

I am interested in becoming a volunteer

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

I would like to know more about:

- Museum steward
- Gardening
- Conservation
- Reference library
- Education and family activities
- Group visits
- Events
- Fundraising

Please return this form to the Manager, either by hand, or post it to:

The Manager
Shaftesbury Abbey Museum & Garden
Park Walk
Shaftesbury
Dorset SP7 8JR



The excavated foundations of this once important and influential Abbey lie in a peaceful walled garden.

Volunteer

at

Shaftesbury Abbey Museum & Garden

Join our team and
help make a difference



Shaftesbury Abbey Museum & Garden

Park Walk, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8JR

Tel/Fax: 01747 852910

Email: user@shaftesburyabbey.fsnet.co.uk

Website: www.shaftesburyheritage.org.uk



Registered Charity No. 293260
Registered Company No. 1964697



Shaftesbury Abbey

Shaftesbury Abbey Museum & Garden is a self-supporting charity run by volunteers that has gained a reputation as one of the area's prime small attractions.

The museum has won several major awards and has full accreditation from the Museums Libraries and Archives Council, which sets out nationally agreed standards for museums in the UK.



Why volunteer?

Volunteers give their time to help preserve the Abbey site and keep it open for visitors.

Some use skills that they already have, while others learn new ones, and everyone has the opportunity to meet new friends with similar interests.

How can you help?

The Abbey needs volunteers to help with visitors, as well as with the maintenance of the site and the museum's records.

Museum stewards - play an important role managing the reception desk. The day is divided into three 2½ hour sessions, and tasks include meeting and greeting visitors, selling admission tickets, taking money from shop sales, recording any comments or feedback, and generally ensuring that visitors enjoy their experience.

Gardening - volunteers maintain the peaceful walled garden throughout the year. Tasks include pruning roses, cutting hedges, maintenance of paths and garden furniture, and the fine weeding of the Anglo-Saxon herb collection. There are five garden working parties during the year when volunteers spend the day together weeding, pruning and maintaining the grounds.

Conservation - the museum has over 10,000 objects in its collection, with only a small number on display. The collection includes medieval floor tiles, pottery, carved stonework, roof tiles and stained glass, all of which need to be identified and recorded on a standard museums management system.

Reference library - regarded as one of the most extensive collections about the Abbey in one place. The collection is currently catalogued on computer, with references to the materials' content.

Education and family activities - help the team with a programme of workshops and other activities for both schoolchildren and families, so that they gain maximum benefit from their visit. This programme is managed jointly with Gold Hill Museum and includes some involvement with local schools.

Group visits - join a small team who give guided tours to groups to help them make the most of their visit. This is an important part of the management of visitors around the site and, in some cases, will also include the town and Gold Hill Museum. Training and guidance will be given in gaining the relevant historical knowledge as well as in leading a group tour.

Events - the Abbey actively encourages the use of the grounds for events, some of which are organised by the Board, and others by private or charitable organisations hiring the site. Help is needed in developing a programme, publicising events, selling tickets and stewarding on the day.

Fundraising - there is one major fundraising event every year, which is the sale of refreshments at the Gold Hill Fair on the first weekend of July. Volunteers are needed to help with planning, preparation and serving. Any other suggestions for - and help with - fundraising would be welcome.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these jobs, please fill in the form overleaf.