

# Announcement of the winners of the 2020 Marsh Volunteer Awards

Images available here:  
<https://bit.ly/3moqlsW>

*Under embargo until 16.30 on Monday 1 November  
2021*

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The British Museum and the Marsh Charitable Trust announce the winners of the 2020 volunteer awards, celebrating the work and achievements of museum volunteers across the UK.

The British Museum and the Marsh Charitable Trust have been working in partnership for the thirteenth year of the 'Volunteers for Museum Learning' award which recognises the hugely important contribution that volunteers make to help museums engage with their visitors. Celebrating the time volunteers have given in the previous year is particularly pertinent as teams and individuals continued to provide support throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

The 'Volunteers for Museum Learning' award forms part of a programme of awards presented by the Marsh Charitable Trust in the fields of science, ecology, conservation, heritage, literature and volunteering. Each one of these awards recognises individuals and organisations who devote their lives to improving the world today and the world in the future. The Marsh Awards programme is managed in association with key partners including the Zoological Society of London, English Heritage, Barnardo's, the Refugee Council and the British Museum.

The aim of the 'Volunteers for Museum Learning' award is to recognise those volunteers who engage directly with museum visitors in any capacity. This could involve leading a school group, staffing an information desk, helping with family activities, running a guided tour or any number of other ways in which volunteers provide such excellent support to museum visitors.

There were a large number of applications from across the UK, some from groups of volunteers and some from individuals. The judges consisted of staff from the Marsh Trust, staff and volunteers from the British Museum and a representative from National Museum Wales. The British Museum is delighted to host the awards each year, celebrating the valuable contribution volunteers make to the running of the Museum and its enjoyment by the public.

Due to the British Museum's involvement in the ceremony and judging, volunteers from the British Museum are ineligible for the awards.

**Muriel Gray, Deputy Chair of the Trustees at the British Museum** said “Museums across the UK are grateful for the contribution of volunteers to ensure their collections reach and inspire as many people as possible. The efforts of volunteers up and down the country in 2020 are an inspiration as they gave their time throughout the challenges of multiple lockdowns and museum closures due to the pandemic. The Marsh Volunteer Awards recognise the commitment and enthusiasm of volunteers in museums and we are very grateful to the Marsh Charitable Trust for acknowledging this work.”

The winners will each receive a cash prize of £500, donated by the Marsh Charitable Trust. The one overall national winner who receives an additional £2,000.

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### **The list of winners for the 2020 Volunteers for Museum Learning is:**

#### **Scotland**

Edinburgh Living History Group Volunteers, Museums & Galleries Edinburgh, Edinburgh.

#### **North East**

Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery Volunteers, Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery, Northumberland.

#### **North West (Joint Winners)**

‘Stories we Share’ Volunteers, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester.

‘Philosophy Café’ Volunteers, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester

#### **Yorkshire (Joint Winners)**

The Museums by Mail Volunteer Team, Sheffield Museums.

The Preservative Party, Leeds City Museum, Leeds.

#### **East Midlands**

Do You See What I See? Project Volunteers, Charnwood Museum, Leicester.

#### **West Midlands**

The Reminiscence Team at Birmingham Back to Backs (National Trust), Birmingham.

#### **Wales**

Sam Powell, Egypt Centre, Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, Swansea University, Swansea.

#### **East of England**

'Museum From Home' activity pack volunteers, Colchester + Ipswich Museums, Suffolk.

### **South West**

The Interpretation Volunteers at Cleveland Pools Trust, Bath.

### **South East**

The 'Diving Deep: HMS Invincible 1744' volunteers, The National Museum of the Royal Navy, Portsmouth.

### **London**

The Garden Guide Volunteers, Ham House Garden, Richmond.

### **Northern Ireland**

Ian McLarnon Sinclair at Whitehead Railway Museum, Co Antrim.

### **National Winners**

The Interpretation Volunteers at Cleveland Pools Trust, Bath.



Follow updates on the Marsh Volunteer Awards via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram  
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### **For further information**

Images available here: <https://bit.ly/3moqlsW>

Please contact the Press Office  
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