



## Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Volunteer Role Description

### Mary Arden's Farm

**Role Title:** Living History Volunteer  
**Reports to:** Lead Period Interpreter  
**Purpose of role:** To engage with visitors whilst recreating life as it would have been during Shakespeare's childhood. This role will involve wearing Tudor clothing.

#### **Responsibilities:**

- To work as part of a small team to reenact life as it would have been on a working Tudor farm.
- Specific tasks will vary, and may include Tudor cookery, wool crafts, wood working, household chores, animal care, Tudor dance/music, gardening.
- To engage our visitors with the history of the farm and be available to answer their questions.

#### **Requirements / skills:**

- To work well as part of a team, and have a friendly and outgoing personality.
- Good communication skills with a variety of age ranges.
- An interest in history, particularly Tudor times, domestic life and/or traditional farming.
- Willingness to learn new skills.
- Ability to ensure health and safety guidelines are followed and be responsible for your own health and safety.
- Previous experience of working with farm animals and/or birds would be beneficial but is not essential.
- Training will be provided, but any previous experience of knitting, weaving, spinning, bread making, or any other traditional skills would be advantageous.

#### **Commitment:**

A regular commitment of one day a week would be ideal with a choice of shifts available (half days considered):

- Mondays 9.15-5.00
- Fridays 9.15-5.00
- Saturdays 9.15-5.00
- Sundays 9.15-5.00

#### **Length of project or placement:**

- The Farm is open to visitors between March and November.
- During the months when the farm is closed, volunteers are welcome to attend training sessions/sewing group or can volunteer in a different role at another site.

**Benefits of volunteering:**

- On completion of 20 hours volunteering for the Trust, all volunteers receive a volunteer card giving free entry to SBT properties and a range of discounts.
- There will be an annual service award each January for volunteers who have achieved 200 hours or more of volunteering in the previous year. This will be acknowledged by a lapel pin and certificate.
- Volunteer celebration days and coffee morning chats will be programmed throughout the year.

**Administration points:**

- Tudor clothing will be provided (you will need to provide your own suitable footwear).
- Training will be provided as appropriate.
- This is an active, hands-on role that will involve working outdoors. An element of physical fitness is required, and volunteers must be prepared to work in all weathers.
- Volunteers will have the opportunity to join in with Tudor dinner, served daily at 1pm as part of the visitor offer.
- Food and drink should only be consumed in designated areas.
- Smoking is not allowed on site.
- Volunteer badges will be provided.
- The Trust will reimburse volunteer travel costs between their home address and the place they volunteer at the rate of 40p per mile, up to a 25 mile round trip or £10 per day. Parking costs can also be claimed within the £10 daily maximum. Volunteers can claim a combined total of up to £10 for mileage and parking.
- Volunteers travelling by train or bus may also claim up to a £10 daily maximum.

**Authorised by:** Samantha Gull  
**Title:** House Steward  
**Date:** 15.2.17