

March  
2021

Leicestershire  
County Council

Communities  
& Wellbeing

# Volunteering News

We hope you have all been keeping safe over the last few months. We were delighted to re-introduce some face to face volunteering before Christmas but of course this sadly had to be paused again. We wanted to use this edition to celebrate the 8 months of remote volunteering activity that has been taking place across our services, highlighting that whilst we may be isolated socially we are united in spirit.

We hope you enjoy!

## Archaeology Detectives at Home

Archaeology Collections Volunteers, Joyce and Matthew have been using their detective skills investigating mystery objects and deciphering Roman stamps.

Many of the Archaeology Volunteer projects rely on working in person with objects housed on site, and it has proved difficult to find tasks that could easily be done at home during lockdown. However, for objects that have been photographed there has been scope to undertake research.

Matthew deciphered and researched the stamps on some of our Roman Samian ware pottery. He discovered one was made by the potter Sacrilus of Lezoux (stamp 'SACRILLIM') who worked from AD 165-200. Some of Sacrilus's pots have been found at forts on Hadrian's Wall!



Joyce was tasked with finding out more about a stone plaque engraved 'St Mary's Terrace 1860'. She used online maps, photographs and directories, and found what we believe to be a photograph of the plaque in situ on a house.



Discover more of our collections objects at [www.instagram.com/leicestershire\\_collections](https://www.instagram.com/leicestershire_collections)

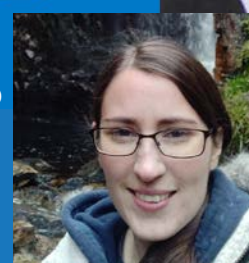
## Unlocking our Sound Heritage

The Participation Team are piloting a new national project called 'Unlocking Our Sounds' in partnership with the British Library and the University of Leicester. The project focuses on using on-line digital sound recordings for reminiscence.

Volunteers have been supporting this project remotely. Here is Hetti's story:

'Hi, my name is Heather, but I have been called Hetti by my family and friends my whole life. I live in Lancashire and work in a private lab as a DNA Analyst for the police. I volunteered at Manchester Museum for nearly 10 years in the palaeontology department and have a passion for museums and making them accessible and welcoming to all.

When the lockdown started earlier this year I was on a museums Facebook group and offered any help I could give to remote volunteering projects. Esther from the Participation team got in touch and that's how I got involved.



I've been volunteering to help find images to go along with the different parts of the project for people who have Dementia.

I am really enjoying the volunteering so far. I have learnt a huge amount already and love feeling that what I do is helping other people. Volunteering remotely allows me to fit it around my job and other commitments, so it works really well for me!

To find out more about the Unlocking Our Sounds project visit [www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/projects/unlocking-sounds](https://www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/projects/unlocking-sounds)



## Keep an eye out on our Heritage social media pages!

Melton Museum will soon be launching a new social media campaign called 'Sowing and Growing at the Museums'. Volunteers and staff will be creating short films and photo collages which will show how to prepare and sow seeds, hopefully inspiring others to join in. Will you give sowing and growing veg and flowers at home a try?

Volunteers at both Bosworth Battlefield and the 1620s House & Garden are also currently undertaking research projects on a variety of topics and will be recording short talks over Teams. These will feature on our social media channels for our visitors to enjoy while they can't visit in person.

There's also lots more going on so follow / like us today!



[/MeltonMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/MeltonMuseum)



[/BosworthBattlefield](https://www.facebook.com/BosworthBattlefield)



[/1620sHouse](https://www.facebook.com/1620sHouse)



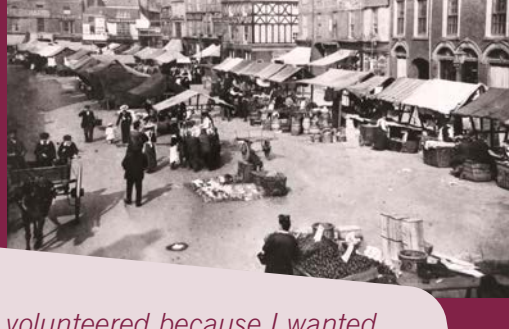
## Our Market, Our Fair!

You may remember in our previous newsletter that this year marks the 800th Anniversary of Loughborough's Market and Fair. To commemorate, Charnwood Museum, in partnership with Leicestershire County Council will be hosting an exhibition.

Lockdown hasn't slowed down the Loughborough Library Local Studies volunteers who have been undertaking research and writing content to share the history of the Market.

Our Market 800 Community Curator volunteers have also been supporting this project and are currently collecting and capturing connections to the market from the public.

