



Maintenance Volunteer (WHITE WING)

Role description

Volunteer role: Maintenance Volunteer

Help us to maintain the historic fishing boat WHITE WING ME113 and to keep her in operating condition. This is a fantastic opportunity to see behind the scenes at the museum and to play a part in creating memorable experiences for our visitors.

Location: The Scottish Fisheries Museum

Supervisor: Linda Fitzpatrick, Head Curator

About WHITE WING:

WHITE WING is a 33-foot Baldie, a variety of the Fifie lugsail design popular on the East coast of Scotland. She was built in 1917 by James Cadger at Gardenstown for John Ritchie of Whitehills, Banffshire. WHITE WING is crewed and maintained by fully trained volunteers at the Scottish Fisheries Museum. During the summer months, WHITE WING visits events and festivals around the coast of Scotland and a busy schedule of maintenance and preparation is followed, enabling this to happen.

About the museum:

Founded in the old fishing town of Anstruther, Fife, the Scottish Fisheries Museum Trust first opened on the 4th of July 1969. This area has long been associated with the fishing industry, and the Museum explores the history and heritage of the boats, the fish, and the folk. The displays also illustrate the working and domestic lives of the fishermen, women, and children who all contributed to the fishing industry.

About the role:

We are looking for enthusiastic people who will assist current volunteers by helping to maintain the WHITE WING and keep her operational. The WHITE WING has been restored to her traditional sailing rig and is also fitted with an engine. She requires both regular maintenance and periodic repair to keep her seaworthy.

This winter she will be coming out of the water for some more extensive repairs within the museum boatyard. This role will therefore provide an excellent opportunity to develop practical skills as well as to learn about traditional boats and a fascinating part of Scottish maritime history.

Previous experience is preferred but not necessarily required as full training and support will be given.

**The key tasks will include:**

- Stripping off rotten and weak timber and preparing for new fittings
- Preparing and fitting new timber e.g. planking, timber heads
- Removing and replacing caulking
- General repairs such as exterior painting, oiling, rigging
- Adhering to the Scottish Fisheries Museum Trust's policies and to standards of best practice.

Hours and timeframe:

- This is a temporary volunteering opportunity with availability from October 2025 to March 2026.
- Saturday mornings are preferable; however, availability and preferences can be discussed further with your supervisor.
- Ability to volunteer for a minimum of two hours per week is preferable.

The role requires:

- An interest in learning about WHITE WING ME113 and the Scottish Fisheries Museum.
- A degree of physical fitness
- Experience in or a willingness to learn how to complete a variety of boat-building tasks to an agreed Conservation Management Plan.
- A willingness to undertake training as required.
- A willingness to follow health and safety procedures, maintaining a safe environment for all volunteers.

Volunteer Benefits

Volunteers will be part of a friendly team, develop skills and gain experience in a museum. After three months volunteers can ask for a reference. Most importantly we will provide plenty of tea and coffee.

Travel Information

A bus stop is directly outside the museum. Buses to and from Anstruther are operated by Stagecoach including X60 service between Edinburgh and St. Andrews and 95 service between St Andrews and Leven. Both buses run hourly.

There are two public pay and display car parks in 150 yards of the museum with 4 disabled bays. Both car parks are pay and display from April to September and are free during the rest of the year. There is no charge for blue badge holders.

The Museum will reimburse pre-approved travel or out-of-pocket expenses incurred for the purpose of volunteering.

**Support/training:**

Volunteers will be given an induction and full training for all aspects of the role by the Scottish Fisheries Museum team. They will be supported in their role by their supervisor and by the SFM Boats Club whose members have many years' experience in maintaining and crewing the WHITE WING.

Accessibility:

We encourage applicants from all backgrounds, including those facing barriers to employment, people living with disabilities or with additional support needs, people from BAME backgrounds, refugees, and those who identify as LGBTQI+.

Whilst the parts of the museum that are open to the public are fully wheelchair accessible, other areas have restricted access e.g. via stairs.

Some manual handling and/or use of ladders may be required as part of the role, depending on the specific tasks undertaken. However, we are happy to discuss accessibility and make adjustments to the role wherever possible.

Application process:

There are multiple ways you can contact us if you would like to apply to volunteer – phone call, email or in person followed by an informal chat with our Head Curator. Anybody interested in volunteering can then complete our Volunteer Application Form (we will send you this once you have been in touch). We can support those who need help completing the form by chatting through it either by telephone, a Zoom call or in-person.

For further information about this role or volunteering at the museum generally please contact Linda Fitzpatrick, Head Curator on 01333 310628 or email linda@scotfishmuseum.org.