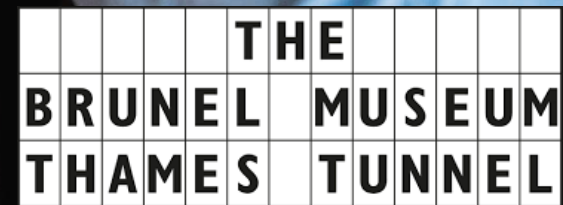
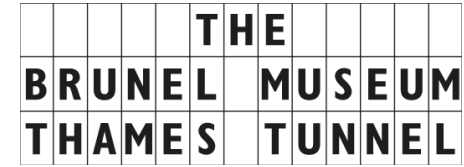


# October 2025



# Welcome



Thank you for your interest in becoming a Volunteer of the Brunel Museum. We've currently got more than 30 volunteers, carrying out a range of work. They are vital to our success.

This is an exciting time to be joining the Museum, with redevelopment via the Brunel Reinvented Project about to get underway, and a number of new programmes being implemented.

We're really keen to hear from people from all walks of life, with varied experience – whether professional, academic, or personal – who can bring new skills, energy, and interests to the team.

You don't need previous experience as a volunteer, and you don't need to be an engineer or history buff who already knows everything there is to know! Ultimately, we're looking for people who will bring passion, fun, and enjoyment to the Museum.

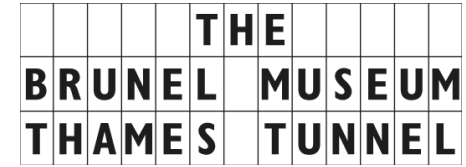
Please take a look at this pack which contains further information on volunteering for the Museum.

If you have further questions or would like to have a chat about the role, please get in touch with us at [hello@thebrunelmuseum.com](mailto:hello@thebrunelmuseum.com)



Katherine McAlpine  
Director  
Brunel Museum

# About the Museum



## OUR MISSION

To preserve and share widely the ground-breaking stories of the Thames Tunnel, the outstanding achievements of the Brunels, and their relevance to our lives today. We inspire communities through exploration, learning, and performance.

## WHAT WE DO

The Brunel Museum showcases the local story of the Brunel engineering family and how they changed the world. It is on the site of the world's first tunnel under a navigable river which opened in 1843.

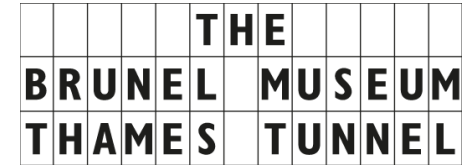
The Tunnel was built using the tunnelling shield invented by Isambard Kingdom Brunel's father, Marc Brunel. Today it is still in operation as part of the London Overground railway network.

Located in Rotherhithe, the Museum is an educational charity. Trustees, staff, and volunteers are committed to widening community involvement with the Museum and to inspire people to explore, learn, share and enjoy our story of innovation and perseverance.



Brunel Museum Tunnel Shaft

# The Museum Team



## DIRECTOR

Director Katherine McAlpine, leads the team of dedicated staff, trustees, and volunteers.

## STAFF

Our team of eight fantastic staff run the Museum's day-to-day activities. They include staff overseeing the Reinvented Project; Learning; Collections; Operations; Volunteers; Venue Hire; Fundraising; and Finance. Volunteer management is the responsibility of the Collections Access Coordinator.

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are at the core of what we do here at the Brunel Museum. Our dedicated volunteer team serve as tour guides, manage the Museum shop and facilities, help oversee school visits and Museum events, and much more!

More information on the team and volunteers is available [here](#).



# Our Volunteers

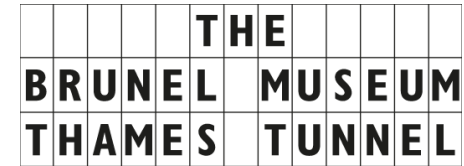
There are currently over 30 volunteers at the Brunel Museum. Without them, many of our activities would not take place.

Volunteers get involved in many different activities, and for many different reasons. They come from all walks of life, and lots of different backgrounds. What unites them is an interest in the Museum, in sharing stories with our audiences, and ensuring everyone has an enriching and engaging experience when they visit us.



"Being a volunteer at the Brunel Museum is both inspiring and rewarding! It's a wonderful mix of meeting people, sharing fascinating stories about local history, and being part of a friendly, diverse group of volunteers from all walks of life. The museum truly invests in us too — from first aid and inclusion workshops to visits that bring the Brunel story to life — making the whole experience exceptionally fun, meaningful, and enriching."

