



The Friends **of Czech Heritage** *to serve the people today*



www.czechfriends.net

The Friends of Czech Heritage is a British charity, registered by Charities Commission No 1127919, with its registered address at 3 Yew Tree Cottage, The Street, Ripe, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 6BD. We campaign for the restoration and enhancement of the cultural heritage in buildings, gardens and parks and their contents and in objects of historic, scientific, aesthetic or social value in the Czech Republic.

We provide grants for heritage projects, organise volunteer working parties, promote Czech heritage through education and encourage similar voluntary movements in the Czech Republic.

We select our projects on their heritage merits with the aim of keeping them relevant to the community and to serve the people today.

What We Do

Since our foundation, we have sponsored some thirty projects throughout the country, in co-operation with local partners. New projects are under consideration. We have organised 15 working parties of British and Czech volunteers to work on heritage sites in the Czech Republic and have another three planned for 2017. We have contributed over 500 'man days' of volunteer work at the Château of Červený Dvůr alone.



Our conservation projects 2008-2017



Since 2008 we have carried out a programme of education and promotion for Czech heritage by organising 50 events in London, including presentations, talks, visits, wine tastings and exhibitions. Our events are presented by experts on topics ranging from leading Czech personalities to modern urbanism, with the cooperation of the Czech and Slovak Embassies. We promote the exchange of heritage expertise between the UK and the Czech Republic. We organise guided tours of Czech heritage sites.

We publish a regular *Newsletter*, which deals with heritage issues in depth, and our website and Facebook pages carry up-to-date information. We cooperate with other organisations to encourage conservation and to promote Czech heritage. We helped to launch the Czech National Trust in 2013 in the Czech Republic.

We are able to give small grants to a variety of projects and welcome applications from owners of historic buildings, gardens and parks in the Czech Republic. These can be privately-owned, or owned by the state, community groups, church or municipality.



The Czech Republic, situated in the heart of Europe, and comprising the historic regions of Bohemia, Moravia and Czech Silesia has a cultural legacy of international significance, with twelve UNESCO-listed sites.

This small country has the largest concentration of great houses and palaces in Europe, built by Czech Renaissance magnates and the wealthy nobility of the Habsburg Empire, while the castles that are such a dramatic feature of the landscape reflect Bohemia's power and influence in the Middle Ages.



Major scientific and cultural achievements followed, and in the 19th century the Czech lands became a hub of industrialisation.

Independent and democratic Czechoslovakia built on these traditions and became a magnet for modernist architecture and arts and a leading country in modern urbanism.



All of these periods and their associated buildings, artefacts and gardens fall within our remit of preserving and enhancing Czech natural and cultural heritage.

Photos clockwise for the top: The Cathedral of St Barbara in Kutná Hora in cooperation with Czech Tourism, photographer Libor Sváček; Villa Tugendhat, Brno, photograph S. Conlin; Masaryk Railway Station, Prague, dating from the year 1845, copyright Sokoljan



Barbara Peacock and Ian Kennaway

Our History

The charity was founded by Barbara Peacock, an architectural historian, and Ian Kennaway, formerly Director of the Regions at the National Trust. Both had been aware for some years of the astonishing variety, quality and sheer number of houses that existed in the Czech lands, and they had met many curators and owners who were immensely enthusiastic about their properties, and who were determined to restore the damage of the past.

The first steering group meeting took place in September 2006, at which the two founders discussed the way forward with people who had visited the Czech lands and wished to contribute to the work. The launch of The Friends took place on the 8th October 2007 at the Czech Embassy, hosted by the Ambassador.

Eva Jiříčná, internationally renowned architect and designer with offices in London and Prague, supported the aim and was equally keen to help preserve the architectural and artistic riches of her homeland.

“I was very moved to discover that a group of British people, with no direct links to my home country other than admiration for its beauty and historic treasures, wanted to lend a hand and make sure the future generations could enjoy and learn from our rich traditions.”



*Our patron Eva Jiříčná,
photograph copyright Matěj Slavík*

Our Governance and Organisation

Board of Trustees

Peter Jamieson MA RIBA – Chairman and Projects Coordinator

Peter is an architect and former founding partner in the firm of MacCormac Jamieson Prichard. He trained at Cambridge and London universities and has worked in private practice for over forty years. Since retirement he has assisted at the RIBA Drawings collection, The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and is a member of the advisory committee for the Diocese of Southwark.

