



The National Gas Museum Trust

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TEXTILES, COSTUME & ART VOLUNTEER, GAS MUSEUM, LEICESTER

The National Gas Museum is a little museum with a big collection. It holds the national object collection of the UK gas industry. This tells the story of gas from its earliest days to the present. Gas made from coal started as the brightest light of the 19th century. Now, natural gas is an essential part of our energy mix, heating nearly every home and generating up to 40% of our electricity.

As well as a large library of specialist books and magazines, the collection includes a fabulous selection of nostalgic cookers, heaters and gas lights, as well as gas engines, gas fridges and even a gas hair-dryer.

The museum has been closed for some months for refurbishment after the retirement of the previous curator. We are now beginning the task of getting the museum up and running again. There are plenty of opportunities for volunteers to play valued and significant roles.

Role details

This opportunity is ideal for a practical person with a love of costume textiles and decorative art, and a hands-on self-motivated working style. Overseen by the Curator, you will be responsible for helping to return the 1920s kitchen to life by sourcing appropriate costume and textiles for static display. You will also build up a selection of affordable costumes for volunteers to wear when undertaking 1920s cookery demonstrations. You will propose, cost and agree loans or purchase of other costumes that the museum might need to help interpret cookers from the 1950s, 60s, 70s and 80s. You will take a proactive approach in coming up with mini-exhibition proposals to blend costume, textiles and other decorative arts which closely relate to gas objects from the museum collection. You will propose these to the curator, agree details with him, and could even deliver a mini-exhibition of your own once you have settled into the role.

Deliverables

- Restore 1920s kitchen textiles and replace missing items.
- Audit and clean/repair other costumes in the museum.
- Keep dummies and their clothes clean tidy and dusted

- Propose and deliver a new mini-exhibition linking textiles to the museum's collections after gaining experience on site.
- Source period clothing for loan or purchase in line with museum live interpretation plans.
- Be sociable, interested in wearing and using vintage clothing and talking to other people of all ages about it.
- An interest in organising costumed events would be desirable but is not essential if this does not appeal to you.

You will need:

- Knowledge of how to care for textiles old and new
- A laptop would be desirable but is not essential
- Your own sewing kit and tools
- A practical, independent working style
- To accept you will get dirty and dusty sometimes
- Ability to work in a very small team
- Core computer skills
- Good spoken English language skills
- Have proven needlework skills (show us photos or samples of your work)

Work location

195 Aylestone Rd, Leicester, LE2 7QH – the brick building with the clock tower.

Hours of work

Hours are flexible but you need to be able to commit to a regular time of at least 2 hours each week during school holidays. Work days could be on either on a Wednesday, Thursday or a Friday to suit you. Most costume demonstrations will be given during school holidays so your role will be busier at those times.

Clothing

Normally smart casual, occasionally clothes suited to dusty areas will be needed.

For an informal discussion about this role, email your phone number, CV and a photo to the curator John Beckerson at nationalgasmuseum@gmail.com and you'll get a call back as we are waiting for a new phone line.