

Spring 2024

Leicestershire
County Council

Culture
Leicestershire
Heritage, Libraries, Collections and Learning

Volunteering

News



We've got a snazzy new banner, fresh off the press Culture Leicestershire volunteer tees and cosy jumpers, a shiny new volunteer system named Assemble, new exhibitions, and an excited new volunteering manager (Hello!). While we wait to see these changes in full swing, one thing that stays constant is your rock-solid dedication, kindness, and all-around wonderfulness!

Here are some updates, highlights and opportunities. Don't miss out on our [Volunteer's Week \(3rd - 9th June\) plans](#). Happy reading!

Updates

A thank you to our volunteers

In March, we held a celebration event at the 1620s House and Garden, gathering volunteers across Heritage and Libraries to mingle, swap stories, and soak in all the good vibes. Read about the event [by clicking here](#).

"Highlights are meeting new people and making friends. Knowledge. Confidence. The opportunity to tell our story. Breaking barriers between different communities. Lots to takeaway!" – Volunteer Quote

Assemble, our new Volunteer System

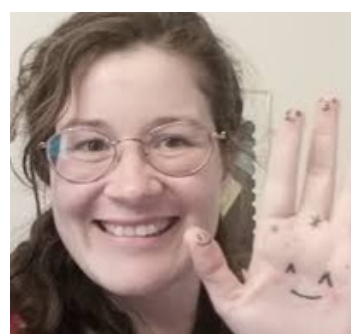
The volunteer programme across Leicestershire County Council is going through some improvements. We are moving from the previous Volunteer system, Better Impact, to Assemble. Please rest assured that your personal data is securely kept. We will keep you in the loop as we start preparing to use the system more widely.

While we wait to launch Assemble, we've been promoting volunteering through roadshows, featuring [Culture to You](#), [Home Library Service](#), [Museums](#), and [Libraries](#).



Hello from Pippa!

I'm Culture Leicestershire's new Volunteering Manager. I'm excited to dive into this role, meet the team and celebrate all things volunteering. Let's chat about volunteering, gardening, swing dancing, allotments, and heads up for some top-notch (or cringeworthy) puns.



Volunteer Expenses

It is so important that you are reimbursed for reasonable expenses during your volunteering with us. Contact your volunteering coordinator for guidance on claiming expenses so we can ensure financial fairness for all volunteers.

Collections Resources Centre Trip

Thank you to the Curatorial and Collections team for their tour of the Collections Resources Centre. It's truly a treasure trove of amazing fashion, tiny insects, and industry artefacts. The team also highlighted the wonderful volunteer contributions, like embroidered casing and photographs for easy access. Have a look at their fantastic website by [clicking here](#).



VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

Every year we celebrate Volunteers' Week – an opportunity to give visibility to your amazing contributions. During the week of the 3rd to the 9th of June we will be showcasing volunteer highlights on our social media platforms. In addition we wanted to invite you to the following:

4th June, 11 - 2pm - Picnic at 1620s House & Garden

Join us with the 1620s and Bosworth Volunteers for a picnic at 1620s House and Garden. Bring your own picnic and chair/blanket. Refreshments and doughnuts are on us. Let us know if you are attending so we can have a rough idea on expected numbers and to arrange free guided tours. Email pippa.vidaldavies@leics.gov.uk if you haven't already confirmed with [Kristy](#).

4th and 5th June - All day - New Harborough Art

We invite you, friends and family, to capture personal responses to the [Harborough at Work](#) exhibition through a large-scale artwork inspired by this exhibition. This mural will eventually be displayed in the space. Join us anytime from 10.30 am on either day at Market Harborough Library & Museum or the Market to share your thoughts, ideas and stories. Email pippa.vidaldavies@leics.gov.uk to share your attendance.

6th June, 1 - 3pm - Culture to You Taster, Wigston

Introducing "[Culture to You](#)" – a new service connecting communities with collections of art, museum objects, cultural activity and each other. It is being piloted across Oadby and Wigston. Join us at **Wigston Library** on Thursday, June 6th, from 1 to 3 pm for a sneak peek. We'll bring the art, the collections and the artsy activities, owl we need is you. Email pippa.vidaldavies@leics.gov.uk to join.



Have a look at our social media platforms for volunteer story highlights:



facebook.com/CultureLeics



facebook.com/CultureLeics

Highlights

Sikh Women in History at Bosworth Battlefield

We are glad to present a new co-curated exhibition, 'Medieval Women Forging the Way: Influential Women in Leicestershire (1485) and the beginnings of the Sikh faith in Punjab (1469)' at Bosworth Battlefield. Much is known about the powerful women of the War of the Roses, and by collaborating alongside volunteers from a local Sikh women's group we have explored their medieval peers in Punjab and the paths they forged for generations of Sikh women around the world.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the project.

The exhibition is free to visit until October 2024. You can plan your visit by clicking [here](#).



“I feel valued as a member of this team and project because our concerns are being listened to and we are designing every step of the way...I feel honoured to be part of this inspirational exhibition and have really enjoyed creating the artwork” – Volunteer Quote

Loughborough Libraries Local Studies Volunteers

Congratulations to [Loughborough Libraries Local Studies Volunteer Group](#) for successfully launching the Charnwood Borough Council 50th Anniversary Exhibition! The event was attended by dignitaries, and it was wonderful to share memories over tea and cake. You can visit the exhibition until July 27th to explore the great work put together by volunteers.

