

October 2022



Leicestershire County Council

Communities & Wellbeing

Volunteering

News

Since January, almost 9,000 volunteer hours have been gifted to Heritage, Libraries, Participation, Collections and Learning services through your volunteering efforts. An amazing achievement! We want to say a big thank you to every one of you who have dedicated your time, skills and knowledge to our services and share with you some of the exciting projects you have been involved in.

We hope you enjoy!

Don't miss out on these exciting exhibitions

Co-curated with volunteers from across our Service

50 Years of Ugandan Asians in Loughborough

Volunteers have been working with Navrang Arts to co-curate the 'Rebuilding Lives: 50 Years of Ugandan Asians in Loughborough' exhibition. **This will be at Charnwood Museum from 15th October 2022 - 4th February 2023.**

It will mark the 50-year anniversary of the exodus in 1972 by those fleeing the brutal Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, and also celebrate the contribution the Asian community has made to Loughborough's culture and community over the last half a century.

The exhibition includes artefacts, personal items and photographs donated from Loughborough and throughout the UK, from people whose families made the traumatic journey from Uganda to start a new life.

For more information visit www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/projects/uganda-50



"50 years ago I was forced to flee my homeland. Now I'm volunteering at Charnwood Museum to create an exhibition to share my journey. I'm very proud."

1485 Around the World

A well-known date in English history, due to the Battle of Bosworth and death of King Richard III, but did you ever wonder what else was happening in other countries across the world during this time? Now you can find out! **Visit the 1485 Around the World exhibition at Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre from now until March 2023.**

Featuring research, artwork, and creative writing from The Bosworth Explorers volunteering group. It's one not to miss!

The volunteers were recently invited to a special viewing of the exhibition where they were delighted to receive a certificate from Councillor Radford, in recognition of their volunteering contribution.

They're excited to start work on their new project, Life in Roman Britain! Watch this space.



Home is Where We Are!

An exhibition co-curated with members of Leicestershire's Gypsy and Traveller Community will be on display at **Foxton Canal Museum from 1st October to 30th November.**

The Cultural Participation Team has worked in partnership with Gypsy and Traveller Equality (GATE) ladies' group and Foxton Canal Museum volunteers for the past year to develop this exhibition.

It focuses on celebrating Gypsy and Traveller culture and dispelling the misconceptions and prejudices that are widely held about this unique community. The ladies explored their important life moments linked to births, weddings, holy communions, education and death; and shared personal objects, photographs, and stories.

The partnership also resulted in GATE delivering Gypsy and Traveller awareness training for staff at the Symington Building in Market Harborough. As a legacy of this project a book with the ladies' stories will be touring Leicestershire County Council venues, starting at Market Harborough Library and Museum.

"I want to show gorgers (non travelling people) who we really are."

"We're often not listened to as a community, so it's great to be listened to."

"Our traditions and cultures are not all what you see on the TV. This project has given us the chance to share in our own words using our own photographs and personal possessions."

To find out more about the project and exhibition please visit: www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/traveller-and-gypsy-heritage-project



"Choose a book that you love or that has had an impact on you and create a piece of art which expresses why."

This was the challenge we gave to over 50 children and young people in care. All were given the opportunity to be creatively mentored by professional artists through workshops such as clay modelling, pencil drawing and photography.

The outcome was the creation of over 50 pieces of diverse, unique and wonderful artwork, featured in an exhibition that was designed to provoke thoughts and conversations about children in care as well as reading for pleasure. The temporary pop-up exhibit at Leicester's Highcross Shopping Centre had over 3,000 visitors. If you missed it, don't worry. We're delighted to share that you can now view this exhibition virtually.

Visit www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/projects/my-books-my-story

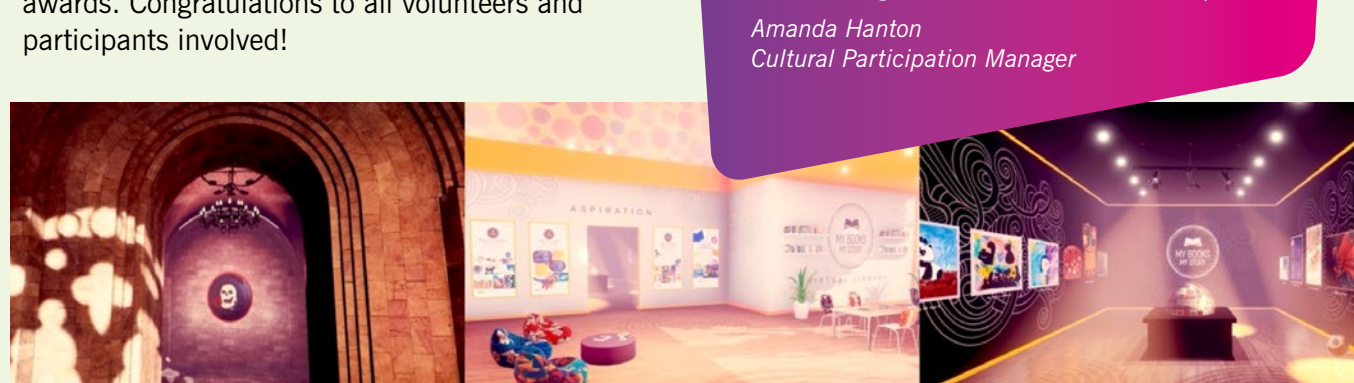
My Books My Stories young person panel

An exciting opportunity supported 8 of the young artists to get involved in co-creating the exhibitions. The volunteers influenced and shaped the project in many ways including suggesting and voting on colour schemes, designing the logo, leading on ideas for visitor interaction activities, and working with designers to choose the style and mood of the virtual exhibition.

We are delighted to share that this project has been shortlisted for 3 national children and family awards. Congratulations to all volunteers and participants involved!

