



## Join us as a trustee

Ripon Museum Trust has begun an exciting phase of expansion. In 2017 we bought the former union workhouse site, doubling the size of one of our three museums. Our ACE National Portfolio Organisation status which began last year is helping us to deliver enhanced curation, a new outreach programme, art commissions and a significant expansion of our digital provision.

To take the organisation forward we are looking for a new trustee to strengthen our current team of eight. The board of trustees provides the governance of the organisation which is both a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. With expansion in many areas, a new trustee can make their mark on an organisation that is growing fast. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone who wants to broaden their experience to make a valuable and lasting contribution to developing heritage assets of national importance.

The board has recently changed the way it operates, with four committees overseeing areas of work. This year we will be developing a new strategy for the Trust that will be more mindful of the impact we make on our visitor's lives. We want to encourage empathy with our stories of the past which can inform us all today.

The Trust's operations are led by a staff team recently expanded with the NPO-funded programme. Much of the museum delivery is in the hands of dedicated volunteers and the Trust is keen to maintain this long-established volunteer ethos. Our volunteer surveys show a high level of satisfaction, with the museums considered as a great place to volunteer.

Work at Ripon Museum Trust is guided by our mission:

*To enrich the lives of all who experience and are inspired by our historic law and order sites and collection so that they gain insights into, and are provoked into thinking about, how the treatment of offenders and the relief of the poor have developed over the last 200 years.*

and informed by our values of ambition, learning, teamwork and community. We aim to be the best small museums in England.

All applications are welcome but especially from those with skills in these two clusters: (i) business acumen and income generation (ii) governance or/and strategic leadership in the museum, heritage or cultural sectors.

The Trust would especially welcome applications from: women, early career professionals seeking their first governance position and people with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010, as they are currently underrepresented on the board.

We are committed to ensuring the widest possible field of candidates for this position and will consider any reasonable request to make this possible.



There are four standard board meetings plus two strategic away days each year. Board papers are sent out a week in advance to give time for reading and questions. There will be the opportunity depending on availability and skills to join committees of the board. We are a charity and a company limited by guarantee so you would fill the dual role of a trustee of the charity and a director of the company.

Standard board meetings are in the evening; strategy away days are often in the daytime at a weekend. There is some flexibility in setting times and dates if required.

The trustee role profile is available on our website at [http://riponmuseums.co.uk/about\\_us/trustee](http://riponmuseums.co.uk/about_us/trustee) profile

### **Process**

Please send a letter expressing your interest and a brief personal statement to the Chair of Trustees, Richard Taylor, at [rict.ripon@riponmuseums.co.uk](mailto:rict.ripon@riponmuseums.co.uk) by our closing date of 3 March.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to visit for an informal discussion with Trustees at a date and time in March to be agreed. Appropriate expenses will be paid.

As a new trustee you will be co-opted onto the Board and invited to attend the next Board meeting scheduled for 11 April. The co-option continues until the AGM on 1 May 2019, where you will be eligible to stand for election by the meeting.

Reasonable expenses for attending Board meetings (including childcare payments) will be considered.

If you would like to discuss the opportunity before applying then please contact the Chair of Trustees, Richard Taylor, on 07720 751562.