

Volunteer Role Description

Edinburgh Living History Volunteer

Supervisors	Gordon Roberts Edinburgh Living History Coordinator	Mike Durnan Lauriston Castle Steward
	Erik Petrie Assistant Steward	Ria Sloan Outreach and Access Manager
Information	<p>When you step inside Lauriston Castle, you see it just as it was in 1926, when it was left to the nation by the last private owner, Mrs Reid. The Castle and the collections it contains is one of Scotland's greatest gifts. Collections include, Italian Furniture, Sheffield Plate, Crossley Wool Mosaics and Blue John ornaments. The interiors of the house are the work of Mrs Reid's husband, Mr W R Reid, the owner of Morison & Co, a leading Edinburgh cabinet making business. The beautiful grounds were laid out by William Henry Playfair in the 1840s. Much of the planting dates to this period. The award-winning Japanese Friendship garden, gifted by the prefecture of Kyoto, is a tranquil place to sit and dream.</p> <p>Lauriston Castle has a vibrant educational programme and tours programme interpreting the castle and collections. You can find out more about the programme by visiting www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk (go to the Lauriston Castle page then events), or visit the Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/lauristoncastleedinburgh/</p> <p>Edinburgh Living History (ELH) is a multi-award-winning group of costumed interpreters. They devise all their own improvised performances and perform to audiences at events including murder mysteries and promenade plays. They assist with school programmes and special tours where they interact with audiences in rooms, primarily as the Edwardian residents who lived in the Castle in the early 20th century. For further information visit the ELH website at www.edinburghlivinghistory.org.uk or visit the ELH facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/edinburghlivinghistory/</p>	
Role Purpose	To become a member of Edinburgh Living History and perform as a costumed interpreter to audiences at Lauriston Castle and occasionally at other Museums & Galleries Edinburgh venues.	

Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating in ELH planning meetings and rehearsals. • Performing as part of the Edinburgh Living History group for events at Lauriston Castle and at other Museums & Galleries Edinburgh venues.
Knowledge, Skills & Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in theatre and drama • Interest in the history of Edinburgh and Scotland • Enthusiasm for engaging with the public • Able to work as part of a team • Confident to perform improvised scenes at events
Commitment	<p>ELH performances take place on various days and times, throughout the year. ELH also meet at various times to plan and to rehearse.</p> <p>The group perform regularly, and although not all group members participate at all ELH events, volunteers are expected to play a full part in the work of the group and participate in some of the performances.</p>
Support & Training	<p>Volunteers will receive initial training on all aspects of Lauriston Castle, its history and the collection. Further training will be provided as and when required.</p> <p>Museums & Galleries Edinburgh staff will provide support and supervision. Other ELH members will provide peer support within the group.</p>
Expenses	<p>Bus tickets for journeys within Edinburgh will be provided.</p>
Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be courteous to members of the public, volunteers and staff • Commit to agreed dates and times • Arrive for volunteering and for meetings on time • Give reasonable notice if unable to attend • Abide by Museums & Galleries Edinburgh policies and codes of conduct
Location	<p>Lauriston Castle, 2a Cramond Road South, Edinburgh, EH4 5QD</p>

Role Description Updated: 23/10/2018