Contact: grants@czechfriends.net

Ian Kennaway, Deputy Chairman and International Coordinator

Ian was a joint founder and first chairman of the Friends. Former director of the Regions for the UK National Trust. Involved with Czech heritage since 1990 when he established cooperation with the NPÚ, the Czech National Heritage Institute. Contact: ian@kennaway.net

Peter Kysel BA (Hons), CFA, ASIP - Treasurer

Peter is an investment banker and consultant and has been actively involved in the voluntary sector since 1986. Formerly a director and chairman of the British Czech and Slovak Association, InterChange Trust, The Hamden Trust and WAP Performing Arts College. Chairman of the supervisory board of the Czech National Trust.

Contact: info@czechfriends.net

Barbara Peacock - Heritage Ambassador

Barbara is an architectural historian and a lecturer for organisations such as the Art Fund, the National Trust and the National Association of Fine and Decorative Arts. She has extensive experience of the Czech Republic dating back to her first visit in 1991. She was awarded the Lifetime Achievement award by Czech Tourism in 2015. Contact: wesfasc@talk21.com

James Robertson MA, ACIS - Secretary

James has worked for many years in small business finance in the property, logistics and wine sectors. He first visited Czechoslovakia in 1974, and saw at first hand the impairment of heritage caused by years of neglect and lack of funding for maintenance. His special interest is the Czech musical tradition.

Contact: info@czechfriends.net

Charles Thomson MA (Cantab) DipEcon, MSc, Liaison with Voluntary Organisations

Charles worked for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office until he retired in 2002. He organised programmes for representatives of countries for the accession to the EU. In 2005 gained MSc in Historic Conservation from Oxford Brookes University and writes guidebooks and newsletter articles.

Contact: info@czechfriends.net

Executive Committee

includes all trustees

Jana Sommerlad MA, Press and PR Consultant – Editor

Jana has had a long career in the British publishing industry. She has also worked as a translator, interpreter and teacher, and is the editor of the Newsletter of the Friends of Czech Heritage.

Contact: janasommerlad@hotmail.com

Milena Currall BA (Hons), Membership and Events Coordinator

Milena translated various articles on architecture for promotional material aimed to attract visitors to historical places in the Czech Republic. She was also involved in co-organising events programme for RBK&C National Trust group.

Contact: milenacurrall301@btopenworld.com

Patrons

Eva Jiříčná CBE RA

Architect and interior designer, founder of Eva Jiříčná Architects, based in London, but operating internationally with associated offices in Prague. Grew up with the background of modernist traditions of Czechoslovakia of 1930s. Awarded CBE, several honorary degrees in UK, the Czech Republic, Mexico and Slovakia, honorary fellow of professional organisations in the UK and USA, elected Royal Academician.

Greg Hands, MP for Chelsea and Fulham

Developed strong interest in Eastern Europe since 1984, formerly a banker, elected MP in 2010. Served as the Chief Secretary to the Treasury until 2016, now Minister of State for International Trade, serving as number two to the Secretary of State, Liam Fox.

Consultants and Advisers

Mgr Jiřina Haningerová, Adviser and Coordinator of volunteering activities, based in Prague

Jiřina is a graduate of the Charles University's Faculty of Education. Formerly a teacher, she has worked since 2000 in the Czech National Library of Technology in Prague, with responsibilities for the international inter-library services.

Contact: j.haningerova@seznam.cz

Irena Murray-Žantovská, 20th-century Architecture

Irena is a former Banister Fletcher Librarian at the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Lorna Kerr MSc, Bookkeeper

Former management accountant in the charitable sector and local government.

Stephen Conlin MA, Design and Media

Advises on design and layout of our Newsletter, website and online communications and on marketing and publicity materials, and supervises their publication.

Your own Involvement and Help in the Preservation of Czech Heritage

Please join us as a member, a donor for our heritage projects, or a volunteer in our working parties. We should like to hear from you through info@czechfriends.net.

Our contacts are Milena Currall for subscriptions, Peter Kysel for project sponsorship, and Peter Jamieson for participation in working parties.

You can also find forms and other details on our website www.czechfriends.net

Our Project Grants

Please tell us about the cultural, historical and educational importance of your property, and the extent of public access.

Outline what funds you need and what you would wish to do with the help or money.

Grants are given subject to certain conditions, which we can forward by request.

Contact: info@czechfriends.net

Our Relations with other Voluntary Organisations



We were a founding organisation of the **Czech National Trust**,

Mlýnská brána,
Sněmovní náměstí 2/4,
767 01 Kroměříž, Czech Republic.

The CNT was established on 10.10.2013 to provide charitable services to rescue cultural and natural heritage in the Czech Republic.



Associate member of the **International National Trusts Organisation**,
20 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1 0DH.

INTO was established as in 2007 as a network of national trusts and similar non-governmental organisations from fifty countries committed to preserving cultural heritage.



Member of **Europa Nostra**,
Lange Voorhout 35,
2514 EC The Hague, Netherlands.

