

Costumed Interpreter Volunteer

Role Description



What is a Costumed Interpreter Volunteer?

Our small team of role play volunteers work with the general public to help our visitors understand about the lives of the people involved in the story of Cromford Mills. They wear period costume and play carefully researched and prepared roles such as mill workers, overseer and possibly Richard Arkwright himself, as more characters are developed in the future.

Why we want you

Cromford Mills is looking for volunteers to don the full Georgian dress, from the hat to the shoes, to help visitors better understand life in Georgian times.

The use of costumed role play is a great way to help visitors to understand and empathise with the lives of the people who worked at Cromford Mills and to share their stories.

What will you be doing?

- Playing a role as one of a team, with the option of playing more than one role.
- Interacting with visitors to bring your character to life and answering their questions.
- Being able to jump in and out of character to create a positive encounter with the general public.
- Responding to the varying needs and interests of different visitors and to make their visit as enjoyable as possible.
- To read and research relevant documents relating to your role in order to ensure that visitors receive accurate, fact-based information.
- To become familiar with any replica artefacts, their function and potential for interpretation.

You'll need to be:

- Enthusiastic and willing to engage with visitors.
- Able to work as a team member.
- No experience in drama is necessary, just enthusiasm to learn about history and an enjoyment for the performing arts.
- Happy to wear authentic replica Georgian costume!
- Have a willingness to research and develop your character
- Outgoing, friendly and patient
- Self-motivated
- Have good interpersonal and communication skills both in and out of character
- Confident and able to use your own initiative

What will you get out of it?

- The chance to express yourself in character and really bring history to life
- Being part of a friendly team
- New skills and competences
- An opportunity to learn more about Cromford Mills
- Sharing your love of history with our visitors
 - Above all, this will be a lot of fun!

This role is purely voluntary and this arrangement is not meant to be a legally binding one or an employment contract

How much time will you need to give?

We offer monthly costumed volunteer led tours every third Saturday of the month. We try and get as many costumed volunteers together as possible. Other times and dates can be flexible and will be discussed with your staff contact.

For your information

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| Location | Cromford Mills |
| Volunteer Manager | Hannah Steggles |
| Staff Contact | Hannah Steggles – Volunteer Manager |
| Training | Onsite workshops and training will be led by the current team. Specific training to improve skills will be arranged as needs are identified. |
| Expenses | Out-of-pocket travel costs between home and volunteering place will be paid, and other reasonable expenses agreed in advance. A lunch voucher is provided for full day volunteers in either of our wonderful cafes. |

About Cromford Mill

At Cromford Mill Sir Richard Arkwright constructed the world's first successful water powered cotton spinning mill in 1771. These mills were the first phase in the development of the factory system and led to the Derwent Valley being described as "the cradle of the Industrial Revolution". In 2001 its historical importance was acknowledged when this part of the Derwent Valley became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Cromford Mills is not a museum. It is a multi-purpose site with visitor attractions and business tenants all contributing to the working nature of the site.

The site is undergoing a long-term programme of restoration. There is a variety of restaurants, shops, exhibitions and a regular events and schools programme.

Background to the Arkwright Society

The Arkwright Society is a registered charity (515526). The Society was created by a team of people who worked together to research the Mill site for the festival celebrating the bicentenary of Arkwright's arrival in Cromford in 1771. The Society emerged from this to manage the mills, watercourses and associated buildings and eventually purchased the site in 1979.

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