



WHITCHURCH
SILK MILL
HERITAGE OF WEAVING



Whitchurch Silk Mill

A New Approach to Volunteering

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Whitchurch Silk Mill



Volunteering at the Silk Mill



Growing Volunteering Project

What we wanted to achieve after the pandemic:

- Rejuvenate our volunteers
- Restructure roles
- Offer new opportunities
- Diversify our recruitment

What did we learn/achieve?

- Volunteers showed interest when approached 1:1 – to learn new skills and interact more with visitors
- Diversity is improving with some younger volunteers
- Opportunities to take skills to people in the community not just at the mill site increased
- Recruitment Day – volunteer team involvement/inspiration
- Focused areas where volunteers are needed

Post pandemic volunteering

Case study: volunteer tour guides

- Reduction in coach groups & weavers in training



- Less tour guides required & need for stewards



- Tour guides trained by weaving students



- Greater volunteering capacity & visitor engagement



Growing Volunteering Funding – Saori Loom

- Lightweight and easy to use
- Accessible with 2 height settings
- Can be used by visitors as well as demonstrators



How is the loom being used?

Events:

- Community woven river
- Make & Take
- Food Festival
- Kids in Museums Takeover day (Guides)
- Local Business showcase

Future Plans

- Weaving “taster” workshops both 1:1 and small groups with alternative loom options also offered



Southern Wool Show



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Thank you and please pay us a visit

