



Citizen Curators at Bodmin Keep Army Museum

Are you interested in history and museums? Would you like to do some research into Bodmin's Second World War history? Would you like to gain experience of working in a museum with other like-minded people? Have you got some spare time from January to July 2021? If so, you might be interested in becoming one of our Citizen Curators!

From January to July 2021 Bodmin Keep will be offering 5 people the opportunity to participate in a free training programme, develop their knowledge and skills, and gain experience of being a curator.

You will be supported by the helpful staff at Bodmin Keep and Cornwall Museums Partnership to develop your skills and interests and turn your research into something that can be shared with the public, such as publications, webpages, displays, videos and photographic records.

Who can be a Citizen Curator?

- You must be age 18 and over
- You must be living in the UK
- Existing museum volunteers
- People who have worked in paid roles in museums and heritage settings, or who are freelancers or contractors, but only in non-collections/non-curatorial roles
- People with existing qualifications, or who are currently studying, non-heritage or museum subjects.

Who can't be a Citizen Curator?

- People with existing curatorial, archival or heritage public engagement experience and/or qualifications
- Teachers, professional researchers and lecturers of history / heritage / art / culture

What skills will you need to join in as Citizen Curators?

- You will need to be familiar with computers and able to participate in an online training programme. If you don't have access to a computer or a good broadband connection at home it may be possible for you to use a computer at Bodmin Keep where we can provide safe, socially distanced workspace.
- You *don't* need to have any specific research skills or specialist knowledge. We will provide the training needed.

Who will you be working with?

- Other citizen curators who will be based at Bodmin Keep and at other museums across Cornwall
- Tehmina Goskar who runs the Citizen Curators training programme

- The Bodmin Keep staff team

What is the time commitment?

Between January and July there will be twelve 2-hour webinars which will take place once a fortnight (exact times and dates to be decided). The first 6 will be on the following topics:

- Curators and Collections
- Research
- Communication
- Communities
- Interpretation
- Identity

The second 6 webinars will be tailored to support the projects that Citizen Curators are working on, e.g. online exhibitions and tours, or videos

These webinars will all be recorded and made available for people who aren't able to attend on the day due to other commitments.

There will also be 4 sessions on the theme of the Cornish National Collection which will be spread across the 6 months.

Alongside the webinars, Citizen Curators are expected to allocate at least 16 hours a month to working on projects at Bodmin Keep. In 2021 we would like our Citizen Curators to carry out research into World War 2, including the following topics:

- Ordinary Bodmin Residents' Experience of World War 2
- The Walker Lines Gymnasium
- Timeline of the Barracks and Walker Lines Camp from 1939
- US Army in Bodmin and Cornwall, including Black US Soldiers in Cornwall
- History and design of Walker Lines Camp (now Walker Lines Industrial Estate) and its buildings – mapping what remains today, history of why and how it was designed and constructed etc
- Celebrity Visitors to the barracks during World War 2
- Social Life at the Barracks 1939 - 1945
- Food and drink on the barracks 1939 – 1945
- People who worked at the Barracks and Walker Lines 1939 – 1945
- Black US soldiers in Cornwall during WW2
- Jewish Lives in Cornwall during WW2, including the Kindertransport
- US Army billets in the homes of Bodmin Residents
- St Petroc's Church regimental chapel and DCLI use of the church during World War 2
- The DCLI 5th Battalion (Territorial Army) in WW2
- Finding out what's in the Imperial War Museum's collection (objects, photographs, film etc) that relate to Cornwall in World War 2
- Researching the Ellis Collection of Photographs held at Kresen Kernow

This could include: finding out and recording what information is already in archives and museums in exploring newspaper archives; researching information online; researching World War 2 objects in museums in Cornwall (including our own collection); making photographic records and videos; carrying out interviews to collect memories; putting stories online; creating booklets, creating maps.

If you would like to find out more, please contact

**Verity Anthony collections@bodminkeep.org, or Mary Godwin director@bodminkeep.org
Tel 01208 72810, for an informal chat.**