

## Volunteers Govern Festive Exhibition at Avoncroft



Volunteers have pioneered the latest festive revels at Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings. The exhibition 'A Worcestershire Christmas' focuses on the various traditions of Christmases past and has been designed, researched and brought to life by a group of the museum's volunteers.

Between Saturday 5 December and Sunday 20 December, visitors of all ages are invited to explore Christmas traditions spanning over 700 years of history. They will be able to discover what Christmas was like for our local ancestors – prisoners and millers, merchants and metalworkers alike. The museum's historic buildings will be authentically dressed for the season, and there will be music and games for all the family.

Rachel Shepherd, Head of Customer Services said: "This has been a really exciting volunteer project which has resulted in an excellent, enjoyable and very professional exhibition. I hope visitors to the museum will really enjoy finding out what a Worcestershire Christmas is all about."

Involvement in the exhibition has provided a chance for volunteers to develop valuable new work-based skills, but has also proved significant on a personal level. Leigh Walker, one of the volunteers leading the project, said: "I think for me this has been quite a personal 'journey'. This exhibition is a way of celebrating my heritage and looking at Christmas in a totally different light."

"A Worcestershire Christmas" begins on Saturday 5 December with a special launch weekend, and will be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until 20<sup>th</sup> December. The launch weekend will include festive music and costume. Plus a lantern procession at 3pm.

Admission prices are at a reduced rate of £4.95 for adults, £3.85 for senior citizens, £2.50 for children and £14.30 for a family.