

Conservation Tour Guide Volunteer (Hall's Croft)

Department Name: Estates - Building Conservation
Volunteer Supervisor: Building Conservation Manager / Estates, Livestock & Landscape Manager

Why join us?

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust is the charity that cares for the world's greatest Shakespeare heritage sites in Stratford-upon-Avon, and promotes the enjoyment and understanding of his works, life and times all over the world. Celebrating Shakespeare is at the heart of everything we do.

Following a generous donation from America playwright, Ken Ludwig we are about to begin the first phase of the multi-year conservation programme for Hall's Croft, once home of Shakespeare's eldest daughter, Susanna Hall. As part of this work external panels will be removed from the ground and first floors of the Grade I listed building, allowing for the condition of the timber frame to be investigated. This gives us the opportunity to highlight the conservation work in action and our scaffolding includes a special viewing platform, allowing visitors to get a glimpse of the works. We are looking to recruit a team of volunteers to lead on sharing this important conservation work with local people and visitors from around the world.

What will you be up to?

- Safely welcoming visitors to Hall's Croft and the conservation building project
- Hosting visitors on the viewing platform, which will be free of charge and no pre-booking required, with donations welcome
- Delivering information about the history of the building, Shakespeare's eldest daughter Susanna Hall, and her husband, the physician Dr John Hall
- Educating visitors about the traditional 17th-century construction methods underway
- Explaining the timber joints that may be used during the building conservation
- Answering questions and providing directions towards our other Shakespeare family homes
- Monitoring the safety of the visitors
- Assisting in the evacuation of the site if needed

Do you have the skills we are looking for?

- Good people skills with the ability to talk confidently to both individuals & groups
- An interest in historical conservation methods, or willingness to learn
- Flexibility to cope with both busier and quieter periods
- Have the ability to comfortably and confidently ascend and descend the external stairs to the viewing platform multiple times during the day when undertaking your volunteering shift
- Experience with fundraising, whether paid or voluntary, would be advantageous but not essential, as full training will be provided

How often would we like you to volunteer?

A regular commitment of 3 hours or above would be ideal; either a morning, an afternoon, or a full day a week would assist us in planning.

We welcome applications from those who only have weekend availability and can be flexible with shift timings for those who are not free every week.

Initially we are aiming to make the viewing platform available on Thursdays and Fridays, from 10.00am to 2.00pm, with the option to increase access if demand and donations allow.

Length of the volunteering role?

Ongoing

Good to know

- Volunteers to wear own smart clothing in branded colours (red, black, white or grey)
- Volunteer badges will be provided
- Smoking is not allowed on site
- Food and drink are restricted to the onsite team welfare area
- This role will be based outdoors in all weather conditions. Breaks will be scheduled in.
- We will aim to have two volunteers on duty, but you may be required to lone work during break periods
- Training will be provided from our Estates and Building Conservation teams
- While the viewing platform does not have step-free access, we are able to provide alternative materials for viewers with access needs, e.g. sample timber joints and potentially, digital resources

Benefits of joining us

- On completion of 20 hours volunteering for the Trust, all volunteers receive a volunteer card giving free entry to SBT properties and a range of discounts
- We will do our best to support your learning and development
- Volunteer celebration days and coffee morning chats will be programmed throughout the year
- We can provide references
- We can provide reimbursement of travel expenses only



Have any questions...

volunteering@shakespeare.org.uk

01789 201834