

# Volunteer opportunities



# Are you interested in museum objects? Do you find satisfaction in organisation?

## About the role

The Dock Museum possesses an incredible, varied collection of objects. This role will involve assisting the curatorial team with practical and administrative tasks relating to the auditing of their collection.

Auditing means checking the accuracy and completeness of the information that is held about the collections in the museum's care. This confirms that the records match the physical reality: you have all the objects that you should have, and they are correctly numbered and located where they are supposed to be.

This role would especially suit someone who has a passion for history and who wishes to learn about The Dock Museum and local Barrovian history. Auditing is also widely applicable: it is a skill that is extremely useful if you are interested in a career in museums, and many other companies and organisations will also be audited regularly.

## Benefits

- you will get to work with museum items up-close and behind-the-scenes
- you will learn about how museums function
- you will join a community of friendly people

## Dates & Availability

This is a casual role, so the dates and frequency will depend on your availability.

## About the organisation

The Dock Museum is located in Barrow-in-Furness alongside Walney Channel. Most of its exhibits concern the history of the town, focusing on the shipbuilding industry at VSEL (now BAE), the steelworks industry (of which Barrow once had the world's largest!), the Furness Railway, and the World War II bombings of the town. They host a number of exciting events and temporary exhibitions, and it is a celebrated part of the local community.

## Interested?

Contact [dockdutymanager@barrowbc.gov.uk](mailto:dockdutymanager@barrowbc.gov.uk) or call 01229 876400 or call in.

# Do you like quiet, digital tasks?

## About the role

[The Dock Museum](#) has a significant collection of images from BAE Systems. It would be extremely useful to have a volunteer to help to digitise these!

Digitising means converting the physical images into a digital (i.e., computer-readable) format. This is beneficial for many reasons: it makes the images more widely and easily accessible, it protects the original copies from any damage, and it can allow for a closer look/a different perspective on the images.

This would be a rewarding role for anyone interested in collections care, or who wants to gain experience in digital skills.

## Benefits

- you will get to work with museum items up-close and behind-the-scenes
- you will learn about how museums function, and how collections are cared for
- you will gain great experience in a digital skill you may not have used before!

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# Love going on a research deep-dive? Then this role's the one for you...

## About the role

[The Dock Museum](#) has an amazing collection. The history of Barrow, and the objects that the museum holds, are extremely interesting but a lot is yet to be researched! If you have an interest in anything related to Barrow, this is a great opportunity to delve right into it.

Your suggestions and passions will be welcomed, but here are some ideas to inspire you:

- **Teddy Bear** – The Dock have recently acquired an 8ft tall Teddy Bear that many remember sitting on the knee of in Blackshaws on Dalton Road. Could you unearth its story?
- **Thomas the Tank Engine** – Barrow (and Walney Island) are part of the setting for the beloved The Railway Series books, and the Thomas & Friends TV series! More research into this connection would be met with a popular response.
- **Archaeology** – Neolithic and Viking artefacts have been found in the Barrow area – what else?
- **Shipyard** – Barrow's location and availability of steel has meant that it has been a significant location for the building of submarines. This is a significant part of Barrow's history, as well as of its present identity.

This is a fantastic way of flexing your curiosity in a way that has practical applications – imagine how it would feel if some of your research ends up in a real museum exhibition! It is also a great opportunity to connect with the local community. Your research doesn't just have to use the objects, archives, books, and the internet – you can collect the memories of real people as well.

## Benefits

- A good introduction to volunteering without a long-term commitment
- Meeting members of the public and having meaningful conversations (cracking great jokes is a bonus)
- Learning about local history the present community
- Be inspired by the Dock's collections to snowball your own curiosity

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