

# Volunteering at the Sewerby Hall

## East Riding of Yorkshire Council

### Information on the organisation, background, aims and objectives

East Riding of Yorkshire Council is the largest unitary authority in the country and was formed in 1996, following local government reorganisation. The council is the largest employer in the East Riding of Yorkshire with a workforce of around 10,000. The main offices are in Beverley, but the council also has staff in Bridlington, Goole and Skirlaugh. We pride ourselves on delivering the highest possible standards across the full range of council services.

### Our Vision

The East Riding of Yorkshire Council will work to improve the Quality of life for our community, earn the Respect of the people we serve and build Pride in belonging to the East Riding.

### Our Community Aims

Improved health - improved quality of life  
Greater Prosperity - higher living standards  
Reduced crime - reduced fear of crime  
Lifelong learning - improved educational achievement  
A healthy environment - for future generations

### Museums Service

The East Riding Museums Service is responsible for the Museum and collections at Sewerby Hall a Grade 1 listed country house. Our visitors include school groups, East Riding residents, families, special needs groups, day trippers and tourists. We are always working to develop new audiences, to increase our collections and to produce innovative exhibition programmes. The Museums Service is also responsible Skidby Windmill, Goole Museum, the Guildhall, Beverley, Beverley Art Gallery in the Treasure House Museum, Beverley.

Sewerby Hall is currently being refurbished as part of a joint Heritage Lottery Fund and ERYC funded project to restore it to the appearance it would have had circa 1900. The new displays will be a mix of traditional, static displays of period rooms as well as more interactive rooms where visitors will be invited to handle objects, sit on furniture, open draws and cupboards. In addition the Hall will continue to display the Museum's important Amy Johnson collection.

We need a volunteer or group of volunteers to help us to:

- Maintain our collection of handling and interpretation costumes,
- To research and make new costumes for handling and costumed interpretation,
- To help interpret period costume for visitors to Sewerby Hall.

This project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

## **Volunteering at Sewerby Hall**

### **Who is the volunteer programme for?**

This Volunteer opportunity at Sewerby Hall is for anyone who has an interest in studying and making costume and an interest in period costume.

### **What is the background to the volunteer programme?**

The background to the current volunteer programme at Sewerby Hall is the £2.5million Heritage Lottery Fund supported restoration of the Hall to its appearance as a Country House in the Late Victorian/Edwardian period.

In order to ensure that we have an exciting interactive and interpretive costume display at the Hall we are seeking a volunteer, or volunteers, to maintain, develop and create the handling costumes and interpretation costumes used in the Hall.

### **What kinds of opportunities are available?**

There are opportunities for people of all ages to get involved in research, interpretation and the development of educational projects and guided tours.

### **What does it involve?**

Attending some informal training and giving your time – we can be flexible depending on what type of voluntary work you are interested in.

We will provide as much support as required to ensure that the volunteering experience will be both satisfying and enjoyable.

Our only requirement is that if you undertake to be involved in a particular project or event on a particular day, you will carry out the commitment or let us know if you are unable to do so.

### **What will I gain by volunteering / what's in it for me?**

This is a chance to learn about the fascinating history of Sewerby Hall, the estate and the gardens, contribute to people's engagement with the heritage of the area, and to be involved with the continued development of a local museum. There are opportunities to meet people, work in a team, gain new experiences, and learn about the museum environment. It is also an opportunity to use your own experience and skills to benefit the local community.

### **Who will I be working with?**

The Curator, Education Officer, Charlotte Hanson, the Spa Costume Designer, and other volunteers at Sewerby Hall.

### **What do I do next?**

You will need to fill in the application form and return it to us at the given address. We will then invite you to come along for an informal interview to discuss the opportunities and how you might like to contribute.

## Roles for volunteers at Sewerby Hall

### Costume Project Volunteer

#### Outline:

- In 2012 Sewerby Hall received a Heritage Lottery Grant to refurbish the interiors and restore the lost Kitchen and Servants Hall, as well as develop a teaching space and education programme.
- We are looking for an enthusiastic and friendly people to join our museum team to create and maintain the handling and interpretation collection of costumes and be part of the team making that Education Programme a reality.

#### Opportunities:

- To learn about life in a Victorian and Edwardian country house.
- To research and develop your own understanding and interest in Country houses and the local area.
- To contribute to the understanding and enjoyment of visitors of all ages who come to Sewerby Hall.
- To have an input and say over the ways that a Grade 1 listed building of national importance, and one of the recognised treasures of the Yorkshire coast is interpreted.
- To research and develop your own understanding and interest in fashion and costume.
- To handle and use items from Sewerby Hall's historic costume handling collection.

#### Aims / Outcomes:

- Our aim is to have a team of costumed Learning and Interpretation Volunteers on site one day a week when the Hall is open to visitors, as well as an extensive collection of dressing up clothes for visitors to try on.
- The role of the Costume/Wardrobe Volunteer will involve researching and creating costumes for use at Sewerby Hall.
- To assist in the maintenance of the costumes at Sewerby Hall.
- To help interpret fashion and costume for the public at Sewerby Hall.

#### Other Opportunities:

- To contribute to a major, Lottery Fund supported, heritage project

## **Sewerby Hall, Costume Project Volunteer**

Sewerby Hall is a Grade 1 listed country house perched on the cliff tops near Bridlington. It was home to the Greame family from 1699 to 1934 when they sold it, along with its 411 acre estate, to Bridlington Corporation for £45,000. The building has been open to the public ever since and is one of the treasures of the East Riding and the Yorkshire Coast. In 2012 Sewerby Hall received a Heritage Lottery Grant to restore the interiors and recreate the lost Kitchen and Servants' Hall. As the new presentation of the hall there is an emphasis on interpretation and especially costumed interpretation. As a Costume/Wardrobe volunteer, you will be part of our valued volunteer team and play a part in bringing the Hall back to life.

Our aim is to run sewing and costume making sessions in the Orangery at Sewerby Hall every Monday. This will be a front of house role where members of the public will be able to engage with the volunteers to find out more about costume and fashion at Sewerby Hall.

We are looking for someone enthusiastic, with a keen interest in costume and fashion. You will need to be friendly, personable and enjoy working as part of a team. Experience is not necessary, all abilities welcome, although a basic knowledge of sewing will be needed. It is hoped that the sewing project will run for an initial year, after which it will be reviewed.

The role will involve:

- the care and maintenance of costumes used by volunteer interpreters and also as dressing-up props for the public,
- making new costumes in the Orangery for use at Sewerby Hall,
- Researching and helping to interpret the history of costume and fashion for visitors to Sewerby Hall.

It is your decision how much time you can give us, but our aim is to have a costume making day every Monday.

No formal qualifications or experience are needed though basic sewing skills are required. Full induction training for the role will be given.

All voluntary positions are subject to successful completion of the East Riding Yorkshire Council volunteer application form, and a short informal visit and discussion at Sewerby Hall.

For more information or to discuss this volunteering opportunity contact Robert Chester, Sewerby Hall's Education Officer by telephone on 01262 673 769 or by email on [robert.chester@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:robert.chester@eastriding.gov.uk)