

Devonshire Educational Trust

2014 annual review



The Devonshire Educational Trust (DET) is a charity driven to provide diverse and accessible educational opportunities and activities throughout the Devonshire Group

The charity was established in 2004 to enhance the educational experiences of children and young people visiting the Chatsworth Estate. Here, we are proud to be able to offer a diverse range of opportunities to learn about matters of historical, artistic and architectural interest as well as to find out more about the countryside and rural landscape. Through guided, self-guided and specialist education packages the DET aims to provide quality education that reaches all backgrounds and abilities.



DET Trustees

- The Duke of Devonshire
- Lord Burlington
- Peter Bostock
- Dianne Jeffrey
- Emma Sayer

DET Employees

- Sara Main, Education Development Manager
- Harriet Hempshall, Education Officer
- Kate Burt, Heritage Lottery Fund Project Lead



Chatsworth House, Garden, Farmyard and adventure playground



Educational visitor numbers

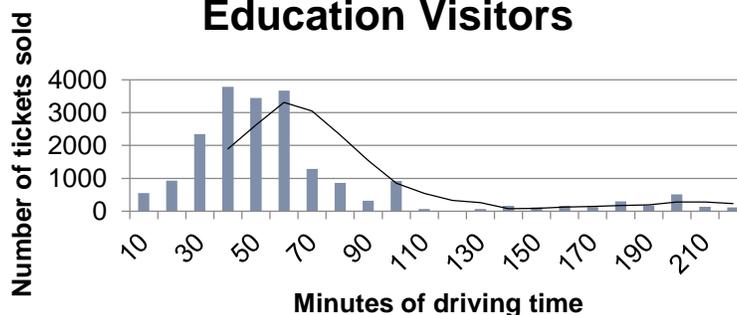


In 2014 Chatsworth received 23,732 educational visitors across the house, garden, farmyard and adventure playground. 68% of educational visitors chose to make a self-guided visit to the attractions. To support such visits we have downloadable resource packs and seasonal trails as well as our friendly and knowledgeable staff located throughout the house and within the farmyard.

Visits to the attractions can support a range of subjects within formal learning, including: history, art, business, leisure and tourism. Educational visitors range from pre-school pupils through to Higher Education and Postgraduate students.

The majority of education visitors travel from within a socio-economically diverse 60 minute radius of Chatsworth, with the average drive time being 56 minutes. However there are educational groups willing to travel for up to 210 minutes, as well as those on residential visits within the local area.

Trend in Drive Times for Education Visitors



'Some students had never been out of Sheffield before. So it was a day of gaining new experiences for them. Seeing Chatsworth and the garden, and getting a bit of history, it gives them a different perspective. It opened their eyes to a different world.'



Tours and activities

Across the house, garden and farmyard a range of activities continue to be offered. The house remains popular with pupils from primary schools through to university students, with 14% of house visitors taking the introductory house explorers tour or the business studies, leisure and tourism focused tours. The house explorers tour offers links to history or art, with our annual schedule of events and exhibitions providing a continually changing area of study to suit a range of educational audiences.



'The opportunity to explore the collection in the context of the house and garden made it come alive'.



'The students learnt a lot from the guides and for some it was the first time being close to farm animals'.

The farmyard and adventure playground continues to offer a range of curriculum relevant tours and activities, linking the farm animals and their lifecycles with the animal products we use and eat. 63% of educational visitors to the farmyard choose an additional tour or activity, with the farmyard also being popular with repeat visitors. Within the Christmas season the farmyard nativity performances for school groups continue to be very popular, creating 44% of educational visits in November and December across the attractions.

Within 2014 an outdoor education programme has also been piloted utilising the special landscape of the garden, woodland and wider estate. The programme links the rich and varied woodland and garden to the science curriculum, focussing on animal habitats, plant lifecycles, plant and tree identification and sustainably managing the estate. The sessions have been booked to include admission to the garden or farmyard, with a notable 22% increase in education visitors to the garden.



'The Guides were very helpful and informative. It supported the work we have been doing about identifying trees, habitats and ecology'.

Special projects

Continuing our offering of inspiring artist led events, we were delighted to work with Michael-Craig Martin. The exclusive event for Further and Higher Education pupils was attended by 52 students from 5 institutions. Students were initially given the opportunity to explore Michael's curation of the visitor route, followed by an inspiring presentation from Craig-Martin himself in which he considered his career, materials and techniques and inspirations. Students then toured the exhibition of Craig-Martin's contemporary sculpture in the garden.



The Hartington fund has enabled us to financially support visits to the Chatsworth estate for almost 600 educational visitors from areas of socio-economic deprivation. The fund has supported a range of visits from primary and secondary schools, to young carers and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) support groups. Such visits have ranged from funding self-guided visits to the house, garden or farmyard to more targeted activities such as exploring the Devonshire Collection or the landscape of the estate.