Click [here](#) to have a read of Daniel Mutibwa blog spotlighting the great team.



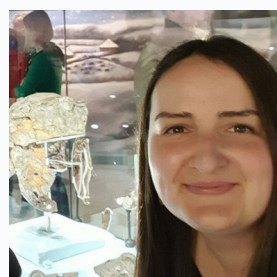
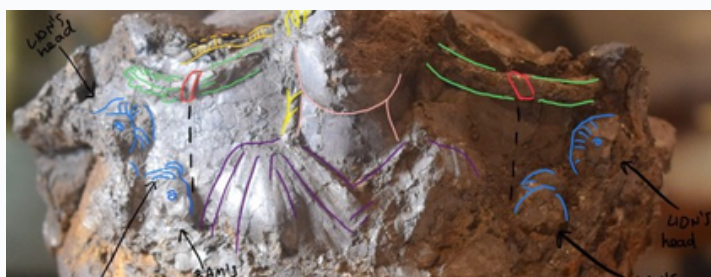
Finding Out About Your Local Area

The Finding Out About Your Local Area group collaborated with Charnwood Museum, Creative Learning Services and Culture Leicestershire to enhance accessibility. They identified visitor needs, took photographs, and created a social story film to showcase the museum. The group rose to the challenge of being filmed and were able to show what a friendly and welcoming environment Charnwood Museum is. [Click here](#) to see their work.



Teresa and the Hallaton Helmet

Teresa, an Art Historian and volunteer, contributed to uncovering the iconography on the Hallaton Helmet with the Curator of Archaeology and an Archaeological Illustrator. A fantastic job that led to the creation of the replica helmets [now displayed at Harborough Museum](#). Thank you, Teresa, for playing such a crucial role in making this happen. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Leicestershire Shared Reading

Thank you Leicestershire Shared Reading. Your presence in libraries and online encourages the local community to come together in a safe space through the joy of reading. See the results from their recent user survey questionnaire [here](#) and [visit their website](#) for more information.



We absolutely love capturing volunteering highlights and sharing them with everyone! Don't forget to share your own highlights with your Volunteer Manager for a chance to feature in our upcoming newsletters.

Opportunities

Medieval Festival Volunteers - 17th & 18th August

This year, Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and we are welcoming the highly popular MedFest! An event taking place on Saturday, 17th, and Sunday, 18th of August, with re-enactments, book signings and medieval markets – [check out the event plan here](#). We are looking for volunteers to be part of ensuring everyone has a safe and unforgettable time. Help us welcome people to this event and fill it with merriment and care for both visitors and those creating the medieval wonderland. Get in touch with [Kristy](#) or [Becca](#) to find out more and express your interest.



Culture to You Volunteers

Culture to You is a new offer aimed at providing 'at home' access to collections of art, museums handling objects and cultural activities to people unable to get to our sites. We are looking for volunteers to support our pilot in the Oadby and Wingston area and help us shape its future development. From supporting in a general way, to having a reminiscence or community focus, we would really value your involvement. There's a [taster on the 6th of June you could join](#), and details on the project [here](#) and [here](#).



Market Harborough Volunteering

[HandMade Theatre](#) has been commissioned to create a new mural as part of the [Harborough at Work exhibition](#). We would love a couple of volunteers to support the ideas and painting workshops to capture participant ideas, experiences and stories. The dates are 4th, 5th and 29th June and 2nd, 3rd and 9th July. For more information and to put yourself forward, email pippa.vidaldavies@leics.gov.uk



Invited News

Community Engagement Volunteers (AHCN)

The African Heritage Collaborative Network (AHCN) is interested in working with enthusiastic volunteers to assist in an exploratory research into people's interest in African Culture and Heritage across the Midlands. All expenses covered including travel and food. [Click here](#) or scan the QR code to register your interest in volunteering. Deadline for registration: 27th May 2024. For more information, visit www.thehighlife.org/heritageresilience



Creative Practitioner call out

We seek a dynamic creative practitioner to collaborate with diverse audiences in Charnwood to craft a community response to the stunning Bronze Age Cossington necklace. For information and to apply please [visit our Culture Leicestershire website](#). Submissions due by 5pm, 3rd June 2024.

Have a Go Month! June 2024

GoLearn!
Leicestershire Adult Learning Service

This June the GoLearn! team are celebrating Have a Go Month! This is organised by the Adult Learning Service and is an opportunity to celebrate lifelong learning in Leicestershire. They are offering over 50 FREE adult learning tasters and events in venues across the county. Visit online www.GoLearnLeicestershire.ac.uk/events to explore the complete range of events available. Please email LALS.ParticipationTeam@Leics.gov.uk to speak to a member of the team.

We are so thankful for your constant support, cheeriness and good sport. We are so lucky to have you. Do get in touch with your Volunteer Manager with any questions, thoughts or ideas. If you have any other questions, please feel free to email: pippa.vidaldavies@leics.gov.uk

www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/volunteering

Your community
Your opportunity