Established in 1963, it represents 250 member organisations, with combined membership of 5 million people, 150 associated organisations and 1500 individuals dedicated to safeguard Europe's cultural and natural heritage.



Member of the British Chamber of Commerce in the Czech Republic, founded in 1997 with the aim of supporting business interests between the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom. It also supports charity events and voluntary projects.

Our Projects



**Pheasantry,
Château of Červený Dvůr - 2008**

The gothic revival building forms an important feature in the park of the *psychiatrická léčebna* (psychiatric clinic), which occupies the château. We arranged a grant for the conservation of the roof and interior to facilitate its reuse for residential and creative activities.



**Castle of Český Krumlov,
Rococo Garden Arbour - 2009**

The 18th-century arbour is a feature in the formal garden, a part of the UNESCO World Heritage site and important visitor attraction. Our grant enabled the National Heritage Institute to obtain further funding.



**Abbey Church
at Žďár nad Sázavou,
Confessionals - 2009**

The Abbey Church, reconstructed by Santini-Aichel in the 18th century is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It was returned by the State to the



parish in 2005 and is now a vibrant focus for the community. Our grant encouraged the conservation of four confessionals.



Château of Uherčice
Baroque Allegorical Statue of
'Winter' - 2009

In the care of the National Heritage Institute the chateau was derelict in 1996. Our initial grant was made towards the long term restoration to encourage visitors and community activities.



Château of Uherčice,
Portrait of Thomas
Collalto - 2010

The 18th-century portrait is one of a number of paintings from the chateau. We intended that our grant should also encourage the conservation of other paintings in the collection.



Abbey Church at Žďár nad Sázavou,
High Altar - 2010

The conservation of the high altar followed upon the previous work to the confessional that we had supported. Our grant for the conservation work is part of our continuing support for the church community.



Château of Děčín,
Portrait of
Princess Maria Anna
von Habsburg - 2011

The chateau is owned by the municipality and open to visitors. Our grant for the conservation was also intended to encourage work on other paintings in the collection.

**Mauricovna
- the Watchman's Cottage,
Château of Červený Dvůr
- 2011 onwards**

The cottage is an important feature in the landscape park. It was a ruin, but with the help of UK volunteers over the past six years it is being restored and will become a family therapy unit for the hospital situated in the château.



**Château of Lysice,
Statue of Apollo - 2011**

Open to visitors, the château is in the care of the National Heritage Institute. The statue stands in a group at the entrance. Our grant was also intended to encourage conservation of the other statues.



**Château of Nové Město nad Metují,
Garden Restoration - 2011**

A family residence open to visitors with gardens laid out by the renowned designer Dušan Jurkovič in 1911. Our grant contributed to their extensive restoration.



**Château of Červený Dvůr
- 2013**

Volunteers have helped to re-establish features of the park for the enjoyment of the hospital patients and the local community.



**Château of Mnichovo Hradiště,
Tiled Stove - 2012**

The château, in the care of the National Heritage Institute and open to visitors, was the meeting place in 1833 of the Holy Alliance of European emperors. Our grant assisted the restoration and reopening of the museum dedicated to the event.

**Château of Uherčice,
Ceiling of the
Banqueting Hall
- 2012 to 2014**

The interior was on the point of collapse. Our substantial grant contributed towards its stabilisation. The National Heritage Institute has subsequently applied for an EU grant for further extensive conservation works to the château.



**Church of St Nicholas,
Petrovice,
stained-glass windows - 2014**

The church, built in 1793 was roofless and derelict when adopted by the local community in 2004. Our grant towards the restoration of stained-glass windows commemorating the Emperor Franz Joseph was also to encourage further community involvement. The roof was subsequently replaced in 2015.



Château of Valtice, Baroque Statue of Apollo - 2013

In the care of the National Heritage Institute, the château and park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our grant was also to encourage the conservation of other statues in the group.



**Mauricovna,
Château of Červený Dvůr,
replacement roof - 2013**

Following further work by our volunteers we gave a substantial grant to replace the roof.

**Abbey Church of Kladruba,
Altar Restoration - 2014**

In the care of the National Heritage Institute, the church is open to visitors and for events. Our grant enabled the completion of the restoration of the high altar, which is the work of the renowned 18th century architect Blažej Santini-Aichel.



**Karlštejn Castle,
Conservation
of the Gothic Gate - 2014**

Of immense historical importance, the castle was built by the Emperor Charles IV. Our grant paid for the conservation of the original gate, which formed the centre-piece of the exhibition at Prague Castle in 2015 of some of the most revered Czech artefacts.