"We introduced this volunteering role as it was important to us that the My Books My Story project was influenced and led by young people at every level. The Participation team has made a commitment to working with children in the care of Leicestershire County Council to address the imbalance in access and engagement with meaningful cultural activities. By providing this volunteering opportunity we were able to offer young people a platform to share their voice and have greater sense of ownership."

Amanda Hanton
Cultural Participation Manager



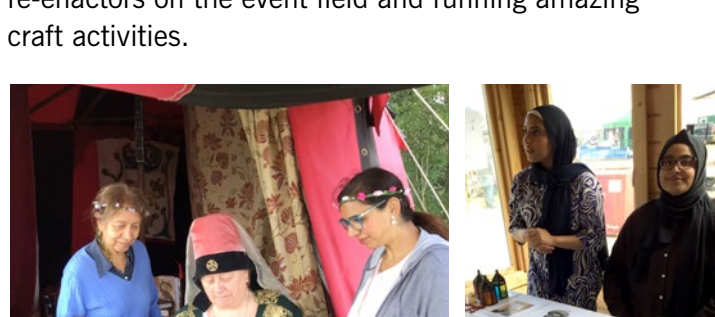
Bosworth Medieval Festival 2022



Bosworth Medieval Festival returned in August after a break of 2 years and attracted over 4,500 visitors, re-enactors and traders from across the UK.

This magnificent event would not have been possible without the amazing individuals who volunteered their time across the weekend in a variety of roles, such as welcoming and directing visitors, supporting staff and re-enactors on the event field and running amazing craft activities.

This year we welcomed members of the local Hijaz Community who researched and presented the 'Hijaz Healing Hospital' in one of the Bosworth cabins. They enabled visitors to experience tastes, smells, and sounds of the Middle East from medieval times, highlighting the similarities in the medicinal use of plants for healing across the medieval battlefields. They offered an insight into medieval mausoleums and the Global Civility initiative. The Hijaz young people explored the herb gardens at the 1620s House with the help of the knowledgeable garden volunteers who supplied many of the home-grown herbs for the festival.



Another group of volunteers worked together for the first time to create a festival 'Community Board' or 'not-so-secret shoppers'! They included members of faith groups and families supporting children in care. The individuals and families spent the weekend recording their experiences and have shared their valuable feedback, insight and suggestions with the Bosworth team.

To find out more about general volunteering at Bosworth Battlefield Visitors Centre visit www.bosworthbattlefield.org.uk/getting-involved

Winner of Leicestershire Award

Leicestershire Shared Reading (LSR), in partnership with Leicestershire County Council's Library Service, supports a thriving network of 'Make Friends, with a Book' Shared Reading groups.

Since their launch in 2016, over 500 people have attended sessions, with many joining for the pleasure of the shared reading experience as well as the benefits it has on their health and wellbeing.

In recognition of the incredible reach and support to the local community they were recently awarded the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Community and Business award. This was presented to the group by Deputy Lord Lieutenant Dr Lennox on the 8th September 2022 and is a wonderful achievement and much deserved.

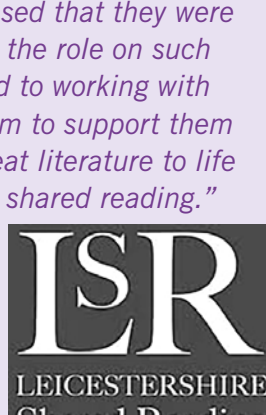


Interested in joining this fantastic volunteering group? Then become a Reader Leader Volunteer. If you enjoy reading for pleasure and are confident reading out loud to a group, get in touch today!

For more information about the role visit www.leicestershiresharedreading.org

"This was all made possible thanks to Ruth and Nicky who not only set up LSR but were also Chair and Secretary of the group. They recently made the challenging decision to retire from these trustee roles, though we're happy to share this isn't a proper goodbye as they will continue to support the group as Reader Leader volunteers. It's been a pleasure working with them and we're so pleased that they were able to step down from the role on such a high. We look forward to working with the new committee team to support them to continue to bring great literature to life through the practice of shared reading."

Nicola Levin,
Participation and Volunteer Manager



Market Town Museums' Royal Celebrations

This year the Research Volunteers at the Market Town Museums have been busy working on projects celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee; uncovering fascinating royal stories and connections to our market towns.

At Melton Carnegie Museum a new team of volunteers collaborated with the Heritage Exhibitions Team to produce research for a Royal Connections exhibition. This explored 1000 years of royal visits to the town, including 10 of the 14 Kings of England, and featured local people's royal stories, photographs and memorabilia from past royal celebrations.

Volunteers at Harborough Museum were also engaged in royal research this year, creating a family museum trail which linked royal events and visits to historic objects and displays around the museum.



"I was delighted to join the museum as a volunteer. Being new to Melton Mowbray, I was keen to learn more about the town and make new friends and this has ticked both boxes! The royal connections to the town are extensive and fascinating."

Alison
Research Volunteer

"As the volunteer royal displays come to an end, we are eagerly looking forward to sharing the exciting projects volunteers are currently working on. Keep your eye out for a fantastic exhibition at Melton Museum next year and the introduction of new accessible digital interactives at Harborough Museum."

Bethany Nugent
Museums Volunteering Officer

We want to take this opportunity to recognise and be thankful for the Queen's service to the volunteers and communities who she supported and championed throughout her lifetime.

We'll be sharing a special edition of our newsletter in the New Year which will take a look back at 2022 and reflect on all the amazing achievements of our volunteers.

Watch this space and speak to your Volunteer Manager if there is anything in particular you would like to see included!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email nicola.levin@leics.gov.uk or claire.bradshaw@leics.gov.uk

Your community

Your opportunity

