



Become an Accreditation Mentor – Professional Development Opportunity

Dear All,

MDEM are pleased to provide Museum Accreditation advice and support for eligible East Midlands museums, including supporting Accreditation Mentors. We have a vibrant and dynamic independent museum sector across the region and Accreditation Mentors enable these organisations to meet the Accreditation standard, underpinning all their fantastic work.

Now the Museum Accreditation Scheme is re-invigorated we wanted to share some exciting opportunities for individuals to become Accreditation Mentors.

What is an Accreditation Mentor?

To meet the requirements of Accreditation, all museums must have access to professional advice and one way for volunteer-run museums to achieve this is to appoint an Accreditation mentor.

Accreditation mentors are experienced professionals in the sector, who help smaller museums achieve and retain Accreditation. They do this by supporting those museums to develop accreditation applications and returns. Mentors need to have three years relevant experience, with skills linking to one of the main areas assessed through [Museum Accreditation](#).

Take a look at MDEM's interview with current mentor Angela Tarnowski, Accreditation Mentor for the Loughborough Carillon War Memorial and Tower discuss what it's like being a Mentor, including a discussion on benefits, time and commitment needed and how you can make a positive difference in this role. [What's it like being an Accreditation Mentor Film](#).

Why become an Accreditation Mentor?

Being a mentor can give you valuable additional experience. It's a two-way learning process, for the museum and for you: as a mentor you will learn from the different experience and knowledge of those involved with the museum and gain experience of a different type of organisation. If you work in a defined role in a department within a museum, working with a small museum can give you new perspectives on a whole organisation.

Mentoring will give you access to networks and networking opportunities. It builds a stronger sector which supports the exchange and development of professional knowledge and shares expertise.

What next?

Accreditation Mentors Recruitment Event – what's it all about?: 6th March 5pm -6:30pm online

Interested in finding out more? MDEM will be hosting an online information session and we'd welcome anyone interested in learning more to attend. We'll explore what it means to be a Mentor, and what is required in terms of time commitment and experience. You'll have the opportunity to hear from current Mentors and Accreditation Advisor Heather Lomas about the scheme and how Museum Development supports Mentors in their role.

You can also take a look at the attached museum adverts, for museums currently looking for a new Accreditation Mentor and contact them directly. MDEM are able to support you in this process if needed, and you can contact the [MDEM team centrally](#) to access individual advice and support.

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MUSEUMS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR A NEW ACCREDITATION MENTOR

Ashby de la Zouch Museum

Ashby de la Zouch Museum was established in 1981 and moved to its present site in North Street in 1990. It has two main Exhibition rooms, one of which has regular display changes. There is a Meeting/Research room with computers and a large Archive Room upstairs, secure and environmentally controlled.

The Museum is run by eight trustees, who meet five times a year, with an AGM in September. The Museum has won the County Museum of the Year twice and many other Awards.

The Trustees would be delighted if someone with professional experience in the museum sector would like to become our Accreditation Mentor and would be willing to answer any questions and/or arrange a meeting for those interested in the position.

<http://ashbymuseum.org.uk/>

Email: ashbymuseum@outlook.com

Phone: 01530 560090

Chainbridge Forge

The volunteers who run Chain Bridge Forge in Spalding Lincolnshire which operate as both a charity and a limited company are looking for an Accreditation Mentor. The Forge has two strands to its operation Blacksmithing www.chainbridgeforge.co.uk and online local history collection which employs innovative digital techniques to reach new audiences. www.heritagesouthholland.co.uk

We have won awards for innovation and currently planning a considerable expansion to our existing late 1700's Blacksmith workshop/museum to provide an eco-friendly workshop for our Blacksmith and space for an arts workshops and digital hub.