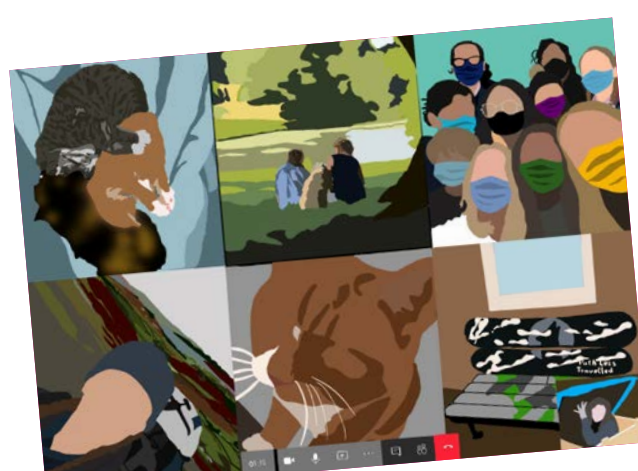
Maybe you have a memory or experience to share? If so we would love to hear from you! For more information visit [www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/projects/market-800](https://www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/projects/market-800)



"I volunteered because I wanted to get some experience volunteering in the heritage sector. My favourite thing about volunteering for the Market 800 project has been conducting oral history interviews. Talking to interesting people about a historical subject they love has been fascinating!"

- Laura, Market 800 Co-Curator Volunteer

## #The2020LeicsReview



Check out our Instagram page for inspiration [www.instagram.com/lccheritageyouthforum](https://www.instagram.com/lccheritageyouthforum)

Hi there! We're the Heritage Youth Forum and we have continued to meet virtually during lockdown. We want to find out what life has really been like for young people across Leicestershire these last 12 months. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected everyone and it's part of our lives now and it will become a part of our history. That's why we've launched the project #The2020LeicsReview, so that we can capture young people's experience and share them with future generations.

Are you aged 13-25? You can share your experience by getting involved in our Instagram campaign or by completing our survey: <https://surveys.leics.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=160796531806>

If you don't fall within that age group, you can still help us! Please share project details with any young people you know and encourage them to get involved!

For more information about how to get involved visit [www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/projects/youthforum](https://www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/projects/youthforum)

## Join us for our Self-Care workshops!

We might not be able to meet face to face right now but this is a good chance for us to get together and look after ourselves at the same time.

Together we can explore what self-care really is and identify ideas that will support our wellbeing. This session will be led by experienced Leicestershire Adult Learning Service Tutors.

When: Monday 8th March, 1.30-3.30pm

OR Tuesday 18th March 10-12noon over zoom!

To book your space please email [nicola.seika@leics.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.seika@leics.gov.uk)

## Looking for something to do during lockdown? Here's how you can get involved in some of our community and volunteering projects.

Feel free to share these exciting opportunities with friends, family and anyone else who you think might be interested!

### Simply Sounds

We want to create a unique sounds collection with free resources, to enable reminiscence and relaxation.

To do this we need your help!

We want the sounds to reflect the diverse communities living in our county and to be accessible and relatable to as many people as possible including you and the people closest to you.

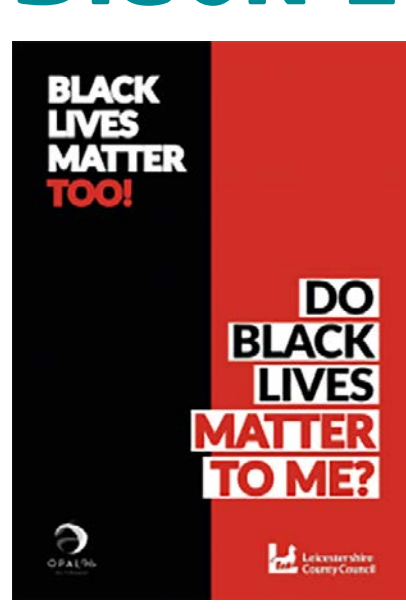
We want to design a resource which is not language specific and which doesn't exclude any individual or community because of its content.

Send in your sounds and help us build this valuable resource.

For more information about how to get involved and to watch our handy 'Simply Sounds Explainer' video visit [www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/projects/simply-sounds](https://www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/projects/simply-sounds)



## Black Lives Matter Too!



The Participation team and Opal22 have been working with volunteers to develop and launch the Black Lives Matter Too! project.

It aims to capture the responses of local people to challenges raised by Black Lives Matter campaigns with the aim of making real and positive change in our own towns and villages, families, workplaces and cultural hubs.

How can you be part of the solution?

We have created an online exhibition which shines a light on people's real experiences with racism. You are encouraged to get involved by creating a short 2-minute video in response to any of the following questions:

Have you ever experienced the effects of racism?

Have you successfully challenged racism?

What can you pledge to make Black lives better?

For inspiration, to view the video responses and to get involved, please visit [www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/black-lives-matter-too](https://www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/black-lives-matter-too)

## Volunteer as a Shared Reading Group Leader

Do you enjoy reading for pleasure? Would you be confident reading out loud to a group? Are you interested in people and their stories?

If yes, then this role might be perfect for you!

Leicestershire Shared Reading, in partnership with Leicestershire Libraries, are looking for volunteers to help run their successful 'Make Friends, with a Book' Shared Reading groups in the Wigston, Glenfield and Oadby areas.

These groups run weekly, currently over Zoom, but will resume in person in the library when safe to do so.

Training is provided.

For more information about the role visit [www.leicestershiresharedreading.org](https://www.leicestershiresharedreading.org) or get in touch with Nicky and Ruth by emailing [leicssharedreading@gmail.com](mailto:leicssharedreading@gmail.com)



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at Doughton le Heath

Harborough  
Museum

LIBRARY  
KNOWLEDGE • EDUCATION • ENTERTAINMENT

Your community  
Your opportunity

Keep in touch and stay safe