

National Waterways Museum PORTER'S ROW VOLUNTEERS

Porter's Row is a group of four small cottages, each with a sitting room and a kitchen and each representing different periods in history.

- No. 9 is when the cottages were built in 1836
- No. 10 is the 1890s, at the end of Queen Victoria's reign. In addition to the sitting room and kitchen, it has a scullery and outdoor toilet.
- No. 11 represents the 1920s.
- No. 12 represents the 1950s.

As a Porter's Row volunteer, we would ask you to become a housekeeper for the day (or half day) – literally! Just like a real housekeeper you would chat to the visitors, carry out your normal domestic duties, light the fire, make a cup of tea, and generally keep the place tidy.

If you were feeling really adventurous you could try baking a few scones on the range or perhaps make a tasty stew. What a superb atmosphere you could create in the little cottage, making it a real treat for a visitor to share a few moments in history.

Some of the visitors will be children and you could act as the leader in Victorian games and other activities in the games, even better if you are dressed in clothes of the period.

Just like a real housekeeper, you will have some chores. Keeping the fire in and the coal scuttle filled, making sure that the front step is clean. All those things that our grandmother's used to do and which visitors of all ages love to see.

To find out more or to register interest call the Museum on 0151 355 5017 or email volunteers@boatmuseumsociety.org.uk

“I can imagine my grandmother standing over the range, cooking the day's meal for her large family. Our visitors are equally fascinated and, I find, many have their own story - which they're bursting to tell! It's a great way to meet people and even the housework is fun because it is so different from what we do today.”

Celia Webber (Porter's Row volunteer)