legislation or regulations
- Contributing to the appointment, support and monitoring of senior staff
- Safeguarding the reputation and values of the Whitworth
- Building closer relationships with the Town Council and other partners and donors
- Occasionally representing the Whitworth at events and acting as a spokesperson

There are many benefits to becoming a trustee - people say it's helped them to learn new skills that complemented their professional life, helped them with future aspirations and improved their confidence.

Skills and experience – what you will need to bring with you

You don't need all of these skills and experiences to be a trustee, and we welcome people who haven't been a trustee before.

To enjoy and be successful in this role, in addition to your specialist knowledge, we expect you'll have:

- The ability to operate impartially and objectively
- Commitment to Whitworth's vision, values and strategy
- Big-picture thinking ability combined with ability to get to the heart of an issue
- The ability to network and build relationships at all levels
- The commitment to devote the necessary time and effort needed for this role
- Excellent communication skills along with tact and diplomacy
- An understanding of the responsibilities of charity trustees

The trustee board currently meets monthly for two hours, often with members of staff. This usually takes place on a mid-week evening at the Whitworth. We have a lively Trustees WhatsApp group and are in regular contact by email throughout the month.

In addition to board meetings, you will be able to join sub-groups/committees, dependent on your skills, interests and availability. This may include taking a lead on a particular area on behalf of the board.

Our commitment to diversity

At the Whitworth we believe it is our responsibility to strive for a society where we can all be ourselves and feel able to reach our full potential, whatever our identity and background.

We value all the people who work and volunteer here, and we want everyone to be able to reach their potential with us. This means listening to and understanding people's views, creating an environment where everyone is treated with respect and able to contribute fully.

We want to ensure our team is diverse and represents Darley Dale as a whole. We welcome applications from groups who are under-represented at the moment, including women, people with a disability and people of colour.

How to apply

If you have any questions or would like an informal chat with us please do get in touch with at enquiries@thewhitworth.org.

If you'd like to apply, please send a current CV and a personal statement outlining your motivation for joining the Whitworth board to enquiries@thewhitworth.org.uk.

Once we receive your application, two members of the board will review your application against the requirements of the role. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an informal interview to enable us to get to know you, and vice versa.

All appointments are made by the board of trustees at their monthly meeting.

We will review applications on a rolling basis.

Thank-you for your interest in a trustee role at the Whitworth Centre and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

