



Volunteer with us – West Middlesex University Hospital Heritage Project

About the project:

CW+ is uncovering the rich history of West Middlesex University Hospital, which celebrated its 100th birthday last year. Throughout 2021, we will be delving into our archives, gathering stories from our communities, and celebrating various anniversaries.

- Our project will create a new permanent exhibition of artefacts and photographs from our archives, which will be on permanent public display in the hospital's main atrium
- We will use recorded stories from people who have played a key part in our hospital's history, working with the hospital radio station to create oral history podcasts
- We will share the history we uncover through creative workshops with young patients in the hospital school, and older patients on our wards
- We will celebrate with events to mark the 100th birthday of West Middlesex University Hospital

Become a heritage volunteer:

We are looking for five to eight volunteers to form the Heritage Volunteer Committee. The committee will participate in three key parts of the heritage project, each of which will come with a day of training from specialists in the field. These are:

- 1) Exhibition research and interpretation of history – undertake supported research into the hospital's rich history. With a day of training to explore the different ways heritage stories can be told, you will then craft succinct, accurate and engaging text which can be presented and displayed for patients, visitors, and staff to enjoy. Volunteers may also work with an exhibition designer to select images and style of a permanent exhibition in the hospital.
- 2) Conservation and archival care – learn how we can protect our artefacts and photographs and display them in a safe way to protect them for the future. Volunteers who undertake this training will help devise a conservation plan for the exhibition, select conservation materials and display cabinets, and help us to improve our larger archival storage space.
- 3) Managing oral histories – Training will be provided on how to transcribe our collection of oral history recordings for use in various aspects of the project. Our oral history volunteers will work with an oral history researcher and hospital radio staff to create three 15-minute podcasts

About CW+

CW+ is the charity for Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. We are working with our colleagues in the hospital to undertake this year-long project, as well as an exhibition designer, an oral history researcher, and specialist trainers in heritage interpretation and conservation care.

Where?

The project will be based at West Middlesex University Hospital and online via Zoom.

When?

We aim to recruit volunteers as soon as possible to **start in May 2021**. The heritage project will run until Autumn 2021 and applicants should be able to volunteer on average 2-3 hours per week.

All training and planning sessions for the project will take place between the hours of 9am - 5pm, Monday - Friday via Zoom. Some selection and conservation tasks will take place in person.

What does this role offer?

- Find out more about the history of West Middlesex University Hospital and local heritage
- Training opportunities – the chance to work with experts and specialists in three key areas to develop skills and learn about new areas of heritage research
- Meet new people – we hope to recruit five to eight volunteers to work with us on this project, forming the heritage volunteer committee.
- Become a part of the CW+ team – as a key project for CW+ this year, our volunteers will become valued members of the charity.
- All out of pocket expenses will be covered – this includes travel to and from the hospital, and lunch expenses up to £5 per day.

If you would like to get involved, please **email Celia Halsey at celia.halsey@cwplus.org.uk by Friday 7th May 2021** with a short covering letter explaining your interest in the project.