

Volunteer Recruitment Advertisement - *Widening Horizons* Volunteer

“Mr Grimsby & Mr Cleethorpes – The astonishing legacy of Edward Watkin”

Background to the Watkin Project

The Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire need your help to share the largely unknown legacy of “Mr Grimsby & Mr Cleethorpes” – Edward Watkin. Supported by generous funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and partnering with the Watkin Society, we will over the next two years be working on a project which will promote and highlight the significant contributions made by Watkin in Grimsby and Cleethorpes. Some of these contributions include investing large sums of money into Grimsby docks in the 19th century and linking it with the railway as chairman of the MSLR (Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway) which allowed it to develop into the world’s largest fishing port. Before Watkin, Cleethorpes was a small fishing village, by providing money for the creation of a sea wall, promenade and bringing the railway to the area it soon became a popular seaside resort with some even nicknaming it ‘Sheffield-on-Sea’.

Main aims/volunteer role

There are two main outputs for the project. The first is a set of educational material focussing on the important work of Edward Watkin, which will provide educators with a bank of material supporting them in their teaching of the Victorians and the local history of Grimsby and Cleethorpes. The second is the digital resources which will include a film about Grimsby docks, past, present and future and a digital trail based in Cleethorpes. As a *Widening Horizons* volunteer, you will directly help us to shape the educational and digital resources by giving us feedback on the drafted materials, working alongside the Digital Ambassadors from the five partner schools and the Digital consultant. We would also like your support with the end of project celebratory events which will showcase both the educational and digital resources to schools and the wider community.

We aim to recruit at least 12 volunteers for the project, but the training workshops will also be advertised to a wider local audience, with up to 20 spaces available at each session.

Why volunteer with us?

As a volunteer on the Watkin project, you will be invited to attend a series of free workshops and training sessions which will span over approximately 16 months. These sessions will introduce you to the use of digital technologies and skills focusing on their application in the heritage sector, as well as guidance on researching historic material and IP (Intellectual Property) and copyright. Furthermore, the Watkin Project will provide you with the opportunity to engage with your local community and heritage and to help reshape parts of the negative perception surrounding Grimsby and its prospects for young people into a positive narrative highlighting its importance and future development as an important Humber port.

How to apply

We are recruiting for volunteers from now and volunteers will need to be available until the project end in July 2025.



If you would be interested in becoming a Widening Horizons Volunteer and supporting us on the Watkin Project, please send an email of interest to anna@heritagelincolnshire.org.