

National Trust Press Release

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Celebrating 30 years of making history come alive

The staff and volunteers at East Riddlesden Hall are getting ready to celebrate a special anniversary as volunteer room guide Stephen Webb reaches 30 years of volunteering with the National Trust. As well as maintaining a full time job outside of the National Trust, Stephen has spent his entire volunteering career at the seventeenth century manor sharing his passion for history and love of East Riddlesden Hall with both visitors and colleagues alike.

Stephen started volunteering in 1988, at the age of 29, when a love of history led him to become a member of the National Trust. His experience as a visitor encouraged him to apply for a volunteer position at East Riddlesden Hall after seeing an advert in the local paper. After a tour of the hall and an informal meeting with one of the volunteer day leaders Stephen successfully applied as a volunteer and has been a room guide ever since.

In the early years Stephen's parents often joined him on a Sunday, spending the day at East Riddlesden Hall and becoming regulars in the tea-room. Being a volunteer often means getting involved with many interesting and varied activities. Stephen has been known to dress up in black gown and white skull mask, making a scary entrance on the roof terrace of the hall as part of the old Halloween spooky evenings. But these days Stephen is usually found in more conventional dress helping visitors to enjoy the history of the site.

Talking about his time as a volunteer Stephen said "Throughout the 30 years I've gained a huge amount of satisfaction and enjoyment out of volunteering at East Riddlesden Hall. It's not only given me the opportunity to meet new people but also to share with them my love of history. There's never a dull moment; you never know quite what you'll get involved in next and working in the beautiful and tranquil surroundings of East Riddlesden Hall really is something special."

Emily Taylor, Volunteer and Community Manager says "Celebrating Stephen's 30 years at East Riddlesden Hall is a real highlight. We've all benefitted from his knowledge and commitment to looking after and sharing this lovely place. Over the years he's taken many new room guides under his wing and it's great to be able to learn more from someone who's been part of the hall's history since its restoration in the 1980's. Stephen's part of a team of over 130 volunteers of all ages, backgrounds and experience who are vital to the continued conservation of this site."

Stephen's contribution will be officially recognised later this month when he's presented with his long-service award and a certificate signed by the National Trust's Director General.

Anyone wishing to find out more about volunteering for the National Trust can visit <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/find-an-opportunity>

For further media information:

Carla Weatherall, Marketing and Communication Officer, National Trust, West Yorkshire Group

East Riddlesden Hall, Hardcastle Crag, Marsden Moor
carla.weatherall@nationaltrust.org.uk
07833 189999 (Working days, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays)

Notes to Editors:

1. When people visit East Riddlesden Hall the money they spend on entrance fees, in the tearoom, in the shop or on additional activities goes towards helping us look after this special place.
2. About the National Trust
The National Trust is a conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people who saw the importance of our nation's heritage and open spaces and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy. More than 120 years later, these values are still at the heart of everything the charity does.

Entirely independent of Government, the National Trust looks after more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 778 miles of coastline and hundreds of special places across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

More than 24 million people visit every year, and together with 5 million members and over 65,000 volunteers, they help to support the charity in its work to care for special places for ever, for everyone.

For more information and ideas for great seasonal days out go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Registered charity number 205846.