



AUCKLAND CASTLE

Volunteering with Auckland Castle

Ian Pinkney

Age: 62

Role: Volunteer Park
Ranger

From: Bishop Auckland



“I find great satisfaction volunteering with Auckland Castle Trust, and I’m highly proud of the difference my work makes to the park.”

Ian is a big fan of being outdoors and finds working on his allotment particularly rewarding. Since 2015, he has been indulging both of these passions as a Volunteer Park Ranger with Auckland Castle Trust.

Working in Auckland Park, which he first discovered walking his dog, Ian can often be found repairing fences, landscaping borders and generally helping to ensure our acres of beautiful surroundings are well maintained.

Ian says that he would “100% recommend volunteering” with Auckland Castle Trust, because there are “roles that suit all ages and abilities” and “time flies over when you’re volunteering with the Castle, so it must be good”.





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Chris Walkinshaw

Age: 70

Current Role: Volunteer

Tour Leader

From: Bishop Auckland



“Volunteering with Auckland Castle Trust has given me a new lease of life”

Chris has a strong passion for history and has been a volunteer at Auckland Castle since 2012.

After originally being inspired by Auckland Castle Trust’s vision for Bishop Auckland, he now volunteers in many different areas, including leading Guided Tours, Community Outreach and Book Archiving. He also hopes to get involved in more elements of the project as they go live.

Chris says every day volunteering with Auckland Castle Trust is different and exciting and believes it to be one of the most satisfying experiences he has ever had.





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David Raine

Age: 47

Role: Volunteer Gardener

From: Bishop Auckland



“I recommend volunteering with Auckland Castle Trust to all my friends and family, as everyone is amazing and you’ll learn new skills.”

After battling various drink and drugs problems, David heard about an archaeological dig in Auckland Castle’s Walled Garden and decided to get involved.

He spent summer 2016 helping to uncover the secrets of the 17th century site and even uncovered the remnants of a boiler house.

One year on, David is now volunteering alongside the gardening team, maintaining Auckland Castle’s acres of gardens and grounds.

He says volunteering has been inspiring and highly rewarding and now aims to gain full time employment or an apprenticeship.





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Tia Shah

Age: 23

Role: Community Outreach &
Events

From: Durham



“Volunteering with Auckland Castle Trust is both really fun and rewarding.”

Currently working on her Master's Degree in History at Durham University, keen historian Tia began volunteering with Auckland Castle Trust last summer.

She is part of our Jack Drum Arts Summer Camp and works with Community Outreach Officer, Alison Tweddle, on the 'Confidence In Me' Shildon Youth Group Project. This gives young people the chance to train as tour guides and develop transferable skills.

Tia finds volunteering with Auckland Castle Trust amazing, saying: “I get the freedom to research and organise the things that I think would be beneficial for the project, and then see them actually happen”.





AUCKLAND CASTLE

Volunteering with Auckland Castle

Rachael, Hannah & Rebekah Masters

Age: 44,13 & 11 respectively

Role: Auckland Castle family volunteering & Kynren Show team

From: Coundon



“Volunteering is worth every minute and hour; it’s even more satisfying than a day job”

Rachael and her two daughters Hannah and Rebekah, volunteer as a family at Auckland Castle and our sister charity, Eleven Arches. Mother, Rachael has been volunteering with Auckland Castle Trust for almost four years, while daughters Hannah and Rebekah also signed up three years ago.

After discovering the scale of Auckland Castle Trust’s project the family wanted to be part of an “amazing” organisation and volunteered as room stewards when Auckland Castle was open, even helping with various children’s activities.

They saw Kynren as an added opportunity to be part of something special and help even further with “bringing people into the town from all over the world”.

The family find “volunteering rewarding in so many ways”, and say they love “giving back to the community”, “working together to achieve something special” and “getting to meet new people”.





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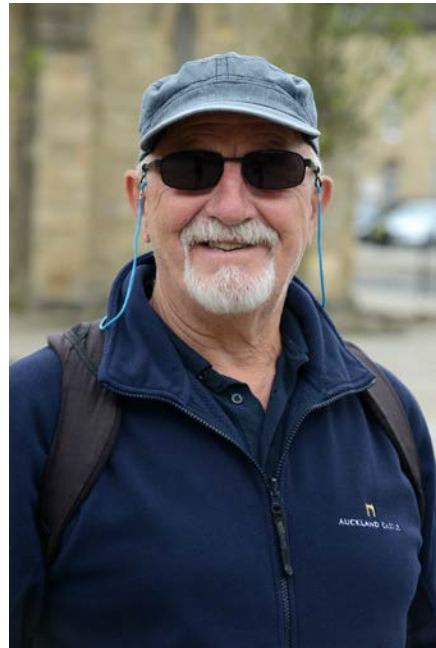
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Ian Simpson

Age: 69

Role: Shuttle Bus Driver

From: Bishop Auckland



“Volunteering gives me chance to fill my retirement in a useful way”.

Ian Simpson is a historic building enthusiast and is very passionate about Bishop Auckland. He has been a volunteer with Auckland Castle Trust for more than two years and has also taken part in every Kynren show, run by our sister charity, Eleven Arches.

As a shuttle bus driver and steward for Auckland Castle Trust, Ian enjoys meeting the public and telling them about Bishop Auckland. He finds providing this information about his hometown very rewarding.

Ian says he would definitely recommend volunteering with Auckland Castle Trust, as he “would love other people to join and participate in a great kindred spirit”.





AUCKLAND CASTLE

Volunteering with Auckland Castle

Pat Robbins

Age: 80

Role: Volunteer Tour Leader at Auckland Castle Trust & Kynren Experience Team

From: Bishop Auckland



“Being part of something special is incredible.”

An avid history buff, Pat loves to share her knowledge and is one of Auckland Castle Trust’s longest serving volunteers, having joined in 1998. She is also beginning her second year at Kynren, run by Auckland Castle Trust’s sister charity, Eleven Arches.

Pat’s role at Auckland Castle Trust includes being a Tour Leader for our Past and Future Tours of Bishop Auckland Market Place and leading Guided Tours within the Castle to visitors, when the Castle was open.

