



TAVISTOCK HERITAGE TRUST

Volunteer Role Profile

RESEARCH VOLUNTEER

What is a Research volunteer?

Researcher volunteers explore in depth a wide range of on-going research topics which then feed into a variety of the Trust's activities, including courses, exhibitions and website articles. The topics vary throughout the year and to a large extent are determined by the researchers themselves.

Subjects covered so far include:

- ▶ **oral history interviews** collecting the memories of people who had an association with the Guildhall while it served as a Magistrates' Court and Police Station during the twentieth century
- ▶ **identifying the trials** which took place at the Guildhall during the nineteenth century, with a particular focus on the misdemeanours of people associated with the mining industry
- ▶ investigating the **wider social issues** that arose when mining collapsed in the last years of the 19th Century, including poverty, drunken behaviour and violence, and social exclusion
- ▶ **the rise and fall of the woollen industry** in Tavistock and the surrounding area, from the early days until the closure of the last mill in the 1980s.

What's in it for you?

- ▶ become part of a **friendly and dedicated team**
- ▶ **meet people** from all walks of life and make new friends
- ▶ **acquire new skills** including in-depth research using online tools and visits to specialist archives and libraries
- ▶ learn more about the **history of Tavistock** and the surrounding area

What will you do?

- ▶ Use online and paper records to **research a period of time or a particular topic** of interest relevant to the work of Tavistock Heritage Trust
- ▶ **Record your findings** in a standardised format so they can be analysed consistently across the different Researcher volunteers
- ▶ **Write up your** research for use in the Guildhall Gateway Centre, in temporary exhibitions, or on the Trust's website.
- ▶ **Suggest areas of further research** that you or other Researchers can explore to bring Tavistock's heritage to life

Is this role for you?

This role will suit volunteers who:

- ▶ have **good communication skills** and **enjoy researching**
- ▶ have an interest in the **history of Tavistock** and the local area
- ▶ are comfortable **using online records and methods** for recording research findings
- ▶ are willing to work as **part of a team and individually** as necessary
- ▶ wish to learn **new skills** and to **attend training events**