

# Shropshire Museums

## Future Collections Based Volunteering

As many of you are aware our Heritage Lottery funded 'Volunteering for Shropshire's Heritage' project has ended at a time when Shropshire Museums is having to remodel its services to make substantial savings. Therefore, we will be unable to maintain the volunteering opportunities at their previous level but have been working hard to try and find ways to mitigate against the current situation. We have been working closely with the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Council to find a way forward. We would now welcome your comments and opinions on our plans as we want to ensure that the new model of operation meets your needs as well as those of the Museum Service.

### **Where and when can I volunteer?**

Collections based volunteering will be available at our two key museum sites:

- Ludlow Museum Resource Centre (should perhaps be known henceforth as Museum Resource Centre at Ludlow) – 3 days per week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday)
- Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery – 1 day per week (Tuesdays)

### **What collections can I work on?**

Each volunteering day will focus on a specific type of collection. This will depend upon on which collections are held at that site and which specialist curator will be available to oversee the volunteering session and give specialist support. More general database and collection documentation work will be available most days.

On Monday and Fridays Ludlow Museum Resource Centre (should perhaps be known henceforth as Museum Resource Centre at Ludlow) will focus upon opportunities to work on the natural sciences collections. On Wednesdays the emphasis will shift to the archaeology and social history collections.

On Tuesdays Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery will offer opportunities to work on the decorative art and fine art collections.

### **What tasks can I undertake?**

We will be identifying key collections which we need volunteers to work on. One key issue for the service is the need to address our collection documentation backlog. We still have over 200,000 object records which need to be digitised. Therefore, our emphasis will move from research towards addressing the need for data entry onto the collection management database.

Therefore, we will be asking volunteers to work individually or in small teams to work through various tasks required for specific collections:

- Creating and updating basic collections database catalogue records which can be reviewed by specialists.
- Researching specific objects and /or collections and adding this new data to our collections database catalogue.
- Photographing items which do not have images on the collections database.
- Reorganising stores, removing and returning objects required for exhibitions or education sessions and repacking objects if required.

Please contact Emma-Kate Lanyon on 01743 258 891 or E-mail [ek.lanyon@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ek.lanyon@yahoo.co.uk) if you have any comments you would like to discuss or pop into Ludlow on a Wednesday for a chat.

<b>AREAS OF INTEREST:</b> Please mark the activities which you currently undertake indicating number of hours per week											
<b>Archaeology</b>	Catalogue	Pack	Research	<b>Social History</b>	Catalogue	Pack	Research	<b>Fine &amp; Decorative Arts</b>	Catalogue	Pack	Research
Prehistory				Community Life				Pictures / 2D Art			
Roman				Costume				Ceramics			
Medieval & Later				Domestic Life				Sculpture / 3D Art			
Excavation Archives				Working Life				Contemporary			
<b>Biology</b>	Catalogue	Pack	Research	<b>Biology</b>	Catalogue	Pack	Research	<b>Geology</b>	Catalogue	Pack	Research
Birds				Mammals				Fossils			
Eggs				Taxidermy				Minerals			
Lepidoptera				Molluscs				Rocks			
Invertebrates								Literature & Maps			
<b>Other:</b>											
Conservation of Vehicles / Machinery				Farm Work or Gardening				Working / Liaising with Visitors			
Stewarding / Front of House				Office Based Support				Research Work			
Marketing				Education Work				Coordinating volunteers			
Other (please describe)											

<b>FEEDBACK</b>	
Please feedback on what works a/or doesn't work for you at the moment?	
Do the proposed new arrangements meet your needs?	
Would you be interested in extending or refocusing your volunteering in any of the other areas listed above?	
Further suggestions	

