



Viva Volunteers!

Oxford University Museums Volunteer Service
January - March 2015



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

174 Public Engagement Events

260 Volunteers

605 Instances of Volunteering

2420 Volunteering Hours

Spotlights

Science Week Scintillates

In March, 'Wow!How? 2015' saw 140 University and community volunteers deliver 28 different hands-on science stalls to 3,500 family visitors at the Museum of Natural History and Pitt Rivers Museum. Most of these volunteers were 'real' scientists, who developed activities ranging from 'Disaster Zone' to 'Jaw-dropping Dinosaurs'. Read about Phillip Anderson's experience leading the "Good Vibrations" stall [here](#).

On the same day 8 volunteers demonstrated gyroscopes, delivered invention-themed tours, and ran Lego challenges at the Museum of the History of Science's celebratory event, 'Hooked on Invention'. For more on science communication volunteering read Metta Pratt's blog on helping school students extract their DNA at the Museum of Natural History [here](#).



Volunteer Management 101

In January, the Joint Museums Volunteer Service ran training for 20 OUMP staff. Evaluation showed that all attendees increased their confidence in and understanding of volunteering issues.

*'A lot of useful knowledge & potential scenarios shared'
'Very useful in terms of how to treat volunteers & some of the legal issues'*

Welcoming Families

A newly recruited team of volunteers helped launch the Ashmolean's Family Activity Station during February half term. The volunteers' role is to give families a special welcome on weekends and holidays.

New Tour Guides

Volunteers are currently delivering tours of the temporary exhibition 'Gods in Colour' in the Ashmolean's Cast Gallery every Sunday – catch one while you can...

This term has also seen new volunteer tour guides trained to lead History and Highlight tours at the Pitt Rivers Museum and Museum of the History of Science.

Spotlights

Art for the Afraid

In March, HLF Trainee Hannah Eastwood delivered the first of two training sessions aimed at increasing volunteers' confidence to talk about and engage visitors with the Ashmolean's Western Art collection. Read more about Hannah's ideas [here](#).

*'Really good whistle stop tour of art!
Loved it!'*



Volunteer Wins Award!!

We're so proud and pleased for Mark Eldridge, who, in February, won an Oxfordshire Charity and Volunteer Award for his work with families and schools across the museums.

Well done Mark!

Finally, Another Star Volunteer...

Now appearing on a screen near you: check out volunteer Nick Quartley's star turn as Zeus in 'Made in Mt Olympus', the Ashmolean's very own scripted reality YouTube show, developed by HLF Trainee Corie Edwards.

In the mortal world, Nick can be seen regularly giving Cast Gallery tours and running coin-handling sessions in the Money Gallery. Watch his Olympian performance [here](#).

