

York Castle Museum



Costumed volunteer at York Castle Museum

What will you be doing?

You will be helping us to create a sense of immersion for visitors to the Victorian street by interpreting shops and the street whilst dressed in authentic costume.

What will you gain from volunteering here?

Meet people

Not only will you chat to the public but you will join a team of volunteers, get to know museum staff, and will have access to a range of volunteer events.

Learning something new

With specific training you will learn about the history of York in the Victorian period as well as details about the people who lived in the area.

Helping others

You will help visitors to engage with the history and give them a great visitor experience.

Get Active

Visit the museum regularly and enjoy the atmosphere of this thought provoking and fascinating environment.

Who are we looking for?

You do not need to know anything about the collections and you will not be acting; all our roles are delivered in the third person. If you are over 18, are available for a minimum of 3 hours a week, plus an initial training session, and can say yes to the following questions:

- I am friendly and enthusiastic and like talking to people
- I want to learn more about history and tell visitors about the collections
- I enjoy being part of a team

Then do [apply online](#).

When can you volunteer?

We have sessions from 10:00am until 1:00pm and 1:00pm until 4pm every day of the week and you choose sessions to suit your own schedule.

Who can you talk to about volunteering?

You can either apply online or if you have a specific question you can email the Volunteers Coordinator at:

philip.newton@ymt.org.uk

York Museums Trust was formed on August 1 2002, as an independent charitable trust to manage the museums and gallery service previously run by City of York Council. Supported by the Council, York Museums Trust is responsible for York Art Gallery, York Castle Museum, Yorkshire Museum and Gardens and York St Mary's

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Further information

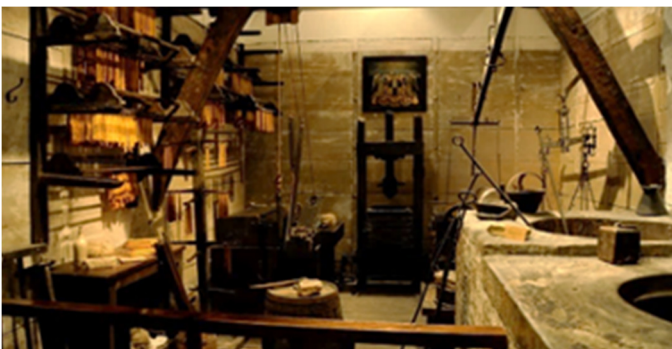
Background

York Castle Museum was founded by Dr John Kirk in 1938 and houses his extraordinary collection of social history objects, reflecting everyday life in North Yorkshire. One of its renowned displays is the reconstructed Victorian street, Kirkgate, which has been hugely influential in museum displays worldwide.



York Castle Museum is housed in the former Debtors Prison and adjoining Female Prison buildings. The Debtors Prison was built between 1701 and 1705 on a site which had held prisoners since the 1200s. The adjoining Female Prison was built in 1780; both are now Grade 1 listed and are located on part of the city walls which is a scheduled monument. The Museum's name comes from the fact that it stands on the site of York Castle.

Our costumed volunteers interact with the public on Kirkgate, talking to visitors about life in Victorian York and demonstrating the daily activities of shop keepers. Volunteers are not 'actors' and are not 'in character' for the roles.



As a costumed volunteer, you can choose between a selection of shops and areas on Kirkgate which include Saville's pharmaceutical chemist, Ambler's Grocers and Leak and Thorpe Drapers'. We are working towards having a range of options for volunteers including street roles such as a 'poor person'.

Training

You will be given training on customer care and Kirkgate followed by one to one training on gallery with our volunteers training assistant and buddy sessions with experienced volunteers.

Time Commitment

Some of the shops and areas in Kirkgate are small so there is a maximum of one volunteer in each space. There are morning sessions (10:00 – 13:00) and afternoon sessions (13:00 – 16:00) every day. We usually asked for a minimum of one session a fortnight.



Other essential information

As a charity, we do not have a budget for expenses, so unfortunately we are unable to reimburse travel or subsistence costs incurred by volunteers in the course of their day to day volunteering.

Most of the costume will be provided for you but we do ask you to wear appropriate shoes, and trousers (for men). You will be issued with an ID badge which you must wear when entering the building but not when in costume.