

David Livingstone Trust Newsletter

Happy New Year!

2018 was a busy year for the David Livingstone Trust and the Birthplace Project and we are kick-starting this new year with lots of exciting news.

Lighting Livingstone's Legacy

Support our Crowdfunder!

As the exhibition planning is well underway, with our museum objects taking centre stage in new display cases, the David Livingstone Trust hope you will support this exciting opportunity to acquire a rare lantern slide depicting David Livingstone himself. Many of you will be aware of the difficult issues surrounding 19th century exploration of the world and the effects of the British Empire on cultures far and wide. The acquisition of this lantern slide would enable our independent



charity to tackle the challenging discussions around the topics of Empire and exploration. Dr Livingstone was a remarkable and inspiring individual, working his way from a poor cotton-mill worker to a world-renowned doctor, scientist, missionary and abolitionist. Can you support the David Livingstone Trust in purchasing this object, enabling us to promote constructive conversations? To donate and see the lovely rewards available please go to:

www.crowdfunder.co.uk/lighting-livingstones-legacy

Next Step Initiative Trainees – Apply now!

We will be hosting two Next Step Initiative Trainees for 12 months from spring this year. Would you like to join our Birthplace Project team and learn about heritage and museums? The Ethnic Minority Career Museum and Built Environment Heritage Programme's aim is to focus on widening and strengthening skills development and access of people from the African and Caribbean/Ethnic Minority Communities across Scotland into the world of both the museum and built environment heritage sectors. (Supported via the Heritage Lottery Fund's National Skills for the Future Initiative).



For more info please go to www.david-livingstone-trust.org/careers and make sure to apply before 25th January.

From everyone at the David Livingstone Trust and the Birthplace Project a huge thank you for your support in 2018 and hope you all have a wonderful 2019!



Volunteering with the David Livingstone Trust – Anne Martin



I first became a volunteer at the David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre in June 2005, having recently retired from my full-time job, and now seeking ways of filling the endless free time I expected to have! At the Centre I soon became involved in a wide variety of tasks, mostly related to administration of the Centre’s truly remarkable collection of around 3,000 objects connected to the great explorer’s life. Typical tasks have been tracking down the exact location in storage of each item and recording relevant information about the object in electronic form.

I have also been involved in overseeing visits of researchers and scholars who come to the Centre to examine parts of the collection, often preparing material for publications or exhibitions they are planning, and have helped to organise loans of some objects to assist with these exhibitions. Knowing virtually nothing about the Livingstone story when I started volunteering, I have now come to realise the importance of David Livingstone to our heritage. I have enjoyed meeting many people, including staff and volunteers I have worked with, and also the many external contacts I have had the chance to work with, notably those at ‘Livingstone Online’.

As to the future - now that the exciting ‘Birthplace Project’ is happening, I see my role as helping to maximise the potential of the collection to reach wider audiences through the new displays currently being planned. The project has opened up some fantastic opportunities such as researching the history of objects, and parts of the Livingstone story not previously well understood. I look forward to other challenges ahead as we move towards implementation of the Birthplace project. It is a privilege to be part of that initiative, just as it has always been a pleasure to be a David Livingstone volunteer.

Cataloguing Volunteers

We need your help! Want to get involved in cataloguing? We are looking for cataloguing volunteers to help us with documenting the collection. Training will be provided and, of course, tea and cake. This volunteering opportunity would suit those looking for some museum experience but also for anyone with a genuine interest in museums and the David Livingstone Trust’s Birthplace Project. For further info please look at the role description on our website, www.david-livingstone-trust.org/careers.

