

How to make your volunteering count at Torquay Museum

A varied team of volunteers at Torquay Museum supports the work of staff enabling us to present the museum and its fabulous collections to the public.

Volunteers undertake a variety of tasks here, including administration, front of house support in the combined shop and reception, helping in the café and general maintenance inside and outside and in collections management.

Reasons for volunteering are many and varied. Some just want to do something different after retirement, while younger volunteers are building skills for their CV or finding out if museum work or hospitality are for them. Others just 'want to give something back'!

Proven good for mental health and wellbeing, some people come to volunteer with us after a difficult period in their life - perhaps a bereavement, protracted illness or a period caring for a loved one.

Previously we met Tim, Barbara and Sam who 'upped sticks' and moved to

Philip King, visitor experience manager at Torquay Museum

Devon from rural Dorset just before Covid struck. After lockdown and the period of enforced isolation in a new town and new county, they just needed to 'get out and meet people'.

Volunteering at the museum has certainly helped with that!

The whole family have a range of skills and have put these to good use.

They help with the maintenance of the building, general cleaning and more recently delivering the new season's museum leaflet - importantly engaging with hoteliers and hosts to develop relationships between the museum and those who are providing accommodation to visitors to the Bay.

The amount of time given varies too. Some volunteers help us twice a week,

and have done so for several years, without fail! Some people come fortnightly; others are able to give just a couple of hours here and there. Occasionally, volunteers have been able to support us remotely. This works best if they are involved with discrete, specialised tasks with flexible timing.

In a similar vein, we have recently been supported throughout a complex grant application process by a consultancy firm giving their time on a 'pro bono' basis - that's professional advice provided, free of charge in the public interest.

Currently we are looking for front of house support with our busiest summer months in mind; there are opportunities too in the museum café.

We would also be interested to hear from any electrician, retired or otherwise to join our maintenance team to help us with PAT testing and emergency light testing/maintenance.

If you're interested in helping, please email me at philip.King@torquaymuseum.org



Torquay Museum volunteers Tony and Steve preparing last year's window boxes for summer planting.



Volunteers Steve, Sam, Eileen, Tim and Anthony.

Advertisement Feature

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Struggling to climb out of your bath?



ANDREW WARD is managing director and sales director of Ability Bathe, a family run independent bathroom installation company which was founded by Andrew and his wife in 2012.

Andrew has owned and run a complete bathroom supply and installation company for 25 years, fitting all types of bathrooms and wet rooms in the North of England. Since expanding into the South West, Andrew - together with a small team of employees - has specialised in installing and fitting not just bathrooms, but also walk-in showers and wet rooms.

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Andrew personally goes out to the initial consultation, paying great attention to detail and customer requirements. On commencement, he again attends and personally sets up the installation, running through all points raised with his employees, who will do the hands-on installation.

Then he spends the final finishing hours at the customer's home to make sure the customer is happy with the installation quality and service. Ability Bathe's motto is: "A bath to shower in 48hours".

Andrew says: "We make the promise that we don't come to you until our previous job is complete and we will not leave you until yours is complete".

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