*Helen, Museum Volunteer since 2023*



## Results of our 2025 Volunteer Survey

- **100% of volunteers find what they do at the Museum interesting**
- **100% say they are developing skills and knowledge**
- **100% agree that they are proud of the work of the Museum**
- **75% made new friends or met new people through volunteering**
- **89% say they are more confident from volunteering**

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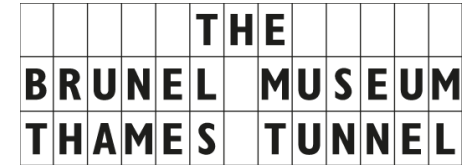
- Writing historical fiction
- Getting jobs using newly acquired skills
- Learning a range of new skills useful for personal projects
- Engaging in archival research and publishing academic work

Training in other areas might include:

- 
- A woman with glasses and a red cardigan is speaking into a microphone. She is holding a piece of paper and appears to be giving a presentation or speech. The background shows a window with a view of the street outside.

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# Visitor Welcome Volunteers



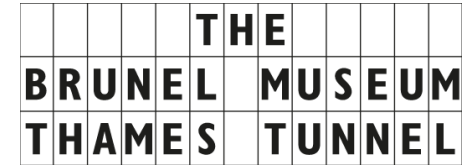
## RESPONSIBILITIES

**Visitor Welcome Volunteers are a first point of call for visitors, providing a warm welcome and helping with their needs and queries.**

- Provide a warm welcome to all visitors
- Assist with visitor queries and needs, including any accessibility requirements
- Ensure visitor health and safety and help maintain the security of the building and collection
- Sell tickets on the desk, and check in pre-bookings;
- Promote Gift Aid as a means of supporting the Museum, and ensure Gift Aid declarations are completed in the correct format
- Encourage donations from visitors to support the Museum
- Keep the shop tidy, and stocked; sell products
- Undertake audience evaluation, through encouraging visitors to complete our feedback survey
- Attend periodic training to develop and maintain skills, including mandatory training e.g. in safeguarding; and fire awareness.



# Talks & Tours Volunteers



## RESPONSIBILITIES

**Talks and tours volunteers deliver engaging talks and tours for different visitors.**

- Provide a warm welcome to all visitors; assist with visitor queries and needs
- Introduce visitors to the Brunel Museum, the Thames Tunnel story, and other relevant histories by delivering 30-minute tours of the Museum
- Work to develop talks and tours which engage varied audiences, including families with children and non-UK visitors
- Deliver private group bookings outside of our ordinary opening hours
- Deliver outreach talks / presentations about the Tunnel and related themes
- Encourage and invite donations from visitors to support the Museum
- Attend periodic training to develop and maintain skills, including mandatory training e.g. in safeguarding; and fire awareness.

Interviews for Talks and Tours volunteers will involve a short presentation, giving you an opportunity to show off your skills in engagement and storytelling.



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| <b>THAMES</b> |  |  |  | <b>TUNNEL</b> |  |  |  |  |

- Provide a warm welcome for all family and school visitors to the Museum
- Support object-based learning using the *Tunnellers' Tales* activity kit to spark conversations with families and other visitors
- Support on-site schools' activities, including putting out props before the session starts, handing out booklets, answering questions
- Take care of own health and safety, escalating or alerting any health and safety related incidents to the Learning Producer in a timely manner
- Help clear up after activities, ensuring the Museum is returned to usual use
- Help maintain learning equipment, keeping the learning equipment cupboard tidy
- Undertake audience evaluation with family and school visitors
- Attend periodic training to develop and maintain skills, including mandatory training e.g. in safeguarding; and fire awareness.

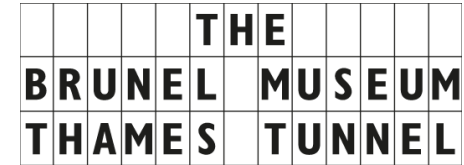


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**We're really keen to hear from a wide range of applicants from a wide range of backgrounds.**



# Application Process



## HOW TO APPLY

Please apply by sending a short cover letter explaining why you're interested in volunteering at the Museum, and which role(s) are of interest, to [hello@thebrunelmuseum.com](mailto:hello@thebrunelmuseum.com).

If you'd like, you can also send a short CV – but this isn't absolutely necessary.

## TO FIND OUT MORE

Is there anything we can do to make the recruitment process more accessible and inclusive for you? Would you like more detail about a volunteer role?

If so, please contact us via [hello@thebrunelmuseum.com](mailto:hello@thebrunelmuseum.com) for an informal chat with the staff member responsible for volunteers.

## INTERVIEWS

Everyone whose applications look promising will be invited for an informal interview with the staff member responsible for volunteers.

This isn't meant to be a scary process. There's no need to wear formal clothing (unless you want to!).

