

Volunteer with us!

Fenton Town Hall Ballroom, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 3AF
August 2026



Visitors, Ballroom, 2025.
Photo credit: Jenny Harper.



Be Part of Something Creative and Inspiring

The **Three Counties Open Art Exhibition** is back this August, showcasing an exciting mix of 2D and 3D artworks, contemporary practices, installations, and live art from artists across Staffordshire, Cheshire, and Shropshire.

We're looking for enthusiastic **volunteers** to help us deliver a vibrant, welcoming, and memorable exhibition experience for our visitors. Whether you're looking to gain experience, meet new people, or just love being around art—this is for you!



keele.ac.uk/about/artskeele/threecountiesopenart2026



Why Volunteer?

By joining our volunteer team, you'll:

- Gain hands-on experience in a creative, public-facing role
- Learn new skills and build your arts and culture CV
- Meet artists, curators, and fellow art lovers
- Be part of a friendly, supportive team
- Enjoy free refreshments (and lunch if you're with us for 4+ hours!)
- Receive travel and access cost reimbursements
- Get a reference for future opportunities
- Have fun and experience some truly amazing artwork

"This experience has not just helped me learn but solidified that this is now something I'd like to do as a career." – Volunteer



[keele.ac.uk/about/artskeele/threecountiesopenart2026](https://www.keele.ac.uk/about/artskeele/threecountiesopenart2026)

Visitors 2024.
Photo credit: Jenny Harper.



Volunteer Roles Available:

We know everyone brings different strengths. Some volunteers love chatting with visitors, while others prefer quieter, more observational roles. We'll always try to match tasks to your comfort level and support you to grow in confidence at your own pace.

1. Exhibition Host & Invigilator

8–29 August 2025 (Tues–Sat, 11am–3pm)

Fenton Town Hall Ballroom

Flexible commitment – ideally one 4-hour session per week, but we're happy to work around your schedule (e.g., shorter shifts or a block of days).

What you'll do:

- Welcome visitors and help them navigate the exhibition
- Keep an eye on the artworks and help look after the space
- Chat with guests when they want to engage and gather feedback
- Be a calm, friendly presence and help create a great atmosphere

There will also be quieter moments during each shift, with time to observe the artwork, make notes, or simply enjoy the exhibition space.



Exhibition 2024. Photo credit: Jenny Harper.

Volunteer Roles Available:

2. Install Team Member

Install: 3–5 August

Commitment: Ideally one full day or more

What you'll do:

- Help paint display boards and prepare the space
- Assist with hanging and arranging artworks
- Support signage and layout tasks
- Get a behind-the-scenes look at how exhibitions come together

“I was allowed to be so involved and all my ideas and suggestions were taken into consideration.” – Volunteer



About the exhibition:

- Running since **1996**, the Three Counties Open Art celebrates creativity across the region. 2026 is its 30th Anniversary!
- Work from artists with a connection to Staffordshire, Cheshire and Shropshire.
- We receive between 250 and 300 submissions of artwork each year.
- Around **100 artists are selected to show** each year – in 2025 42% were first-time applicants.
- The exhibition welcomed just short of **1,500 visitors** last year!
- In 2026 we are back at Fenton Town Hall **Ballroom**, with thanks to Restoke.
- We hold a range of **workshops and activities** during the exhibition for visitors, in 2025 these included sessions featuring weaving, glass painting, print making, an olfactory session and clay.

“Extremely open-hearted and welcoming volunteers” – Visitor feedback



Exhibition 2024.
Photo credit: Jenny Harper.

Interested? Let's Chat!



We'd love to hear from you. Whether you're available for a few hours or a few days, we'll do our best to accommodate your availability.

If you're excited by the exhibition but unsure which role might suit you, we're very happy to talk it through.

Contact: Kerry Jones and Deb Hilditch at ArtsKeele
Email: arts@keele.ac.uk

Learn more: [Three Counties Open Art 2026](#)
Follow us: @artskeele on Instagram and Facebook



Exhibition 2024.
Photo credit: Jenny Harper.