



Spring 2019 Heritage Volunteers Newsletter

In 2018 there was a record number of hours recorded by Heritage Volunteers working on projects in the South West, with over 6,500 hours by the 85 volunteers. The number of volunteers working on each project varies from 2 to 14, some of these volunteers have been working on projects for over 20 years. The earliest record of Heritage Volunteer projects in the South West include The Devonshire Museum of Costume 1991 / Totnes Museum 1992 / St Michael's Mount 1993 / Royal Cornwall Museum 1993 / Devon & Exeter Institute 1993 / Somerset Museum 1993 / Compton Castle 1994 / Antony House 1994 / Saltram House 1994.

Six projects were completed in 2018. A similar number of new projects have, or shortly will be starting in the next few months.

Volunteers at three societies will be combining to form joint projects. In one case three societies will be working together across three sites on one project. This sharing of resources is becoming an increasing feature of volunteering in the South West.

It is pleasing to note that 3 societies are, or shortly will be starting Heritage Volunteer projects for the first time, in one case after a break of 16 years. Two other projects will also be re starting after breaks.

In January a visit was made to the Taunton Evening Society to give a short presentation on Heritage Volunteering, a similar presentation will be given to the North Devon Society, neither society has been involved with volunteering before,

Heritage Volunteering projects in the South West currently include

Archive, Stewarding, Textile and Parks & Gardens Archive projects. It is anticipated that there will be increased activity this year with additional Parks and Garden Recording projects which were pioneered in the SW.

We will be looking to have a self funding Heritage Volunteer Interest Day in the South West, possible subjects vary from the unusual Viking Knitting, to the more conventional Paper Conservation. We will be investigating other areas of possible interest. With these a course fee will be required to finance the day. There will be more information later in the year.

2019 is the 50th anniversary of volunteering by the Society. To commemorate this a 50th Anniversary Wall Hanging has been produced by textile volunteers across the country, including the textile volunteers of the Exe Society. On completion this will be formally presented to The Arts Society.

.Further afield Heritage Volunteers have started on a project at the Palace of Westminster where they are packing the archives prior to major renovation and conservation work that will take place over the next few years. As part of this project the Arts Society Heritage Volunteers will be involving students from various colleges and universities who will have the opportunity of gaining experience on the organisation and the practical issues of running a major archive project of national importance.