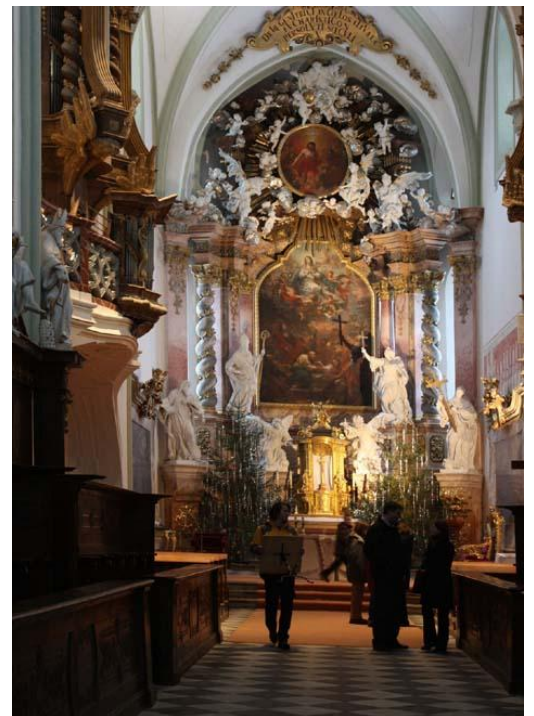
**Château of Čechovice,
Ceiling Restoration - 2014**

The derelict Baroque manor owned by the local community is being restored by local volunteers for community use. We have given a grant towards the replacement of the ceiling.



**Abbey Church at Žďár nad Sázavou,
Choir Stalls - 2015**

The conservation of the choir stalls is another stage in the restoration of the sanctuary of this important church, which we have supported for a number of years. Our grant contributed to one of the final stages of the restoration of the church.



**Château of Uherčice,
Repair of the
Rose Garden Steps
- 2014**

As part of the continuing programme of restoration the steps have been repaired with the aid of our grant. This has allowed visitors to access the Rose Garden once again.





**Château of Jaroměřice,
Conservation of the
Chinese Cabinet**
- 2015

In the care of the National Heritage Institute, the Chinese Cabinet is unique in the Czech Republic. Our grant will enable the room to be reopened for visitors.

**Château of Červený Dvůr,
Replacement Attic Floor at the Mauricovna**
- 2015

As part of the continuing restoration of the cottage the attic floor is being reconstructed. We have offered a grant for the work, which is generously supported by a benefactor.



**Jan Hus Church,
Smíchov, Prague**
- alterations and
conservation - 2016

An example of 1930s Modernism our grant will enable its reuse for exhibitions and other community activities. We hope that volunteers will assist the work.



**Museum of National
History, Skanzen,
Chanovice,
barn repairs** - 2016

The open-air museum has a growing collection of rare and threatened agricultural buildings and has a well developed educational programme for visitors. Our grant has assisted the repair of barn's structure.



**Probošt House,
Vyšehrad, Prague,
window replacement** - 2016

Situated in the Vyšehrad complex the house is used as a bilingual kindergarten. Its 18th-century frescoes are under threat from water ingress through damaged windows. Our grant will assist in their replacement. Volunteers are also working in the gardens.



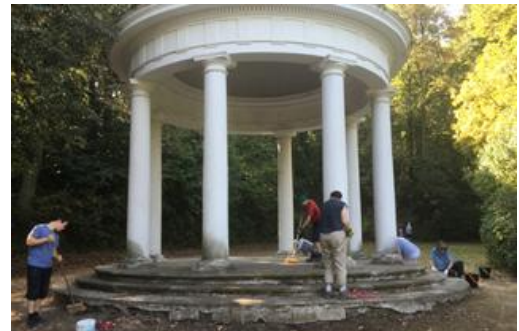
**St James's Church,
Bedřichův Světec,
repair of the boundary
wall** - 2016

Situated in a desolate post-industrial landscape, the mediaeval church is now being restored partly by volunteers for community use. Our grant helped to rebuild the unstable wall.



Volunteer working parties

We continue to develop an extensive programme of volunteer working parties, including at the Château of Červený Dvůr mentioned above. At the Château of Krásný Dvůr we are restoring features in the world-famous park; likewise at Žďár nad Sázavou we are working on the lower cemetery, a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Projects currently under consideration

A sample is listed below, but more projects are considered at any one time



Château of Litomyšl, theatre restoration

Repair of historic scenery as part of initial programme to reopen the theatre for performances.



Château of Třeboň, adaptation of historic rooms for an art gallery

Reversing recent alterations of historic spaces and their reuse as an art gallery.



Château of Uherčice

We would like to support the restoration of the magnificent plaster work of the 'Cupid Corridor', seen left, and the Obelisk, seen right, an important feature in the park.

