

2025AV Greater London Area Arts Society

Volunteering Opportunities

Benjamin Franklin House 36 Craven Street WC2N 5NF

Front of House Volunteers required at this Grade 1 historic house – from running the Box Office to leading tours of the house for visitors. One day per week. Roles especially suited to those with strong interest in the public side of museums/heritage work.

*****REVISED*****

British Dental Association, 64 Wimpole Street, London W1G 8YS

We have had volunteers at the BDA for many years and now they need to strengthen their team of Book Conservators with another 4 volunteers. The work takes place on the 3rd Thursday of the month at their premises in Wimpole Street from 10/10.30am to 4/4.30pm. The library is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Tea and coffee is supplied but please bring your own lunch. The training will take place on a Thursday in the new year. Would those interested please contact Rosalie Gowlland at rosalie.gowlland@gmail.com or on 01380 859186.

Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1 4 RL

Conway Hall's library houses the Ethical Society's collection of Humanist research material. The work involves noting the condition of books, their cleaning and conservation. Book Conservation Training is needed. There is a vacancy for an experienced book conservationist.

Design Museum, Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, Kensington

The Design Museum has moved to new premises at the old Commonwealth Institute on High Street Kensington. They are looking for volunteers for four different roles and training will be given for each one

Welcomer

A volunteer is needed to deliver excellent customer service, provide information and handouts, orientate people, and supervise an activity table. Be familiar with forthcoming events/exhibitions and provide information on local facilities (tube, ATM machines, Boris bicycles etc).

Library Volunteer

Help set up the new library and its procedures; assist the public, students and museum curators with their enquiries and research (this is not a lending library, ie the books cannot be taken away but must be read in situ). An interest in contemporary design is desirable.

Dickens Museum, 48 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2IX

The main need is for room stewards/guides to look after visitors to Dickens London home. General stewarding plus some conservation roles will be needed in the future.

Dorich House still needs volunteers to help out in various ways at this beautiful Modernist House on Kingston Hill in Kingston Vale. The former studio home of the sculptor Dora Gordine and her husband, a scholar of Russian art and literature, Dorich House is now a Grade II listed building. The house was acquired and renovated by Kingston University in 1991 and is now open to the public as a fully accredited museum. Volunteers are needed for front of house and helping with occasional exhibitions.

Emery Walker House, 7 Hammersmith Terrace, Chiswick A fascinating terraced house overlooking the Thames, which was the home of Emery Walker - printer, collector and mentor to William Morris. It is open on Thursdays and Saturdays for special guided tours in groups of maximum 8 visitors. The tours will last one hour and are pre-booked. After an introductory talk you will accompany the visitors through all the main rooms in the house and (weather permitting), the garden, bringing to life the history of this unique house beside the Thames. Volunteers are urgently needed to act as tour guides and training will start soon.

Foundling Museum 40 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ This museum tells the story of Britain's first home for abandoned children. There are some vacancies for volunteers interested in either gallery stewarding or reception work. The museum is open from Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am to 5.00pm and on a Sunday from 11.00am to 5.00pm but volunteer hours are flexible. There are current vacancies.

The Garden Museum, 5. Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7LB St. Mary's church houses a beautiful exhibition space which is home to the Garden Museum. This museum explores our relationship with, and the social history of gardens. This museum, the first of its kind, is looking for volunteers to help with front of house and in the shop. Training will be given. Shifts are 10.00am to 2.00pm and /or 1.30pm to 5.30pm with breaks for refreshments.

*****REVISED*****

Handel House Museum, 25 Brook Street, London W1K 4HB now called The Handel Hendrix Museum

Handel House is a beautiful museum in central London, largely staffed by a team of dedicated volunteers of all ages. They are looking for Room Stewards, help with manning reception, Tour Guiding and helping with events. The rota is flexible (one shift per week minimum), shifts are either 10.00am – 1.30pm or 1.30pm – 6.00pm (Tuesday to Saturday) or 12.00noon – 4.00pm or 2.00pm – 6.00pm (Sunday).

They are also looking for volunteers to make costumes for children for both Handel and Jimmy Hendrix's times.

