

# Winners of the 2021 Marsh Volunteer Awards announced

**Images available here:**

<https://tinyurl.com/3psa89p3>

The British Museum and the Marsh Charitable Trust announce the winners of the 2021 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 fourteenth 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 helped their museums and heritage sites recover from the 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 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 support to museum visitors.

There were many 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 the Royal Horticultural Society. 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 they reach and inspire as many people as possible. Volunteers are also an important part of the British Museum community. The efforts of volunteers up and down the country in 2021 are an inspiration as they gave their time throughout a challenging period, helping museums and heritage sites with their recovery from the impacts of the pandemic. These 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 receives an additional £2,000.

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**The list of winners for the 2021 Volunteers for Museum Learning is:**

**Scotland**

Young People’s Collective, V&A Dundee, Dundee.

@VADundee

**North East**

North Tyneside Steam Railway Association, Stephenson Steam Railway, North Shields.

@north\_steam

**North West (Joint Winners)**

GROW Volunteer Team, The Whitworth, Manchester.

‘We Were There’ Veteran Team, Imperial War Museum North, Manchester.

@WhitworthArt

**Yorkshire**

The Care Creatives, Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds.

@LeedsArtGallery

**East Midlands**

Wampanoag Perspective Volunteers, Bassetlaw Museum, Retford.

@BassetlawMuseum

**West Midlands**

The Cambrian Heritage Railway, The Cambrian Heritage Railway Museum,  
Shropshire.

@CambrianChr

### **Wales**

Plas Mawr Volunteers, Plas Mawr Elizabethan Town House, Conwy County.

@Plas\_Mawr

### **East of England**

Power of Stories' Community Curator Volunteers, Colchester + Ipswich Museums,  
Suffolk.

@IpswichMuseums

### **South West (Joint Winners)**

Neolithic Longhouse Volunteers, La Hougue Bie Museum, Jersey.

@loveheritage

William Emery, Torquay Museum, Torquay.

@TorquayMuseum

### **South East (Joint Winners)**

Andy Bray and Melvyn Seymour / The John Collins Cycle Team, Harlow Museum &  
Walled Gardens, Harlow.

@HarlowMuseum

Lyn Burlyn, Weald & Downland Living Museum, Chichester.

@WealddownMuseum

### **London**

Learning Volunteer: Women in Science Tour Team, Natural History Museum, London.

@NHM\_London

### **National Winners**

The Cambrian Heritage Railway, The Cambrian Heritage Railway Museum,  
Shropshire.



Follow updates on the Marsh Volunteer Awards via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

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**For further information**

Images available here: <https://tinyurl.com/3psa89p3>

Please contact the Press Office  
[communications@britishmuseum.org](mailto:communications@britishmuseum.org)