

# Planting for the future.

**A small team of staff recently took up a challenge posed by Restoration 04 finalists, Wentworth Castle, to assist with their massive garden planning and restoration project.**

The original layout for Wentworth Castle was set out in the 18th century and is the only grade one listed landscape in South Yorkshire. Whilst the Society challenge was not of the same complexity, it was backbreaking nonetheless!

The team was challenged to assist with the extensive bulb planting programme in an area known as 'Lady Lucy's Walk', which leads from the main house, up a hill, to the Stainborough Castle folly, perched at the top of the park.

In total, each member of staff played their part in the planting of (and we'll give you the Latin names for the more keen gardeners amongst our readers) 3,000 Narcissi 'Lobularis', 1,000 Narcissus 'Bartley', 2,700 Bluebells and 100 cyclamen.

Head Gardener, Steve Catchpole pictured said, 'We were extremely impressed by the level of input from the Society team and their work is very much appreciated, as development of the grounds, particularly at this time of year is no easy chore. We were even more impressed when the time came to call it quits and they actually sounded disappointed!'

Society Chairman, Barry Eldred, who also took part on the day added, 'We were keen to join in with the plans at Wentworth Castle since becoming their first Corporate Sponsor back in 2005, as not only is it an invaluable historical community project, but as some of the team on the day are also leaders on the



Staff team with Chairman Barry Eldred to rear. Steve Catchpole, Head Gardener, in hi-vis vest.

Societies environment programme, the two dovetailed well with a very satisfying outcome. I think we were all quite grateful for the chance to spend a few hours in the fresh air, away from desks and telephones, if the truth be told!

The team at Wentworth Castle have some extensive plans for restoration of the grounds and intend to commence with some additional tree planting in the near future.

Visitors are encouraged to visit [www.wentworthcastle.org](http://www.wentworthcastle.org) for further details.

***Date released 17th November 2006***