



Restoration

A major new campaign for Britain's historic buildings at risk launching in May across the UK

Restoration returns in 2004 to throw a lifeline to one of Britain's endangered historic buildings.

Viewers again hold the fate of a building in their hands as they choose among 21 of the UK's threatened architectural gems.

On Saturday 8 May on BBC Two, Griff Rhys Jones presents a launch programme for the 2004 *Restoration* campaign. This kicks off fund-raising events and local campaigns across the UK, leading up to the transmission of the series in the summer.

This year viewers are being encouraged to get even more involved in the campaign. A free *Restoration* campaign pack called *So You Want To Save An Historic Building* is available by calling 08700 100 150 or through the website at www.bbc.co.uk/restoration

Additional programming will be broadcast on BBC Four, and local BBC television and radio programmes across the UK will keep viewers bang up to date with the latest news on the building supporters' campaign activities.

In a resounding endorsement of the public's passion for historic buildings, *Restoration* last year received around 2.3 million votes and raised £3.5m towards the restoration of the Victoria Baths in Manchester.

"The first series was an enormous success," enthuses presenter Griff Rhys Jones. "People from completely different walks of life watched it, paid attention and voted. Lots of people were saying things like, 'My husband has never, ever voted for anything on television before, but he insisted that we vote on this'."

Jane Root, Controller of BBC Two, says: "Last year *Restoration* really captured the imagination of the public and stood out as a shining example of how great ideas like this can become so much more than just a TV programme. *Restoration* will build on this success, offering viewers another chance to rescue an important part of Britain's heritage and to get involved in saving buildings in their local area."

Nikki Cheetham, Managing Director of Endemol UK Productions, adds: "Last year *Restoration* viewers proved that they cared passionately about Britain's threatened historic buildings. This year they'll have another chance to make a real difference – they can actually help save buildings as diverse as a castle, a workhouse, a concrete house and a jail."

Seven one-hour programmes are devoted to a geographical area of the UK and focus on three properties at risk, revealing the crumbling architectural treasures we could lose for ever.

Restoration's two ruin detectives – conservation architect Ptolemy Dean and historic buildings surveyor Marianne Suhr – are back to explore every corner of these buildings, unearthing their hidden secrets and bringing back to life the romance of their past.

All styles and periods are featured, from country houses and gothic castles to follies and mills, dating from the earliest times to the 20th century.

Restoration also draws on the memories and knowledge of local residents, owners and



Introduction

conservation groups who love and value these buildings and are fighting to preserve them for future generations.

At the end of each programme viewers can vote for one of the three buildings featured. The series climaxes with a magnificent live event in which viewers decide which one of the finalists is most worthy of restoration.

The *Restoration* campaign has been produced in consultation with the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, Historic Scotland, CADW (Welsh Historic Monuments) and The Department of the Environment and Heritage, Northern Ireland. Many heritage organisations such as Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), SAVE (Save Britain's Heritage) and The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) have provided further advice.

The executive producers of the series are Nikki Cheetham and Annette Clarke for Endemol UK Productions, and Andrea Miller and Richard Downes for BBC Scotland.

Restoration is an Endemol UK Production for BBC Scotland.