

Volunteer Newsletter: Bradford Libraries, Museums and Galleries





A message from Rosie Crook, Interim Museums Manager

Dear Volunteers

I'm delighted to say that we have reopened our sites Bolling Hall Museum, Cliffe Castle Museum, Cartwright Hall Art Gallery and Bradford Industrial Museum. It was a delight to meet one or two of our Visiteers in person, at the Inductions and on our first day at Cliffe. I do feel you are adding so much to the visitor experience and the work of the Service with the public - as indeed our volunteers

always have done. I'd also like to pay tribute to our front of house teams and all our colleagues who have worked so very hard to get the museums sparkly clean, with lovely new displays, new shops on the way, community projects happening, exciting family offers and a shiny new overflow café space and menu at Cart. Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, despite opening last summer, there's still a huge amount of risk assessment, safety procedures and training that has gone into being able to welcome our visitors back.

Thank you too to you all for sticking with us loyally, or joining us recently. It's a delight to see happy visitors enjoying what we have to offer again.

I do recommend a visit to our new displays.

Lateral Flow Tests for BMG Volunteers

- If volunteers do not feel well or start to have symptoms of the virus- do not go to work PCR test/isolate
- If they start to show symptoms at work they go home/PCR test/isolate and where they have been working is cleaned
- The Council now strongly encourages volunteers to make use of LFT home testing 2x weekly to pick up on those with asymptomatic virus - these are freely available. <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>
- Regular hand washing as well as the use of sanitiser rather than the reliance of gloves and sanitiser



A few words from Christine May, Interim Manager for Bradford Libraries



A huge congratulations to so many of our Community Libraries across the District who are in the process of reopening library services as lockdown restrictions ease. For full details of what's available where please keep an eye on our library pages on the [Council's website](#). The volunteers have come up with some imaginative solutions to continuing to

provide services through the pandemic that have suited their local communities and library users.

The next step for many of us is starting to reintroduce activities and events in libraries and we know our customers are keen to get going again with children's story times, knit and natter, and the wide range of other events we normally offer. As ever, we will be reintroducing these carefully and gradually, in small numbers, in line with Government regulations and national guidelines. And of course we are now gearing up for the Summer Reading Challenge which this year has a suitably environmental theme – Wild World Heroes – perfect for organising safer outdoor events wherever possible.

As life starts to get back to nearer 'normal', we can start to plan ahead and that includes recruiting to more volunteer roles to support libraries – watch this space!. In the meantime, we are very pleased to have successfully recruited a number of volunteers to support the library at Bolling Hall Museum– thanks to everyone who has stepped forward to help run the library there.

For volunteering in libraries, find out more



Volunteers' Week 2021

Volunteers Week (1 - 7 June) gave a huge thank you to all our amazing volunteers 🙌

We couldn't do what we do without your help, time and contributions 💙

This celebratory weekend saw our **Cosmaniacs** volunteers helped us out welcoming arrivals back to **Cartwright Hall Art Gallery**, raising £120.15 for [Marie Curie Hospice, Bradford](#) 🎉

And they'll be back on **SAT 17 JULY 11am - 2pm!**

[CARTWRIGHT HALL ART GALLERY](#)

Spider-Man, Batgirl and other well-known super hero characters will be making an appearance at **Cartwright Hall** in **Lister Park** from **11am-2pm**. Catch a photo with our volunteer heroes whilst visiting the

amazing art gallery @BradfordMuseums #cartwriighthall and we'll share them too.

More dates to follow over the summer! Please check out their Facebook or Instagram for more event information and upcoming appearances.

Friends of Bradford Art Galleries and Museums

On the final day of Volunteers' Week 2021, we were delighted to welcome Christine Halsall, Chair of the Friends of Bradford Art Galleries and Museums, to share her experience of volunteering, and why you should, too!

It can be downloaded here: <https://we.tl/t-b9dWikWC62>

[Find out more about the Friends here.](#)



Cliffe Castle Support Group

All about engaging with our local community and we have been busy whilst still being Covid 19 cautious.

Our most exciting project for 2021 is

“Pollinators of Cliffe Castle”. Simon, our “expert” has been surveying the grounds of Cliffe Castle and reporting his sightings on pollinating insects as well as the early solitary bees and bumble bees along with their nesting sites.

Four volunteers helped Catherine of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust’s Bee Together project plant plugs and sow seeds, so that food is provided both for the pollinators already in the park and the new ones we hope to attract.

We have organised the first of a series of official Flower Insect Timed Counts (FITs) for the Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS). These will take place regularly in the park and it’s hoped they’ll soon become a group activity.

Wellbeing Walks Leaflet. Volunteers Val and Eyarun led the Dementia Friendly Group from Keighley. Some of the attendees had not ventured outdoors for over a year, so it was a gentle walk, little bit of Tai Chi was lots of chatter, enjoying the long-distance views and reminiscing, sharing Cliffe Castle memories and laughter. Which made this launch day a perfect community wellness connection with nature and supporting Dementia Awareness Week.

There is an audio recording in 3 languages to accompany the walk via a QR code.

If you are interested in the leaflet, you can download it from the Bradford District Park’s website.

