

Get involved

We are looking for trustees, a treasurer and supporters who share our belief that this building should be repaired, reopened, and returned to the community.

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Company number 17115816
Registered charity number 1220458
V1.3 / November 2026

Interior: FennecMedia CC BY 4.0. Cupola: M. Trousdell CC BY 4.0.



Rotunda Trust

A vision for the Woolwich Rotunda

John Nash, 1814. Grade II* listed.
Heritage at Risk since 2007.

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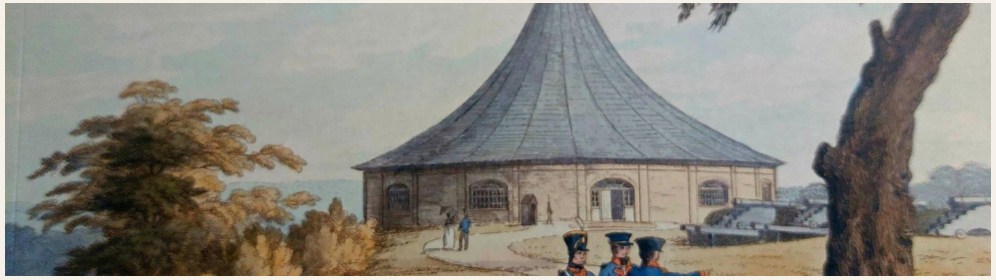
© Historic England Archive, EAC303114.

The building

Nash built this 116-foot timber ballroom in ten weeks for the Prince Regent. Two thousand five hundred guests danced under it on the night of 21 July 1814. It was meant to be temporary. It has stood for 212 years.

The museum closed in 2001. The building has been empty for 25 years. Nine of the 24 original trusses are propped with scaffolding. Historic England rates its condition as “very bad”. It has been on the Heritage at Risk Register since 2007.

Rotunda Trust exists to repair it, reopen it, and return it to the community.



The Rotunda at Woolwich, 1820. Public domain.

How it works

The trust would hold the building in charitable ownership and set the conservation priorities. An operator would run the venue under a lease at an open market rent, with the trust keeping control, and that money goes first to the building.

If an operator fails, the building stays in charitable hands. This structure makes possible heritage grants worth 70–90% of repair costs.

A venue for everyone

The Rotunda is 35.4 metres across, one of the largest interior spaces in south-east London. Community use gives the building its purpose. Commercial use pays for its repair.

Community *Subsidised or free*

Schools, heritage open days, charity events, military heritage visits, community gatherings. Open to Woolwich.

Cultural *Affordable hire*

Theatre, dance, spoken word, art installations, exhibitions. A circular space under a conoid timber ceiling unlike anything else in London.

Music and private hire *Commercial rates*

Live bands, weddings, celebrations, private receptions. 500+ seated, up to about 1,000 standing.

Trust money is for repairing the Rotunda. The trust does not fund programming or any other purpose. Commercial income funds conservation.



The colonnade interior. FennecMedia. CC BY 4.0.