Household Cavalry Museum, Horse Guards, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AX

This museum is located in a historic building adjoining the stables of the horse guards. Volunteers wanted mainly for room stewardship. Flexible arrangements for the rota

Kingston Museum, Wheatfield Way, Kingston KT1 2PS

Kingston Museum is run by the Kingston Heritage Service, needs volunteers to greet visitors and to help out in the museum shop. The commitment is for one or two half-day shifts per week on a Tuesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday. It might also be possible for volunteers to help out with some of the museum's children and family events.

Kingston Museum, Wheatfield Way, Kingston KT1 2PS.

Kingston University needs volunteers to work on their archives in the new Town House building on Penrhyn Road, which won the Stirling prize in 2021. Among the archives, is one which holds primary resource material on the life and work of the twentieth-century novelist and philosopher Dame Iris Murdoch (1919-1999). This is an extensive archive comprising her private libraries, books, letters, journals and other documents. The archivist in charge of this Special Collection is looking for volunteers to help with various tasks including listing, repackaging and transcribing. You can get a sense of their holdings by clicking on this link: <https://www.kingston.ac.uk/library-and-learning-services/archives-and-special-collections/>

Leighton House –

Leighton House is looking for Room Guides. Volunteers will provide a warm and friendly welcome to visitors and make sure no works are damaged. You can sit down whilst in the Museum and take breaks in the volunteer room where tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Travel expenses can be reimbursed up to £6.00 per day. Guides are needed for every day except Tuesdays when it is closed to the public. Shifts are either in the morning from 10.00am to 1.30pm and /or the afternoon 1.30pm to 5.30pm, and you can arrange these with Leighton House to suit yourself. Training will be given.

Linley Sambourne House, 18 Stafford Terrace W8.

This house was the home of Punch cartoonist Edward Linley Sambourne, his family and their servants. This late Victorian family home is preserved almost entirely intact, giving a memorable insight into the lives of the Sambournes and the world in which they lived. Volunteer Room guides are needed from 1.45 to 5.30 on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Room guides must keep an eye on all the contents of the room so as to ensure nothing is damaged or taken by any visitor, and can be seated in the room. Guides may also swap rooms with other guides during the afternoon if they so wish. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided and travel expenses up to £6 per day can be claimed on receipt of a ticket.

The National Archives, Kew, Richmond Surrey TW9 4DU

The National archives accept volunteers for specified jobs. If you register as a volunteer your name will be kept on their mailing list, and you will receive all details of vacancies.

Old Royal Naval College, 2 Cutty Sark Gardens, Greenwich London SE10 9LW

The ORNC comprises Discover Greenwich (a small museum), Chapel and Painted Hall. They need volunteers to assist their Visitor Experience Team in providing a warm welcome and an informative visit. Volunteers will carry out research, run object handling lessons, assist the Learning and Interpreting team in delivering learning programmes for adults and young learners. They will also provide behind the scenes office support and work on projects with the Marketing and Events Team. ORNC provides training for volunteers. Hours are flexible, but volunteers must commit to 3.5 hours per week or 1 day a fortnight for a period of 3 months – this is on a rolling basis.

*****REVISED*****

Reform Club, 104 Pall Mall, St. James's, London SW1Y 5EW

We have had a group of volunteers work on book conservation in the Reform Club's beautiful library for many years. They work on a Tuesday from 10.am to 4.00pm and they are now looking for more volunteers to join the group. Training will be given. Please contact Rosalie Gowlland at rosalie.gowlland@gmail.com or on 01380 859186

Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BD

The Royal Academy of Arts is looking for a (preferably experienced) book conservator to join their team. The hours are 10.30am to 12.30 on a Wednesday.

Royal Asiatic Society, 14 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD

This club was founded as a forum for those interested in languages, cultures and the history of Asia. Four volunteers needed to do archive work

Royal Institute of British Architecture, 66 Portland Place, London W1B 1AD

British Architectural Library - The Robert Elwall Photographs Collection

Volunteers are required, ideally with architectural background or knowledge (but those with an interest in architecture and/or photography will be welcome), have basic computer skills to sort, organise, list and catalogue photographic material once a week on a day to be agreed with Valeria. The most important requirements in the volunteers are accuracy and attention to detail. The swipe card you will use to gain access to the library will also give you discounts in the RIBA cafes and bookshop, and access to the staff canteen.

