Volunteer Role Description

Role: Conservation Team Member

Team: Community Workshop

Role Purpose: To help with larger Conservation projects undertaken by the Museum.

Reports to: Conservation Project Leader

About The Long Shop Museum
The Long Shop Museum is housed in a cluster of historic buildings in the Suffolk market town of Leiston. The buildings are survivors of the original 19th century works site of Richard Garrett and Sons. Garretts were world-famous manufacturers of steam engines and other agricultural machinery, and the Museum has important collections relating to farming machinery, steam traction, tools and commercial and domestic products that were made by the works during its 200 year history - from sickles to steam engines, from seed drills to tumble dryers, and from threshers to cardboard box makers.

The Museum site covers over an acre. It includes historically and architecturally important and protected buildings. The Long Shop itself – a prototype for assembly line production – is unique and grade II* listed. The museum helps to explain the town's industrial character and how its residents contributed to the agricultural and industrial revolutions.

Attracting up to 10,000 visitors a year, The Long Shop Museum makes an important contribution to the local tourism offer, both in Leiston and in the East Suffolk area. The Museum is also a place of pilgrimage for many people interested in industrial heritage and archaeology. Our volunteers are at the heart of what makes the museum a success.

What you will be doing:

- Assisting with a wide range of tasks necessary to restore vehicles, machinery, etc. Tasks include cleaning and preparing metalwork, painting, cutting, shaping and joining timber, working with fabric (such as canvas and leather), dismantling and re-assembling mechanisms and machinery.
- Assisting with the research and resourcing required to allow the conservation work to be carried out accurately and sympathetically.

This role would suit someone who is:

- Willing to work as part of a team.
- Able to be flexible and to adapt to different tasks.
- Willing to listen, and to learn new skills.
- Willing and able to work co-operatively with staff and other volunteers, but also happy to work alone on certain tasks.
- Willing to accept supervision and follow guidance given, especially related to Health & Safety
- A conscientious worker who takes pride in their efforts.

What will you get from working as a volunteer at The Long Shop:

- A sense of involvement in a meaningful project.
- Regular interaction with a team with a shared purpose in an accessible and inclusive environment.
- A sense of fulfilment and achievement.
- Regular manual and intellectual activity, and self-actualization.

What training and support will you receive in this role:

- You will receive regular information updates about your team and the museum
- You will be invited to attend regular volunteer forum meetings and social events
- You will receive induction training that includes Health & Safety, and site and task familiarisation
- You will receive training and support on the necessary tools and techniques needed to fulfil the tasks associated with this role
- You will be offered optional training related to your chosen role(s) to make your tasks more enjoyable and rewarding

How this role benefits the Museum:

- It allows the museum to accept larger objects, such as vehicles, into its Collection even when they require significant restoration work.
- It helps to stimulate interest in the Museum's activities.
- It helps the Museum to grow, and to broaden its audience appeal.
- It provides opportunities for volunteers to learn new skills that benefit the Museum.

Interested in this role?

Please contact us by either:

- Emailing the museum at - info@longshopmuseum.co.uk
- Writing to us at – The Long Shop Museum, Main Street, Leiston IP16 4ES
- Using the Enquiry Form at - https://www.longshopmuseum.co.uk/volunteer-3/
- Calling the museum on - 01728 832189 (you may need to leave a message)

We will provide you with a Volunteer Application Pack by your preferred method (email or post) which will include instructions for if you choose to proceed.