

# Volunteering Opportunities

The following websites advertise local volunteering opportunities:

[Home - Volunteer Scotland](#)

[home - Volunteer Edinburgh](#)

[Volunteer Midlothian – Midlothian Third Sector Interface \(thirdsectormidlothian.org.uk\)](#)

[Reach Volunteering](#)

[Current Task Programme \(lcv.org.uk\)](#) (Saturdays & Sundays only)

[Edinburgh Community Engagement Forum | Staff and student volunteering | Microsoft Teams](#)

The opportunities listed below are local, available Mon-Fri and require no long-term commitment. They can all be done individually, but many can accommodate small groups as well if you would prefer to participate as a team.



## The Edinburgh Remakery

**Website:** [Opportunities | The Edinburgh Remakery](#)

**Contact:** [janis.mackenzie@edinburghremakery.org.uk](mailto:janis.mackenzie@edinburghremakery.org.uk)

**Task:** Textile Workshop Kit Preparation

Volunteers assist with preparation of materials and kits for sustainable textile workshops that The Edinburgh Remakery runs. Also assisting with the space the workshops are held in: organising stocks of fabric and equipment. The Remakery provides all the materials and equipment required. No specific skills are required but an interest in textiles or crafts would be beneficial. They receive donations of fabrics and equipment from local companies and the shelving/display space regularly needs to be re-arranged and sorted in order to accommodate additional stock. As a small team, any assistance with preparing materials for the workshops and helping arrange the workspace is hugely beneficial.



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**Website:** [Opportunities | The Edinburgh Remakery](#)

**Contact:** [janis.mackenzie@edinburghremakery.org.uk](mailto:janis.mackenzie@edinburghremakery.org.uk)

**Task:** Sewing Machine Tasks & Textile Workshop Kit Preparation

Similar to previous opportunity, plus tasks for which the volunteer would use a sewing machine, e.g. to create aprons which The Remakery would use in the messier workshops, or to prepare coffee sack material for Rag Rug Making workshops. The Remakery provides all the materials and equipment required. Some experience of using a Sewing Machine would be required for sewing tasks. An interest in textiles and crafts would also be beneficial. They hold sustainable crafts workshops, some of which can be messy so they aim to provide aprons made from donated and re-purposed fabrics. The Rag Rug workshops use re-purposed coffee sacks and these are sewn in preparation. As a small team, any assistance with preparing materials for the workshops and helping arrange the workspace is hugely beneficial.



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**Website:** [Opportunities | The Edinburgh Remakery](#)

**Contact:** [janis.mackenzie@edinburghremakery.org.uk](mailto:janis.mackenzie@edinburghremakery.org.uk)

**Task:** E-Waste Segregation

Volunteers assist the Tech Team with their E-Waste recovery operations. Volunteers would be given instruction on the dismantling of laptops to identify component parts and understand how these should be handled for re-use or recycling. The Remakery provides all the materials and equipment required. No specific skills required other than an ability to use a screwdriver. The Remakery receives donations of used tech equipment from businesses across the UK. The Tech Team refurbishes this kit for re-sale or donation to the community for those facing digital poverty. The tech that can't be refurbished is broken down by E-waste Operatives and component parts re-used whilst the precious metals are forwarded to other organisations for them to re-purpose. Any assistance with this is very beneficial to the operation and enables them to minimise tech equipment going to landfill.



## The Turing Trust

**Website:** [Home - The Turing Trust](#)

**Contact:** [izzy@turingtrust.co.uk](mailto:izzy@turingtrust.co.uk) (Izzy Almond, Operations Manager)

**Task:** PAT testing and packaging IT equipment

The Turing Trust refurbish IT equipment, install a range of educational software and provide it to those who need it most. Their current focus is Malawi. They appreciate help in their warehouse packing monitors and laptops, conducting PAT testing and may also be able also utilise any additional IT skills. They are open Mon-Fri and can accommodate groups or individuals. A typical day would be 10am - 4pm. There are no physical restrictions and the site is fully accessible. Volunteers are encouraged to wear warm and comfortable clothing (especially in the winter). Any equipment or PPE that is necessary will be provided.