Through our continuing partnership with Derbyshire County Council we have hosted three events as part of the Devonshire Project, working with looked after children. The events have included activities designed to promote literacy skills with pre-school aged children in the farmyard; building dens and shelters as part of a family learning day within the garden; and an exciting opportunity for GCSE students to shadow Chatsworth staff across the estate.

We are also proud to continue to support the Roche Court Educational Trust's ARTiculation prize. Our ARTiculation Discovery Day events for GCSE pupils provide a quirky opportunity designed to stimulate students' interest and understanding of art while developing individual thinking, observation, research and language skills, culminating in the opportunity to interview the Duke of Devonshire. In 2014 we have held two ARTiculation Discovery Days attended by seven local schools. Where possible, follow up activities have also been funded through the Hartington fund providing further opportunities to explore the Devonshire Collection.



In addition to the rich and varied special projects outlined above, we have continued to build and develop partnerships with a range of local schools and educational institutions. Teachers’



preview events focusing on the farmyard, outdoor education programme and Sotheby’s Beyond Limits exhibition have enabled us to promote the varied educational offering at Chatsworth to a range of audiences. We have also visited a number of local schools, colleges and universities, as well as educational conferences to

promote the range of valuable opportunities on offer at Chatsworth. Partnerships have also been created through our displays of pupils’ artwork in the Carriage House restaurant, displays of scarecrows in the garden and special events such as schools attending the Queen’s visit or viewing the Christmas decorations.

We have continued to work in partnership on a number of special projects with local universities, offering a variety of specialist education tours covering topics ranging from the Chatsworth Masterplan to sustainability and green tourism at Chatsworth.



‘If Chatsworth didn’t exist we would be significantly impoverished in terms of the research projects we could put together.’

Masters students from the University of Sheffield have had the opportunity to work alongside the Chatsworth Archives department on a six month research project which included undertaking oral history interviews with our longer serving members of staff and estate tenants. In recognition of this project and the ongoing partnership, the

Collections department were presented with the 2014 Impact and Innovation Award for Cultural Impact from the University of Sheffield.



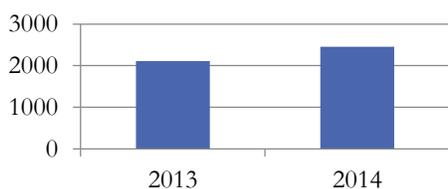
BOLTON ABBEY

Bolton Abbey

The educational offering on the North Yorkshire Estate consists largely of self-guided primary school visits enjoying the outdoor learning environment. Visits range from pre-schools exploring the outdoors to Further Education students focusing on history, conservation or tourism. For such visits a small charge is made of £1 per pupil.



Visitor numbers



Working in close partnership with the church has allowed the estate to offer a valuable cross curricular experience and for schools to increase the length and value of their visit. A number of downloadable teachers' resource packs are also available via the Bolton Abbey website to encourage educational groups to fully engage with the setting. The success of this has been reflected in a 10% increase in education visitors to the estate in 2014.

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Within 2014 an emphasis has also been placed on outdoor family learning through the creation of a 'Wellie Walk' activity. With the aim of encouraging families to engage with the estate, particularly the woodland. The 'Wellie Walk' guide suggests a number of child friendly activities along a circular route, through which both children and adults can engage with the surroundings.



Looking forwards

2014 has seen the beginning of the provision of a new education space at Chatsworth. Located with access to the gardens and woodland, the Stickyard will provide an exciting base for outdoor education activities, as well as our ongoing work with socio-economically disadvantaged groups. The versatile space will also provide the opportunity to broaden our offering of family learning activities. The building itself has had input from the National Heritage Training Group, who have worked alongside pupils from Tibshelf Community School to design and construct a heritage skills inspired wall panel, central to the building. It is hoped that this partnership can be replicated with similar projects as the development gets underway.



‘It was important that they had the opportunity to go somewhere and experience something that they hadn’t before ... It broadens their perspective on life in general. It encourages them to visit other places. Whether it’s getting them to consider other areas, they’re slowly encouraged to think beyond the [local town]’.

The activities on offer across the house, gardens and farmyard will remain at the forefront of Chatsworth’s educational offering, with a number of teachers’ preview events already planned to encourage our educational groups to get the most from their visits. Similarly, our special projects are set to continue, with dates set for the Devonshire Project and a number of funded visits planned through the Hartington fund.

In addition to our ARTiculation Discovery Day programme at Chatsworth, within 2015 the first event will be hosted at Bolton Abbey. The day will provide a truly exceptional experience as students will be given the

opportunity to take a close look into the Hall and its collection. Students will again study four pieces from the collection and will have the chance to interview the Duke of Devonshire.

2015 will also see the launch of a project commemorating the anniversaries of the 1st and 2nd World Wars. Our Legacies of War project will consider the effect of both wars on the estate and its’ staff. As well as a range of relevant information and interpretation available onsite, the project will include an extensive outreach programme, focusing on secondary schools.