

Become a Collections Project Volunteer

Fixed term project

Get up close with our archives and behind the scenes access to our object stores! We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to support our Curatorial Team in helping to audit & inventory our internationally significant collection. The project is taking place to increase our knowledge of our collections, improve accessibility, and reconcile historic documentation issues. The project started in 2021; we have already completed the process for over 20 000 objects, and we think there are around 15 – 30 000 to go. Volunteering with us assists with this process you will be working in the Galleries, Library, and other storerooms. You will have the opportunity to work with and be trained in handling artefacts from all eras, of all different sizes and materials. These include boats, prehistoric stone tools, bottles of beer, and musket balls, among many others.

About the River & Rowing Museum

The River & Rowing Museum inspires escape and exploration, telling the many stories of the River Thames and celebrating the wildlife that calls it home. Beyond its beautiful riverside location in Henley on Thames and award-winning building, the Museum's doors open onto art, history, conservation, and the international sport of rowing.

The Museum cares for over 25,000 objects, including items of national and international significance, covering the themes of; the international sport of rowing, Henley on Thames, the River Thames, the classic children's book *The Wind in the Willows*, and the Modern British artist John Piper. Highlights include: the boat Sir Steve Redgrave won his fifth consecutive gold medal in at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000; John Piper's 'String Solo', 1934; a 12th century log boat; a gold coin hoard dating to the Iron Age; and Jan Siberechts' 1698 oil painting, 'Henley from the Wargrave Road'. Find out more at <https://rrm.co.uk/>

What you will be doing:

Helping us to continue our Collections Audit & Inventory Project. Tasks will include:

- Carrying out object condition checks.
- Undertaking object handling and labelling.
- Updating object documentation.
- Data entry onto Excel spreadsheets.
- Working to update and complete the Museum's collections database.
- Packing objects for short- and long-term storage.
- Object photography.

River & Rowing Museum Foundation

Mill Meadows Henley on Thames RG9 1BF T 01491 415600 rrm.co.uk

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Training and equipment provided:

- Training in object handling, manual handling, ladder use.
- Training to carry out the Audit & Inventory Process, which includes artefact assessment, and working with Excel and our Collections Management Database software, Vernon.
- All equipment necessary is provided.

This would be a great opportunity for someone who...

- Has keen attention to detail.
- Has competent computer skills, especially with the Microsoft Office suite, and is willing to learn how to use our collections management database.
- Is interested in museum collections and working behind the scenes with range of material.
- Is looking to develop and apply knowledge and skills to do with museum collections databases and collections management.
- Is looking to gain experience of the heritage and culture sector.
- Enjoys being part of a team.

Required hours:

The project will run on several days during the week (usually Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but subject to change) with 2-3 volunteers at each session. Volunteering sessions will take place at either 9.30am – 12.00pm or 1.00pm - 3.30pm and will be supported and supervised by members of the curatorial team. We ask a minimum commitment of 1 session per three weeks, with the ideal commitment being a session every week to two weeks.

Travelling to us:

The Museum is accessible by train, bus, and car. Volunteers can use the Museum's car park for free during their sessions. Travel can be reimbursed up to a certain amount.

How to get involved:

If you are interested in getting involved or have any questions or queries about this project, please email us at volunteering@rrm.co.uk or write to us at **Volunteering, The River & Rowing Museum, Mill Meadows, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 1BF.**

We look forward to hearing from you.

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