



# THE POWER OF GIVING TIME

Over the years, £373,000 has been raised to support volunteering projects across the Trust. That funding has helped create meaningful opportunities for people to gain experience, meet others, develop new skills, and discover passions they may never have expected.

As another volunteer shared:

**“I’d like to thank you for this opportunity which has helped me grow as an individual and become more experienced in the world of work.”**

Volunteering with Barnsley Museums is about people first. It’s about connection, growth, and belonging, and the difference that a supportive environment can make.



# THE OPENING DOORS GROUP

Every week, young people aged 11 to 25 with physical and learning disabilities come together at Worsbrough Mill to volunteer, learn new skills, spend time outdoors, and support each other.

What makes Opening Doors so special isn't just the work they do around the park. It's the confidence that grows, the friendships that form, and the sense of belonging that comes from being part of a team.

Thanks to support from Ironmongers, The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, Awards for All, and BMHT, the group continues to grow and now cares for its own plot of land at the park.





# CANNON HALL VOLUNTEERING

Over the last year, the volunteering project at Cannon Hall has given volunteers the chance to stay involved during the months when the house would usually be closed. From conservation work and archive recording to oral history training, accessibility workshops and wellbeing activities, volunteers have continued learning, developing skills and supporting one another.

For many people, winter can be a difficult and lonely time, which makes staying connected even more important. The project has helped create opportunities for volunteers to come together, keep active and remain part of the Cannon Hall community throughout the year.

# BUILDING BRIDGES PROJECT



What do bird surveys, litter picks, heritage restoration and local storytelling have in common?

**The answer is volunteers.**

Over the past couple of years, volunteers involved in the Elsecar Building Bridges project have made a huge difference across Elsecar Heritage Centre and the surrounding area. They've helped improve habitats, remove invasive species, collect important wildlife data, restore site features, care for local green spaces and preserve community stories for future generations.

Along the way, many have developed new skills, from oral history recording to community reporting, helping to ensure local voices and experiences are not lost.

# MILLENIUM OF MILLING

The Millennium of Milling project at Worsbrough Mill Museum & Country Park has opened the door for volunteers to get closer to the site's story than ever before.

From stepping into the role of mill guide to helping visitors understand how the mill once worked, volunteers have helped turn history into something people could actually experience, not just read about.

It's been hands-on, sometimes challenging, and always rewarding work that helped bring new energy to a historic place.





# VOLUNTEER HUB

In 2023, a volunteer hub was created at Worsbrough Mill Museum & Country Park thanks to £10,000 from The National Lottery Community Fund.

The refurbished space gave volunteers a welcoming place to meet, relax and spend time together as part of the team. It also supported taster sessions, helping introduce new people to volunteering at the Mill and Country Park.

For many, it became more than just a room. It was a space for connection, confidence building and shared experience.