

Volunteering Opportunities

We have recently received funding from the National Lottery to offer grants to enable owners to conserve and repair their shopfronts in the Market Place and Lord Street.

We are also delivering a programme of activities to help the local community to learn and understand the heritage of this area, ensuring that it is preserved for future generations. Some of these activities bring opportunities for volunteers to be involved in the project throughout 2022 - 2024.

Volunteer Interviewers

We intend to create an archive of recordings based on local people's recollections of the shops and traders of Gainsborough's past. We have lists of the business owners that occupied each shop going back to the 1840s and we think that the people of Gainsborough, with their own reminiscences can add more recent stories.

Location

Outdoors at public events or indoors at pre-arranged meetings with interviewees. Based at home and travelling to conduct interviews in the centre of Gainsborough.

Responsible Officer / Supervisor / Contact

Theresa Workman is the Activities Coordinator and she will assist you, providing training and pre-arranged interview sessions.

Timescale

The aim is to have completed the archive of recordings and transcribed them fully by summer 2023. As each recording is completed it will be added to the THI website.

Main tasks and responsibilities

- To undertake training and become familiar with the simple audio recording equipment that is supplied.
- To learn good interview technique from the Oral History Society.
- To carry out interviews at public events as part of the THI team and in pre-arranged interview sessions in care homes or at the Guildhall.
- To transcribe/write up each interview and edit recordings to prepare them for publishing.
- Option to progress towards creating content for the THI website and assisting with social media posts.

Skills and experience required

- A confident and friendly approach to working with the Public.
- Ability and enthusiasm to learn about interview techniques and use of simple hand-held recording equipment.
- Ability to use email and type up transcripts on your own keyboard at home.
- This position will not involve regular contact with a team and would suit someone who is comfortable to work from home and keep contact via computer except for when actual interviews are taking place.

Support and training required

An introductory training session is obligatory. This will involve familiarisation with recording equipment and a training session led by the Oral History Society.

You will be part of the THI team and as such will be invited along to our public events where interviews can take place with the public. We will also arrange special days at heritage sites and Care Homes where you will have pre-arranged appointment times with interviewees.

What you need to provide

You do not need to provide any equipment. We will initially ask you to provide some personal details and proof of ID. This role is flexible and we can work your interviews into your own schedule. We ask that every volunteer who has undertaken our training provide at least 4 interviews.

What you will gain from this role

- You will be taking part in a once in a lifetime project to restore the heart of Gainsborough to its former glory and to capture its history for generations to come.
- You will gain interview skills and the ability to capture and present history in various formats.
- You will receive a certificate of attendance for participating in the oral history training sessions and have access to other optional training.
- You will meet interesting people and be part of a friendly team.