

Volunteer Role

Oral Histories Volunteer



Volunteering with the Union Chain Bridge Project

Volunteers are an extremely important part of the Union Chain Bridge project. Our volunteers will be vital for several of our activities including uncovering detailed information through research. Volunteering is a great way to gain experience and develop skills in something you really enjoy, as well as to meet new people and learn about the history and heritage of the area. All our volunteers will be supported by the project team and training will be provided.

The Union Chain Bridge Project

Union Chain Bridge: Crossing Borders, Inspiring Communities is an ambitious project involving the conservation of the historically and internationally significant Union Chain Bridge, and an extensive programme of public engagement funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project is a partnership between Northumberland County Council, Scottish Borders Council, Museums Northumberland and the Friends of the Union Chain Bridge. In this partnership, Museums Northumberland is responsible for the Volunteer Programme and the delivery of all heritage learning and engagement activities.

Roles purposes	<p>We are looking for volunteers, who with training and support will collect oral histories from local residents and people involved in the project to gather a variety of stories about the Union Chain Bridge, its history, cultural context and role in everyday life in the area.</p> <p>The content will be held in the project archives and will inform educational materials and public exhibition materials including the project website.</p>
What the role will involve	<p>The main focus of the role will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training in good practice in the gathering of oral histories.• Meeting and recording structured conversations with people. This may include using virtual communication strategies as appropriate to the current situation.• Transcribing these interviews.
When	<p>Spring 2022 - Summer 2022.</p> <p>To a large extent you will be able to manage your own work schedule with guidance from the project team.</p>

<p>Where</p>	<p>This activity will be flexible in that volunteers will be able to take part from home remotely but will be expected to keep in regular contact with the co-ordinators.</p> <p>Where possible, Berwick Museum and Art Gallery will be the main base for the project, however the field work will take place on site convenient to the interviewees.</p>
<p>Requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interest in local history, people and culture • Good interactive verbal communication skills • Ability to work on your own and in a team • Attendance at appropriate training to develop your skills
<p>Our commitment To you</p>	<p>Through this role you will gain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working with recording technology as appropriate to the task. • Understanding of ways to gather oral histories, including developing questioning techniques, pro-active listening skills and managing ethical issues that might arise from interviewees' contributions. • The opportunity to develop your knowledge of local history, geography, and culture with a focus on the Union Chain Bridge. • Experience of working independently, yet as part of a bigger team. <p>We will also reimburse reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for travel – further details can be found in the volunteer handbook.</p>
<p>Training</p>	<p>Volunteers will receive a mixture of internally and externally delivered training including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality & Diversity • Selecting and using appropriate technology. • Techniques of gathering oral histories and their transcription.
<p>Contact</p>	<p>Carol Whinnom Learning & Outreach Officer</p> <p>ucb@museumsnorthumberland.org.uk</p>