

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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Be part of living history at Robert Smail's Printing Works

There's an opportunity to be part of the latest chapter of history at the National Trust for Scotland's Robert Smail's Printing Works in Innerleithen.

On Sunday 24 March, the printing works is holding a Volunteer Drop In Day from 12 noon to 3pm for anyone interested in getting involved in bringing this unique Trust property's story to life for visitors. The team will be on-hand to explain the benefits of volunteering for the charity that protects Scotland's national and natural treasures, and the opportunities available this visitor season.

Ted McKie, a volunteer at Robert Smail's since 2012, said: "It has been great to make new friends and to have the opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds and visitors from all over the world. I feel proud to play my part in helping to preserve a unique piece of industrial heritage and would encourage anyone with an interest in local history, the print industry or people with free time on their hands to get involved."

For more than 120 years, they've served the people of Innerleithen in all their printing and stationery needs. From dance cards to birthday cards, newspapers to invitations – the people of Innerleithen and Peeblesshire were well-served.

Now, the works is looking for enthusiastic people to join the team by becoming volunteers as it approaches the start of a new season. In the care of the National Trust for Scotland, the printing works are looking for support in a range of roles including tour guiding, working in the gift shop and maintaining the courtyard garden.

The print works, whose Edwardian shop front is currently being restored, are open to the public from April to October for guided tours around the machine room, office, paper store and caseroom where volunteers can help to tell the stories of the Smail's family business which was first established in 1866.

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