



## DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF THE TRENTHAM ESTATE

### a heritage of over 900 years

Set in 750 acres of stunning Staffordshire countryside, The Trentham Estate has had a colourful history from its earliest entry in the Domesday book to the £100m regeneration programme that is making it one of the 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries most unexpected and diverse leisure destinations.

- 1086** Domesday Book describes Trentham as a Royal Manor and values it at 115 shillings
- 1153** Henry 2<sup>nd</sup> creates a Royal Deer Park
- 1537-1540** The Estate passes from the Crown through several new owners – Richard Trentham, Sir Thomas Pope and James Leveson
- 1630-1639** Sir Richard Leveson demolishes the old hall, building a new mansion and creating walled gardens; imprisoned as a Royalist during the Civil War but property left intact
- 1759-1780** Lancelot Capability Brown commissioned to transform the landscape and house re-designed by Henry Holland
- 1803** Property now owned by Marquess of Stafford and Countess of Sutherland who embark on a programme of new works
- 1833-1850** Duke of Sutherland commissions Sir Charles Barry (most famous for his design of The Houses of Parliament) to undertake a major building programme; the Hall is redesigned, The Orangery, Sculpture Gallery and Clock Tower are added and the Church is rebuilt. The Italian Gardens are laid out in 1840 and under the care of master gardeners George Fleming and Zadok Stevens they rapidly become celebrated.
- 1872** Booming industry in the potteries takes its toll on Trentham with pollution of The River Trent impacting across the Estate
- 1905** The Duke and Duchess of Sutherland offer the decaying house to the County Council; it politely declines.
- 1911** The now crumbling and decaying Trentham Hall is sold for recovery of materials, demolished and its contents sold for £500. Golf, tennis and bowling facilities are developed on the property over the next 15 years.

- 1931** Trentham Gardens Ltd is established and the Gardens are opened to the public; a new ballroom is built on the site of the original kitchen garden and an Art Deco outdoor swimming pool is built by the lake.
- 1939-45** The London Clearing Banks set up temporary home at Trentham and it serves as a transit station for allied troops and is also used for military training.
- The postwar years** Trentham becomes famous as a dance and entertainment venue with many famous bands performing – including a little known Liverpool group called The Beatles in 1963
- 1980s** The Estate is bought for redevelopment as a leisure park and The Department of the Environment lists several buildings of special interest including the remains of The Hall, the Grand Entrance and Orangery. Development plans do not proceed and The Estate falls into decay.
- 1996** The start of a new era as St Modwen Properties Plc and German investor Willi Reitz acquire Trentham and apply for planning for a major regeneration programme to restore the historic estate and create a quality leisure destination
- 2003** Planning is finally granted and a £100million programme of rejuvenation begins.
- 2008** Phase One of The Trentham Estate regeneration is complete with a diverse array of leisure activities available including a unique Monkey Forest of 140 endangered Barbary Macaques, 60 outlet shopping village and the lovingly restored Gardens that first put Trentham on the map in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- The future** More new developments are planned to enhance Trentham's already diverse offer and provide visitors with an unrivalled leisure experience

Trentham Gardens are open all year round except Christmas Day. Opening times and prices can be found on [www.trentham.co.uk](http://www.trentham.co.uk)

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