



DODDINGTON HALL & GARDENS

Dear

Thank you so much for enquiring about volunteering at Doddington Hall. Doddington Hall is a privately owned house and has never been sold since it was built in 1595. It has been open to the public since 1954 and is owned and run by Claire and James Birch. Everything that we do here is aimed to try to ensure that adequate funds are generated to pay for the huge costs of maintenance, repairs, housekeeping, insurance, heating and so on. We already have a much-valued team of volunteers who assist with the house opening (and in the gardens), and we are always keen to recruit new volunteers to provide additional help and support.

Doddington Hall is still a lived-in and much-loved family home, alive with history and interest. We have a wonderful collection of furniture, porcelain, textiles and paintings – which have been collected by the family for over 400 years! We need help with any number of tasks: welcoming visitors at Front of House; promoting the sale of Guide Books; providing practical assistance and information on the House and its contents; encouraging and helping children complete Activity Sheets; assisting disabled and visually-impaired visitors to use our Virtual and Sensory Tours; and also dealing with visitor complaints, security and health and safety issues. Questions can range from ‘How old is the House?’; ‘Who painted that picture?’; ‘How many cleaners do you have and what kind of polish do they use?’; ‘Does anyone live here?’; ‘Are there any ghosts?’.

All our volunteers receive proper induction and training, and we provide every encouragement and support to volunteers so that they may acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and confidence to carry out their role to the best of their ability. Many of our volunteers have become great friends and very much look forward to the several social events which the Hall organises each year, together with the annual outing.

This is certainly a great time to become involved at the Hall, with many exciting changes happening here during the last year or two – we have a wonderful new schools programme and Museum Room in place, a newly-restored and productive Kitchen Garden, and a popular new Farm Shop and Café. In 2008 Doddington Hall & Gardens were delighted to win a Lincolnshire Tourism Gold Award for the best *Small Visitor Attraction in Lincolnshire*; we also won the North Kesteven *Gold Environmental Award* and East Midlands Tourism Silver Excellence Awards in the *Tastes of England, Access For All & Sustainable Tourism* categories.

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Please do fill in the attached application form as best as you can and return it to me, Nicky Wilson, at the address indicated on the form, and we shall get in touch with you as soon as possible.

With best wishes and many thanks for your interest,

Nicky Wilson
House Manager

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