



ST BARBE
MUSEUM+ART GALLERY



Trustee Recruitment Pack



Kestrel, Woodcut, William Seaby. St Barbe Museum Collection

Message from the Chair

Sir John de Trafford

Dear Prospective Trustee,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you as you consider joining our charity. As the Chair of Trustees, I am honoured to lead a dedicated group of individuals who are passionate about preserving our rich cultural heritage and promoting the arts in the New Forest.

At St Barbe Museum + Art Gallery we believe in the transformative power of art and culture. Our mission is to inspire, educate, and engage our local community and beyond through dynamic exhibitions, innovative programmes, and impactful outreach initiatives. Since our establishment 25 years ago we have remained steadfast in our commitment to fostering creativity, preserving the history of the New Forest Coast and promoting inclusivity.

As a trustee you will play a vital role in shaping the future of our museum charity. You will have the opportunity to work alongside a diverse and accomplished group of trustees, each bringing their unique expertise and perspectives to the table. Our board consists of professionals from various fields, including art, history, education, finance, law and community advocacy. Together we form a collaborative and forward-thinking team that guides the strategic direction of the charity and ensures its continued growth and success.

Moreover, you will contribute to an institution that values diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility, making art and culture accessible to all members of our community.

As a charity we recognise the critical role that trustees play in our organisation's governance and success. We seek individuals who share our vision, possess a deep appreciation for the arts and are committed to advancing our mission. We welcome individuals with a wide range of skills and experiences, as well as those who can bring fresh ideas and perspectives to our discussions. Whether you have a background in finance, marketing, law, fundraising, or are simply an ardent supporter of the arts, we encourage you to consider this unique opportunity to make a lasting impact.

Should you have any questions or require further details, please do not hesitate to contact our Director Maria Ragan, who would be pleased to talk with you.

Yours sincerely,

Sir John de Trafford
Chair of Trustees
St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery



Impact and Achievement

April 2022 - March 2023



132,027
Visitors



6,892
Paid
Admission



£80,000
Gift Shop
takings



582 Students from
22 Schools enjoyed
Learning at St Barbe



6,395
Social Media
followers



850
Friends



1,453 People
took part in
Family Activities



37
Patrons



22,330 items
on our online
collection



17 Community Groups used
St Barbe as a venue



6
Business
Partners



Over 200k
Fundraising from
Grants over last year

Outreach and Activities that make a difference

Art1st Group: Every Wednesday our Art1st group gives access to those with a wide range of support needs the space and support to explore their own creative practices.

Young Curators: Our Young Curators Panel is a unique opportunity for young people aged 11-16 to gain vocational experience and develop transferable skills within the arts, culture and heritage sector.

Tea and Memories Memory Makers: Dementia friendly sessions for older adults that help us share our collection and learn from our local communities to help bring our collections to life.

Securing local history for future generations: Our recent acquisition of the Celtic Coin Horde is a substantial find of national significance. Such collections have the power to transform peoples lives through learning about history and seeing the past brought to life in front of them.

National quality art exhibitions to delight and educate: Our recent Scene Through Wood exhibition was on loan from the Ashmolean, garnering a huge amount of visitors from far and wide. As the only government standard museum in the New Forest we can bring in loans from national collections which have a high quality educational impact. Our summer exhibitions are family focused with recent wildlife and Pirates themed shows in the last few years.

Help us achieve our ambition to become one of the most respected small museums and art galleries in the UK, inspiring the community through art, heritage and culture. Join our friendly group of Trustees and help drive forward the ambitious plans for this independent charity to make a positive impact on people's lives.

About St Barbe

- We are located in Lymington, Hampshire and serve the New Forest and its adjoining coast.
- We have over 22,000 objects in our collection made increasingly accessible through the King Research Room and now on-line.
- We are an Accredited museum with Government Indemnity status, which allows us to borrow works from National collections and deliver world-class exhibitions.
- In 2023 we became a National Portfolio Organisation.
- We produce an innovative cultural programme with the aim of diversifying our audience and reaching out to people of varied background, age and abilities.
- We work with a range of partner organisations to expand our work in schools, youth groups, dementia homes and rural areas to encourage participation in creative activities.
- We provide a popular café, tourist information point and an attractive gift shop.

"What a truly fantastic museum and art gallery this is! I was blown away by the extremely high quality, utterly beautiful paintings and sculptures displayed in a very contemporary and spacious environment.

If in town, don't miss this excellent treasure trove, and with really friendly volunteers you will leave having obtained new knowledge and from a dedicated team of volunteers."

Trip Advisor Review 2023

Role of Trustees

- To attend quarterly meetings of the Board of Trustees and contribute to strategic guidance, governance and evaluation.
- To join an appropriate Board Committee (Finance & General Purposes, Marketing & Development, Friends & Patrons, Collections, Exhibitions, Engagement, Outreach, Volunteering & Front of House) to advise and guide activities in this area. The frequency of meetings varies but is typically 4-6 times per annum.
- To act as an ambassador for the charity and contribute to the essential task of fundraising.
- To add experience and skills in particular areas to complement the skills already represented on the Board and amongst the small staff team.
- To take an active role in attending exhibition previews and the Friends programme and to represent St Barbe in the cultural life of the region.

Personal Characteristics

- Professional in approach but preferring to get things done with a minimum of bureaucracy.
- Confident in expressing an opinion and able to represent the charity effectively.
- An ability to think creatively.
- Committed and willing to take a keen interest in our work.

"Refreshingly different"

Visitor review



We are keen to appoint new trustees to develop our team in the following areas:

- We are seeking a Trustee who is familiar with fundraising in the charity sector, preferably within the local area.
- We are also seeking a Trustee with a strong finance background. An accounting qualification would be a significant advantage.
- We would like to appoint a Trustee with knowledge of and good contacts within the local business sector, possibly including marketing and I.T. experience. This might be combined with either of the characteristics above.

Periodic replacements for existing Trustees will cover a wider area of skills, including those specifically relating to museums and cultural activities.

We welcome interest from anyone who believes that they can contribute. We currently have good gender diversity but are keen to increase the diversity of age, background and other characteristics.

What We Can Offer

- Becoming a Trustee is a voluntary role. However, there is enormous satisfaction to be gained through helping the whole community to enrich their lives by accessing cultural activities.
- By joining the existing team, you will have the opportunity to meet interesting experts in their fields and gain respect by participating with them in a shared learning environment.
- You will also have the opportunity to attend exhibition previews and other events, which bring you into contact with Patrons, Friends, artists and other creative practitioners.

"I've never been able to take my two very young children to a playgroup successfully before, but here, they are absolutely mesmerised! As am I! It makes the children so happy and gives me such a boost as well. So much care and passion goes into each session it blows me away each time, I just wanted to say this has had a hugely positive impact on my mental well-being as well as my children's, so thank you whole heartedly for putting it on each week."

Michelle, mother of two, participant on the St Bee's Free Under 5's Group





Colour transparency of painting by Thomas Rowlandson of interior of salt boiling house at the salterns, Lymington

Reproduced courtesy of the Huntington Library & Art Gallery

Next Steps

You can find out more about us and our existing Trustees by accessing our website at www.stbarbe-museum.org.uk

We encourage all potential candidates to contact our Director Maria Ragan to discuss their application: maria.ragan@stbarbe-museum.org.uk.