The Forge Directors meet bimonthly in the evenings and would welcome a museum professional who will keep us up to date with current Accreditation practices and act as a sounding board as we consolidate our existing Forge collection and grow our digital capability. Currently we are developing virtual tours of our local historic churches an example can be viewed by following this link <https://www.heritagesouthholland.co.uk/gedney-church-tour/>

For further information contact: chainbridgeforge@gmail.com

Flintham Museum

The volunteers who own and run the Flintham Museum, Nottinghamshire, a registered charity, are looking for an Accreditation Mentor. The museum looks at rural life through the eyes of a village shopkeeper and has been welcoming visitors since 1999.

We have won a number of awards for our innovative approach to interpreting local history and involving the local community, especially people with dementia and their carers.

The committee meets at least four evenings a year and would welcome a museum professional who will keep us up to date with current Accreditation practices and act as a sounding board as we develop our online activities to reach new audiences.

For further information contact flintham.museum@googlemail.com

Foxton Canal Museum

The Foxton Canal Museum is a small independent museum located in the Idyllic setting of Foxton Locks in South Leicestershire. It is a fully accredited museum through the Arts Council Accreditation scheme, last achieved in 2017 and due for renewal in 2024.

We have recently finalised our 5-year forward plan in which we aspire to be the focal point for both interest and understanding in the Locks, life and lives and associated learning and education in a number of areas including

- Social history, STEM, ecology & environmental sustainability as well as local history

We have a small number of active people helping to run the museum and, whilst they have built up a considerable knowledge over the years, we do not have the qualified and experienced staff which can support the management of and use of collections to allow us to achieve our aims.

Two major collection projects for completion in the next 18 months have also been identified where guidance will be needed:

- Rationalisation and review of our accessioned collection (2900 items)
- Evaluation of our archive backlog (1000+ items)

We are a small group of enthusiastic people that welcomes and needs the input of a mentor to help us develop in a meaningful and professional way.

The trustees do meet monthly (currently on a Thursday evening), but we would only expect quarterly attendance (maximum) from a mentor. The greatest value would be outside of formal meetings where times and days are totally flexible to suit and could involve both trustees and museum staff.

For further information contact Sean Park, Chairperson: sean.park@ntlworld.com

Hinckley & District Museum

Hinckley & District Museum is keen to appoint a Mentor to help the Board of Trustees through their Accreditation renewal. Hinckley Museum is a small independent volunteer led and managed organisation that has been providing an exciting visitor experience for 25 years. The Museum is housed in a row of late 17th century Grade II listed thatched cottages in the town of Hinckley in Southwest Leicestershire. The Museum is open from Easter to the end of October each year with a changing display of exhibits.

There are nine Trustees, some with specific officer roles, and a core of around 45 volunteers who operate front of house, reception, and tearoom duties when the Museum is open. A report from VAQAS received in 2022 highlighted the enthusiasm and friendly reception for visitors.

An updated Forward Plan for the next 5 years has been approved and there are ambitious plans for developing the offer to the local community. Trustee meetings are held every 6-7 weeks at the Museum in an evening.

Contact: Ann@hinckleymuseum.org or Phillip@hinckleymuseum.org

The Sir Joseph Banks Centre

The Sir Joseph Banks Centre is a new, volunteer-managed natural science centre with a small museum, specializing in artifacts and archives relating to the journeys and estates of Sir Joseph Banks. It is one of only two Lincolnshire herbaria and is home to current and historical plant collections and paintings. We have been in operation for the last eighteen months and are proud of our achievements thus far. From a standing start, we have just received confirmation from the Arts Council that we are eligible to apply for Museum Accreditation and we are looking forward to further developing our business plans, collection management practices and audience development.

We need guidance from a friendly museum accreditation Mentor who would like to be a member of our team of very enthusiastic volunteers. We think that the mentor will need to have a sense of humour, patience, and the ability to tolerate our many foibles!

We think that we need particular help with the development of an audience development strategy, learning programmes (particularly for Key stages 2 & 3) and working with the trustees regarding governance issues. We would also like reassurance regarding the development and care of our collections.

Members of the team are able to meet during office hours at mutually convenient intervals. For further information, do have a look at our website: <https://www.joseph-banks.org.uk> or Email: jackie.goodall@joseph-banks.org.uk

mdem.org.uk

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