ORAL HISTORY VOLUNTEER
ROLE DESCRIPTION

ROLE PURPOSE
Interviewing and recording oral testimonies of people involved with working class rowing and racing on the Thames, as well as researching the history of races to support the project.

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Oral history volunteers will be given oral history training by heritage consultant, Jen Kavanagh. This will include guidance on how to use the recording equipment, how to prepare for an oral history interview, and information on the consent documentation that interviewees need to complete. Following this, volunteers will be given the opportunity to record at least two oral histories. These will be conducted in pairs, with one lead interviewer, and one volunteer recording the interview.

To help prepare for the interviews, volunteers will be asked to conduct research into the history of working class rowing on the Thames through exploring local archive collections. Volunteers will be giving introductions to each archive by the local archivist, or by the project manager.

All volunteers will be required to attend a full day introduction and training in May 2018 prior to conducting their interviews. Support with preparing for interviews will be provided by the Project Manager and Jen Kavanagh.

ROLE SUPERVISION
Volunteers will report to the Project Manager at Thames Festival Trust, and to heritage consultant, Jen Kavanagh.

WHERE
The Thames Festival Trust offices are located at Bargehouse, Oxo Tower Wharf, Bargehouse Street, London SE1 9PH however interviews and training will take place across London.

WHEN
- Introduction and training day – Monday 14 May
- Archive inductions and research prior to interviews – Throughout May
- Oral history interviews – between May and November
- Volunteer sharing session – Throughout July
- Volunteer thank you event – December
REQUIREMENTS
Volunteers must be over 18 years old. If possible, previous experience conducting oral history recordings would be desirable, but not compulsory. All volunteers will be required to attend all training sessions and be able to travel to locations across London for the recordings themselves.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU
- We will offer training for all oral history volunteers, and co-ordinate all interviews, equipment and events
- We will provide support throughout the project and keep you informed of project progress
- We will provide opportunities for you to share your work with other volunteers
- We will reimburse the volunteer for expenses for travel and lunch of up to £12 per day

YOUR COMMITMENT TO US
We expect volunteers to be able to do at least two oral history recordings and attend all training sessions as part of the project. We also require oral history volunteers to do at least 2 days of some archive research before their oral history interview, and to submit any findings by mid-June.

Through participating, volunteers will:
- Learn new skills in archive research
- Learn new skills in oral history interviewing and best practice
- Meet other volunteers and work as part of a team
- Have a chance to meet and interview people who have an extensive knowledge of working class racing on the Thames
- Contribute to the permanent documenting of this important history