

Aston Hall, Birmingham

Aston Hall is one of Birmingham's most treasured buildings and boasts sumptuous interiors from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, including the magnificent Long Gallery. However, if you visit the hall you'll more than likely come across one of Aston's most valued treasures – a team of dedicated volunteers who give their time regularly to help visitors engage with local heritage.

You'll find them working closely with the team of staff to keep Aston open in all its glory for visitors. They will meet you with a smile and a wealth of knowledge about the Hall, built up from their own research and a series of training sessions around Birmingham History and the Hall itself. On event days they run craft activities, object handling and children's activities; you might even find them in costume, giving families a thoroughly engaging and entertaining visit. The team enable Birmingham Museums Trust to engage with more people, in more depth and with more variety. The beauty is that the volunteers come from all over, although many are local, some are at school, some are studying at university, some are retired, but they are all a great example of community members coming together to celebrate local heritage and to help inspire others with their enthusiasm for history, heritage and for Birmingham as a city.

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