<https://bradforddistrictparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Cliffe-Castle-Wellness-Walk.pdf>

Men of Keighley! Do visit Lion’s Den (Men’s Shed) at Cliffe Castle and the activities that they get involved in – by the way its not just for men everyone is welcome.

Volunteers Kate and Jane created 15 yards of **stripy bunting** to adorn one of the bright yellow Museum’s gazebos. It’s certainly going to look colourful.

CCSG is maintaining its presence on **social media** and we are experimenting with guest postings. "Toad Patrol Tales" proved informative and very popular, we are looking for our next guest "poster".

Volunteer Ruth has taken over the Tuesday **Cliffe Castle Sketchbook** for a few weeks with inspiring ideas on how to "how to capture lights in the park", be influenced by the intoxicating pinkness of cherry blossoms that even smell like pink candyfloss, wonder at forget me nots thriving in hidden spaces, and getting inspired by the bright colour and rich contrast of colours of the rhododendrons in the park.



Young Ambassadors Cartwright Hall Art Gallery

Bradford Museums and Galleries are recruiting Young Ambassadors to help showcase Bradford's historic heritage, renowned fine art collection and connections to residents living in the Bradford District.

The Young Ambassadors - between the ages of 16 – 24 – will come together through webinars, workshops and online events to explore how Bradford Museums and Art Galleries can be made more accessible for all age groups in the Bradford District.

The aim is to facilitate change for Museums in order to create a lasting, positive impact on our communities for future generations.

This means that our Young Ambassadors will experience the following opportunities:

- **Participating in meetings**
- **Creating tours, face to face and virtually**
- **Having their voice heard regarding the future of Museums**
- **Demoing exhibitions**
- **Facilitating visits**
- **Curating New Clubs and Activities**
- **Shadowing and supporting staff and projects**

This pilot programme will also contribute to the Council's overall aim to embed a new diversification of volunteers, career development and health and wellbeing.

Contact Usman for further information on Usman.Mahmood@bradford.gov.uk or T: 07971 030168 or BMGVolunteers@bradford.gov.uk on 01274 436027.

Update from Usman, Volunteer Facilitator

If you haven't downloaded Citizen Coin, please do: <https://bradford.citizencoin.uk/> . We will create activities for you to sign up, earn coins and then spend at local retailers.

Every 2 weeks, we have a coffee Friday catch up with our volunteers. Not everyone is expected to talk, a lot of the times, Sonja or other volunteers are sharing updates about our Museums and you can listen. But since you are part of the Museum family, you are welcome to attend. Usually on Zoom for now, but soon in our buildings with refreshments.

And finally, honesty and transparency is important. If you are unable to commit to shifts, please let me or Sonja know. If something makes you feel at unease, please let me or Sonja know. If there is something you want to change in our Museums, please don't be afraid to let me or Sonja know._

NOTE: This Young Ambassador programme is all about you! We want to inspire you to reach the highest level of independence and we will be there every step of the way to help you.



Want a Kickstart?

Eligible for [Department for Work and Pensions - DWP's Kickstart scheme?](#)

We have some exciting roles for you! 👍

- ➡ **Family Activities Support**, Cliffe Castle
- ➡ **Volunteer Programme Administrator**, Cartwright Hall
- ➡ **Catering Assistant**, Refreshment Room Café, Cartwright Hall

Find out more 🍌 <https://bit.ly/3gCCSVH>

Love Gardening? Join the volunteers

Bradford Industrial Museum or Bolling Hall Museum

Beginners welcome, as are those with gardening/horticulture knowledge.

Please contact Sonja on bm volunteers@bradford.gov.uk or 01274 436027

Thank you so much for giving your time to volunteer for Bradford Museums and Galleries.

We hope you enjoy it!

Let's hear your Bradford accent!

Bradford Museums and Galleries are working with Mind the Gap Theatre to deliver a fun promenade play at Bolling Hall Museum based on the stories of the house.

The actors are keen to get some advice on the proper Bradford accent.

We are seeking volunteers from the area who are willing to chat with them for a little bit, so when they're acting out Bradford's history at Bolling Hall, it will be in a Bradford specific accent.

Bolling Hall Community Library opens soon!

We've had a great week of meeting our new library volunteers for this 12th century museum community library. The Library will open in mid July. This is a brand new team working to deliver a library service that compliments and enriches the visitor experience at the museum. We are committed to ensuring everyone in the community is welcome in the library and are REALLY looking forward to introducing you to our new team!

Volunteer Coffee Mornings - drop in for volunteer chat

If you are one of our current volunteers, join us on **Friday mornings**, 10.30am for our **Zoom Coffee Mornings**, fortnightly.

Huge thanks to the Flaxmill Maltings in Shrewsbury for their very inspiring talk last week at the coffee morning <https://www.flaxmill-maltings.co.uk/>

No need book, very informal, just drop in and out at your leisure, with your cuppa. A Zoom link will be sent to all current volunteers.

If you're new to **Zoom**, some guidance here:

https://www.bradfordmuseums.org/pdfs/Advice_on_using_Zoom.pdf

For all things Volunteering visit:

Bradford Museums and Galleries <https://bradfordmuseums.org/get-involved>

Bradford Libraries <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/libraries/volunteering-in-libraries/volunteer-in-a-library/>