

**The Common Room of the Great North**

As part of the comprehensive redevelopment of the Mining Institute in Newcastle upon Tyne and the establishment of a new entity to manage the building and its programme, the Common Room of the Great North Limited is to establish a skilled volunteer team and is now seeking to recruit individuals for our ‘On the Road’ touring exhibition and activity phase.

During the refurbishment of the Mining Institute, from 2019 – autumn 2020, the Common Room’s programme of activity will go ‘On The Road’ across the region, engaging with a mixture of heritage, educational and industry based venues.

The Common Room is looking for heritage enthusiasts and innovative minds to join our ‘On The Road’ volunteer team. As a volunteer you will be the face of the exhibition and programme of events and will demonstrate exceptional visitor service skills. You will actively engage with a wide range of diverse audiences, encouraging families and visitors to interact with the content displayed, the industrial heritage of our region and the Common Room project through a series of engineering challenges and heritage / STEM activities for families.

The Common Room are seeking to appoint 10 passionate volunteers who will be integral in the running of the exhibition and activity on a day to day basis. There are two main types of volunteer roles The Common Room is looking to recruit for. These include;

‘Graft & Glory’ ‘On The Road’ Exhibition Volunteer

‘Our Voices’ ‘On The Road’ Oral History Volunteer

**Background**

The Common Room will be a celebration of graft and glory.

Telling the stories of the North East that changed the world, then and now…

By revitalising our Grade 2\* Listed building and making a step change in the access and interpretation of our internationally recognised archive of the Industrial Revolution we will provide the space, and inspiration, for new collaborations and innovations.

Instilling pride, ownership and understanding to support the North East economy…

Using our unique heritage to inspire the next generation of innovators and engineers…

Engaging with the business community, the Common Room programme will deliver this, providing education and enrichment for young people, promoting skills development for the region's workforce and engaging the public with the heritage.

**The Role of the Common Room Volunteer**

* To actively support the Common Room’s ethos and core values
* To act as an advocate of the Common Room of the Great North and it’s ‘On the Road’ activities
* To promote the Common Room ‘On the Road’ programming
* To attend training sessions in visitor services, oral history interviewing and technical competency arranged by the Common Room
* To support the running of the exhibition as a guide at specific venues
* To engage a wide range of diverse audiences with the industrial heritage displayed in the exhibition
* There will be reimbursement of travel expenses but no fees will be paid for attending meetings of volunteer work done as a Youth Board member
* To undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service check in order to volunteer

**Key Dates**

Common Room Volunteers will be working at specific sites across the North East and will be expected to support the day to day running of the exhibition and to support the facilitation of any educational and family workshops.

‘On The Road’ Exhibition – opens April 2019

3 days of visitor services, facilitation and oral history training will be given leading up to the opening of the exhibition.

Each volunteer will be expected to commit to 16 hours per week. Times and days can be flexible to accommodate any other commitments. Weekend and bank holiday work may be required.

Closure of the ‘On the Road’ exhibition - autumn 2020

**Contract**

The contract is with The Common Room of The Great North Limited

Day to day management of the contract will be by Programme and Activity Coordinator.

The Common Room volunteer will work closely with the Programme and Activity Coordinator to ensure that objectives are met.

**Application process**

C.V and covering letter to be sent to emily.tench@northeastcommonroom.org.uk by 5pm on Monday 25th February 2019

Volunteer applicants short listed will be invited to an informal interview on Thursday 28th February 2019.

Successful volunteers will be appointed on Monday 4th March 2019

Common Room volunteers start date and training w/c Monday 11th March 2019