No vacancies at the moment but this will change in the future.

Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1G 0AE

The Royal Society of Medicine is one of the major suppliers of postgraduate education. One experienced volunteer needed for book conservation

Scots Guards Museum, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ

The Scots Guards Museum need help with digitising photographs from albums well annotated. This work would be done in the Museum on Birdcage Walk during working hours convenient to the volunteer between Monday and Thursday and in agreement with the museum.

They also have a second project which could be done at home. This is to assemble a record of digitally of items of interest to the Scots Guards which are held in other Collections and archives eg the Imperial war Museum, National Army Museum, National Archives of Scotland etc.

Sir John Soane Museum, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A 3BP

This compact and fascinating museum which was left to the nation by Sir John Soane, (1753 – 1837) requires room guides and stewards to work alongside experienced members of the museum staff assisting them with visitors. The rooms are filled with furniture, paintings, fragile models under glass domes, ceramics and other works of art, as a guide, you will help to bring the rooms alive for the visitors. Training will be given. The museum is open all year round from Tuesday to Saturday, 10.00am to 5.00pm. Schedule is very flexible, but please note the visitor route is narrow and there are stairs.

Strawberry Hill House, 268 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, TW1 4ST

Strawberry Hill House in Twickenham began life as a modest house built by coachmen in 1698. It was developed into the finest example in Britain of Georgian Gothic Revival architecture and interior decoration by Horace Walpole – the son of Robert Walpole, England's first Prime Minister. Strawberry Hill House is looking for room guides and help with front of house. The house is open during the hours 10.00 to 6.00 from Monday to Wednesday and on some Sundays (last visitor entry 5.00). Visitors are encouraged to pre-book their visit. There are 2 shifts each of these days 10.00 to 2.15 and 2.00 to 6.00 each with a rest break. Induction training and on-going training will be given. Benefits include free anytime access for you, plus a 50% discount for anyone you bring with you, free tea and coffee. 10% discount in the cafe and also a discount in the shop.

NEW

The Institute of Mechanical Engineers, 1, Birdcage Walk, London, SW1H 9JJ

We have a new project in the beautiful library at the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. The task involves cleaning and doing minor repairs to books in their library. Training will be given by Caroline Bendix in the new year. The schedule will be arranged as convenient to the volunteers; tea and coffee will be provided.

Would all those interested in participating in this new project please contact Rosalie Gowlland on 01380 859186 or by email at rosalie.gowlland@gmail.com

Turners House, Sandycombe Lodge, 40 Sandycombe Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 2LR

Front of house duties, eh meeting and greeting; Guiding around the rooms; manning reception desk

University College London. UCL Library Services Gower Street WC1E 6BT

Four more volunteers are required to assist book preservation in the library and the archives. Monday to Friday, mornings and/or afternoons.

Westminster City Library Archives Centre 10 St. Ann's Street, SW1P 2DE

Volunteers required to join other volunteers caring for books and paper repair. Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. Flexible.

Watercolour World, Bridgeman Images, 17 – 19 Garway Road, London W2 4PH

This is the first part of a very interesting but huge project. In the days prior to photography, watercolour was the main medium used to record people, places and objects. Watercolour World's objective is to collect copies of all these works done between 1750 – 1900, from both public and private collections across the globe and form a free geolocated online database for the whole world to see.

This is a huge task. They are looking for pictures by both well known artists and amateurs eg in Victorian times painting was considered an accomplishment and a lot of good pictures were painted by those left at home (maiden aunts or uncles) and hung in the less grand rooms of the house, or given away and by those doing the 'Grand Tour'. These watercolours can be found in a lot of houses and galleries, large and small.

Project 1

Our first project is for volunteers to help on either a Monday or Friday at the organisation's office in Garway Road. Project 1 is limited to GLA societies at the moment.

It involves carefully cropping images already scanned, identifying the places/people (if possible) and generally tidying up the image. Desirable skills for those working on Project 1 include an eye for detail and a curious mind, literate English and basic computer skills but training will be given. Tea and coffee is supplied.

Project 2

This will be announced shortly as the paperwork still has to be finalised.

All those interested in project 1 should please contact Rosalie Gowlland on 01380 859186 or by email at rosalie.gowlland@gmail.com

January2025