

June 2020



Leicestershire  
County Council

Communities  
& Wellbeing

# Volunteering News

This newsletter edition celebrates volunteering at home! It's National Volunteers week and we wanted to mark the occasion by sharing some of your inspiring lockdown activities, experiences and achievements.

We recognise that not all roles can be done remotely and not everyone is in the position to volunteer during these unusual and challenging times. However, it is fantastic to see so much community activity being driven and adapted by our volunteers for both our own services as well as the areas you live in.



## Volunteering from home for the Market Town Museums

Even though Harborough Museum and Melton Carnegie Museum are currently closed, volunteers have carried on from their own homes!

Volunteers have been continuing their research, currently exploring individuals from Melton's past, based on names on a map from 1871. In Market Harborough research has also been started about gravestones in the district of Harborough, and historical images and information are still being added to our interactive map, *Highlights of Harborough*, which you can view online at [www.harboroughmuseum.org.uk/highlights](http://www.harboroughmuseum.org.uk/highlights)

## Growing the Museum...from home

One of our major projects has been working on the garden spaces at Melton Carnegie Museum, in conjunction with other local groups. Closing the museum has meant putting this project on hold, but our volunteers have come to the rescue, growing beans, sweetcorn, herbs and other plants at home, ready for when they can be transferred to the museum.



## Discover Leicestershire Collections from the comfort of your home!

The archaeology collections volunteers, like most of us, are currently at home. However, over the last few years they have been working on auditing and taking images of the collections, repacking to modern conservation standards and inputting information into the collections database.

Here's an action shot of Andy, one of the volunteers, who has taken thousands of images over many years. These images are not only object record shots but are fantastic for engaging the public with our collections whilst our museum sites and stores are closed. View some of Andy's photography and our archaeology collection, from the comfort of your own home at [www.meltonmuseum.org/digital-shelf](http://www.meltonmuseum.org/digital-shelf)



## Bringing the work home (but not literally!)

One of the objects that Andy has photographed is this early Anglo-Saxon urn.

*"It is in perfect condition. It has clear stamped designs on it, it shows some firing marks. I went home and told my family about it. Unknown to me, they contacted a potter who specialised in making archaeological reproductions. A few months later I opened a surprise package and there was an exact replica of the urn!"*



## A friendly voice from the Home Library Service volunteers

Home Library Service volunteers from across the County are continuing to support clients via phone. Hearing a familiar voice helps our clients to feel less isolated and lonely during these uncertain times and volunteers have also been using the opportunity to check that their clients have access to services such as shopping and prescription deliveries. We are sure that these phone calls are putting a smile on clients faces!



For more information and library resources follow us on [f /your library](https://www.facebook.com/yourlibrary) [twe /leicslibraries](https://twitter.com/leicslibraries)

## Heritage volunteers keeping busy during lockdown

Volunteers at the 1620s House and Garden and Bosworth Battlefield haven't let the current situation slow them down! As well as creating new content for both sites and providing ideas and information for social media channels, they have also created translations of our visitor information into other languages. This will be a real help to us when we reopen, as people from all over the world come and visit these wonderful sites.

## Incredible community spirit

In our last newsletter, you may remember that we featured 1620s volunteer Liz, who has been sewing scrub bags for NHS workers! Megan, who also volunteers at the House, has gotten involved in our #CV-19IsolatedbutInspired social media campaign and recorded a fantastic song in thanks to all the NHS staff and key workers! Check it out at [facebook.com/CommunityCurators](https://facebook.com/CommunityCurators)



Bosworth Battlefield volunteer, Bill, has brought out the arts and crafts and created a rainbow for his village for people to enjoy while on their daily exercise. This rainbow has messages of encouragement written on it and others are encouraged to leave their own messages of support for the local community.

## Something to look forward to...

### Do You See What I See

In our Market Town Museums?

Objects have a meaning far beyond their financial and material value. They become something different when we know the personal stories and emotions behind them.

The Do You See What I See? project was launched in Leicestershire Market Town Museums in March 2019. Local people were invited to workshops which explored their unique interpretations and connections to heritage and how it impacts their lives.

### Choose just one thing in this museum! Now "show and tell"!

Everyone was asked to choose just one object or exhibition in one of the market town museums, that made them stop in their tracks, and share their connection to it and how it made them feel.

### What would be in your museum?

Participants were also asked to bring in one precious object of their own and share their connections to it.

## You are warmly invited to visit the co-curated gallery exhibition

When Charnwood Museum opens again we hope you will visit to discover new labels showcasing local people's interpretations of the objects and exhibitions.



*'It was found in the village where I lived. There has always been water at Barrow where the Kipper lived, and the river still floods now.'*  
- Esme



*"I chose this object (Miswaak, a natural toothbrush made of small tree branches) because it is holy in our religion, it was used by our Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh). It has health and scientific effect. Seeing/using it makes me feel cool, my teeth are better looked after"*  
- Mohammed



## What possession would you choose to be in our Online People's Gallery?

We are inviting people from across Leicestershire to get involved!

Choose an object of importance to you! Take two photographs; one of your object and the other of yourself.

Then send it to us at [louise.sharpley@leics.gov.uk](mailto:louise.sharpley@leics.gov.uk) with a few sentences about why this object is important and how it makes you feel. We will then share this on [Facebook.com/CommunityCurators](https://facebook.com/CommunityCurators) or tweet it to [Twitter.com/ComCurators](https://twitter.com/ComCurators), to help to build up a big online gallery for everyone to see and share.

We would love to hear from you!

## Launch of the Participation Team website

To tie in with National Volunteers Week we will be launching our new Participation team website on the 6th June which is culture and heritage day. The site features lots of your volunteering activities and we would love to invite you to be the first people to view it.

Check it out at [www.communitycurators.co.uk](http://www.communitycurators.co.uk)

Please feel free to keep us updated with any blogs, events, experiences and achievements so that we can support you and share far and wide.

Participation  
Leicestershire, Heritage & Libraries

We very much look forward to welcoming all our heritage, market town museums, libraries, collections and archive volunteers back, when it is safe to do so!

If you are looking for community volunteering opportunities during this time please visit this partnership website [www.llrprepared.org.uk/one-prepared/](http://www.llrprepared.org.uk/one-prepared/)

If you have any questions, please feel free to email [nicola.seika@leics.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.seika@leics.gov.uk)

Your community  
Your opportunity

Keep in touch and stay safe