

2024 ARCH Annual Meeting Education Committee report

Throughout the past year, ARCH continued to offer a variety of programs to inform and educate the public about the rich history of our town. ARCH welcomes the opportunity to partner with area museums, historical societies, and other organizations and individuals to bring interesting and meaningful programs to our members and the wider community.

In addition to the regular Saturday open hours at the Wentworth house during the summer and fall, ARCH presented over 25 living history events, workshops, tours, concerts, and other programs in 2023. Many of these were in partnership with organizations such as the Granite Web Makers, the Southeast New Hampshire Spinners Guild, and the Black Heritage Trail of NH. The winter visit by Harmon's Snowshoe Men and the fall Colonial Market Fair and Militia Muster continue to be our most popular events, but our Yuletide open house was also well-attended, with 60 guests enjoying music, story-telling, and a Yule log ceremony.

On top of our regular programming, ARCH hosted private events for outside groups during the past year. The Wentworth House welcomed a large tour group from Ireland and another from the NH Preservation Alliance, and also hosted several private hearth dinners and birthday gatherings. ARCH also offers workshops by outside presenters: last fall the Wentworth House was a host site for a leatherworking workshop, and this coming September will host a 2 ½ day English gown workshop presented by At The Sign of The Golden Scissors.

For the third year, ARCH presented free musical programs at the Wentworth House during the summer months. These programs, featuring noted folk musicians Jeff Warner, Marek Bennett, and Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki, were funded through generous grants from NH Humanities. The summer music series will continue this year.

One goal for the coming year is to strengthen our relationship with Rollinsford Grade School. All RGS students recently visited the Wentworth House to view *Schooled*, our new exhibit about the history of education in Rollinsford. Research into the history of the Wentworth family and the town is ongoing, and is shared with the public via tours, periodic email newsletters, and the ARCH website.

Respectfully submitted by Julia Roberts, Education Committee chair