



# is for get involved

## Volunteering at Wicksteed Park

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at Wicksteed Park which is a wholly owned by the Wicksteed Charitable Trust established in 1916 . The charity provides free access to its grounds and playground alongside delivering an annual programme of events and activities for all. The Park is reliant on the help and support offered by volunteers and there are lots of ways in which you can support us.

To give a few examples we have the following areas to get involved:

- Education and learning with our award winning school visits and family days
- Community engagement through shows, events and activities
- Grounds maintenance, lots to do in 147 acres of beautiful parkland
- Wildlife and conservation from bats, birds and bugs
- Heritage exhibitions, talks and events
- Free playground and other play areas
- Retail, hospitality, admin, cleaning, social media
- Railway supporting visitors and caring for our rolling stock
- Park explainers to meet and greet visitors and provide information
- Archives and oral history

### How Much Time Do I Give?

We greatly value the time you can spend with us, this can be occasional or regular with anything from an hour a month. Much of our work is seasonal and we are at our busiest during April to September and over the festive season. This is when we need the most help, particularly keeping the park welcoming and supporting our education and events programme.

During the colder months, the park is still open to the public, but most of the rides are closed. We use this time to give the park some TLC, with a lick of paint, repairs or upgrades. This is also when much of the wildlife and conservation activities happen, such as tree planting and coppicing .

How much time you spend here and when, is up to you, think about the things that are of interest to you and get in touch.

### How Old Do I Need to Be?

We encourage volunteering from the age of 16 at the park, younger volunteers are welcomed but will need to be supported and led through schools and community groups for insurance purposes.

There is no upper age limit! If you're interested, we'll find you things to do....

## I'm Part of a Group. Can We Volunteer?

Yes! We welcome groups who'd like to lend a hand. We are happy to look at what projects or activities may be suitable. The types of things you could do without much notice and most of the year, could be:

- Weeding and scrub clearance
- Fundraising for Wicksteed Charitable Trust

At particular times there might also be:

- Fence or bench painting
- Making bird and bug boxes

## How do I Get Started?

You can apply using our application form and will be invited to meet our Community and Heritage Manager, Tracey Clarke and Activity Coordinator Ruth Rignall for an informal chat to consider what you would like to do, what we have available at that point and come up with a timescale of when you can start.

We need to have you covered by our insurance, so we ask you to fill in the volunteer application form. This also asks for references and emergency contact details. All Volunteers at Wicksteed will become members of the Wicksteed Volunteer Network, the network is supported by volunteers and will provide a range of information and opportunities to the group.

Due to the nature of the park and its activities all volunteers will be required to have a DBS check, If you have an up to date DBS check, we'd like to take a photocopy of it for our records, if you don't have one, it doesn't matter we'll get one done for you.

We'll also give you an induction about the park, its history and our policies and a timesheet. This is used to keep a log of how many hours you spend helping us and the information provides us with valuable evidence to access future funding.

## Contact the Community and Education Team

Activity Coordinator : Ruth Rignall email [getinvolved@wicksteedpark.org](mailto:getinvolved@wicksteedpark.org) or

Community and Heritage Manager: Tracey Clarke email [community@wicksteedpark.org](mailto:community@wicksteedpark.org)

Telephone 01536 512475

Our Thanks to...

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