

Banbury Museum Volunteers Programme

The purpose of Banbury Museum and its exhibition programme: Banbury Museum's charitable objectives are "To advance the awareness and education of the public, particularly, but not exclusively, in the history of Banbury, North Oxfordshire and the adjoining counties, and preserve the collections and archives in its stewardship". This will be achieved, in part through "exhibiting, interpreting and providing access to collections and archives."

We seek to provide inspiring and engaging exhibitions, through a wide-ranging and high quality temporary exhibition programme that features both exhibitions with a local focus and those that draw upon prestigious collections. These will encourage learning and enjoyment in an accessible way, enhancing the visitor experience for existing audiences, and attracting first-time visitors. We aim to show temporary exhibitions that complement and draw people to the permanent displays, encourage repeat visits, and develop a high profile and reputation for Banbury Museum, strengthening support for the museum within the region and further afield. The exhibition visit experience should be welcoming, inspiring and memorable.

Role Description: Exhibition Interpreter

Volunteer Exhibition Interpreters welcome visitors to the special exhibitions, enhance their visit and helping with orientation and enquiries, where possible drawing out some of the exhibition's inspiring stories, while also ensuring that visitors aren't harmed by exhibits and vice versa. During ticketed exhibitions the role includes a smooth process of checking tickets purchased from the museum shop. Our volunteers are ambassadors for Banbury Museum, shaping visitors' memories of their visit here and hence promoting repeat visits and 'word of mouth' recommendation of the museum to family, friends and colleagues.

NB While the Exhibitions Gallery is the main focus of this role there will be quieter periods when volunteers are encouraged to move around the museum and be a friendly and helpful presence in the other galleries. The Museum Assistant on duty will remain responsible for visitor safety and welfare among their other duties.

For those who feel comfortable doing so the role includes opportunities to help with preparing materials/examples for events and school workshops.

Main internal contacts: Mark Ratcliffe, Dale Johnston

Time commitment: Most volunteers offer one morning or afternoon each week, but additional sessions are welcome.

Location: Banbury Museum, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury.

Main tasks:

- Welcoming visitors to the special exhibitions
- Invigilating the gallery
- Engaging with visitors in a sensitive manner and encouraging appreciation of the exhibition.
- Helping with enquiries relating to the exhibits
- Feeding back relevant visitor comments/observations to museum staff

Skills / experience: Comfortable making conversation with people you are meeting for the first time; Interest in the history and heritage or in other areas covered by the exhibition programme such as art.

What we can offer you: An interesting experience, meeting a wide variety of people in a friendly environment; opportunity to be a valuable part of the museum 'family' and help to share our inspiring stories; gaining experience that can be included in your CV, and a chance to give something to the local community.