Volunteer Role Description

Role: Display Team Member

Team: Display Team

Role Purpose: To create new engaging permanent and temporary displays in the Museum, utilising Objects from the Collections. Maintaining and regularly refreshing existing permanent displays.

Reports to: Museum Director

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:

- Planning, developing, and resourcing new displays and exhibitions.
- Working with the Collections & Catalogue Team to curate displays.
- Researching the Objects and display themes and develop new interpretation materials.
- Working with the Museum Management Team to design and produce display and interpretation materials and media.
- Working with the Collections Team and the Museum Management Team to install new displays.

This role would suit someone who:

- Is enthusiastic about the Museum, its stories, and its Collections
- Is open-minded and creative, yet able to work with the Museum brand guidelines
- Enjoys reflecting on the Museum's different audiences
- Is able to work as part of a team with mixed but complementary skill sets
- Is also able to independently produce work (such as research) to a deadline.

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

- The opportunity to closely engage with a wide range of historical Objects and media.
- Regular interaction with a small team on project-driven tasks.
- An opportunity to develop research and creativity skills.
- Being involved in highly rewarding outcomes that result in tangible improvements in the Museum
- 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 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 Museum Objects to be displayed and interpreted to best effect.
- It makes the Museum a more attractive, engaging, and rewarding destination to a greater range of audiences.
- It helps to keep the Museum a dynamic destination, encouraging repeat visits.

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.