## WWF / MCS / Heriot Watt University

**Website:** [Restoration Forth | WWF](#)

**Contact:** [Restoration Forth by Marine Conservation Society | Eventbrite](#)

**Task:** Oyster Biosecurity - Restoration Forth

Preparation of native European flat oysters to be reintroduced to the Firth of Forth (from Little Loch Broom). Biosecurity cleaning process (screening and removal of plants and other animals) reduces the risk of accidentally transferring any invasive species or disease between the two locations. Please be aware that this process involves the removal and killing of those attached animals so this activity may not be suitable for everyone. Full training & PPE provided. Scientific talks throughout the day. Refreshments and lunch provided. Bring warm & waterproof clothing. Not suitable for those with shellfish allergies. Available April/May with more dates to follow in the Autumn.



## The Woodland Trust

**Website:** [UK's Largest Woodland Conservation Charity - Woodland Trust](#)

**Contact:** [Events - Woodland Trust](#)

**Task:** Tree planting

Tree planting runs from late Autumn to March. You can find details of these sorts of events on the events webpage nearer the time. Anyone can get involved, you just need to register.



## Mayfield and Easthouses development trust

**Website:** <https://www.maedt.org.uk>

**Contact:** [info@maedt.org.uk](mailto:info@maedt.org.uk)

**Tasks:** Community pantry, Community garden, Community cafe

There is a Community Pantry that is open Tuesday & Thursday 10:30am-2:30pm and a Wednesday 12:00-5:00pm. The volunteering opportunities here would include helping to stock the shelves and serving the customers fruit & vegetables. There is also a Community Garden/Cafe open most days 9:00am-3:00pm. There is a range of opportunities here including serving teas/coffees, helping dig the garden, building fences and helping with any ongoing garden projects.



## National Trust for Scotland: Malleny Garden

**Website:** [Malleny Garden | National Trust for Scotland \(nts.org.uk\)](#)

**Contact:** [jbelle@nts.org.uk](mailto:jbelle@nts.org.uk) (James Bell – Head Gardener)

**Tasks:** Gardening and maintenance

At Malleny Garden they currently have volunteers helping on Thursdays and Fridays, generally between 10am and 3pm. The volunteers undertake a variety of gardening tasks which are required in the garden for the time of year. Often this will be work within their herbaceous borders, including some weeding. This work helps keep Malleny Garden in the best possible standard of presentation and is what visitors see when they visit. Without volunteers they would struggle to keep the garden to a level they can be proud of.

Most of the work is fairly straightforward and not too difficult. Appropriate instruction is given for each task. Volunteers work at a pace which suits them. Most of the work is at ground level. Some of the work can be altered if someone finds this difficult.

All tools and equipment for the task is provided. The only requirement from a volunteers would be clothing suitable for outdoor work in whatever weather is expected on the day. Sturdy footwear is essential, though steel-toed boots are not required for most of the work.



## National Trust for Scotland: Newhailes

**Website:** [Newhailes | National Trust for Scotland \(nts.org.uk\)](https://www.nts.org.uk)

**Contact:** [ewilliamson@nts.org.uk](mailto:ewilliamson@nts.org.uk) (Elliot Williamson – Head Gardener)

**Tasks:** Gardening and maintenance

Volunteering Jobs at Newhailes vary depending on time of year and what needs to be done. Previous groups have completed tasks including planting trees, cutting back brambles, removing unwanted vegetation around the wider estate, creating new veg beds, weeding, sowing seeds, planting seedlings, harvesting vegetables and mulching the beds in the market garden.

Tasks are low/medium difficulty rating. Volunteers may require good balance/upper body strength as they may often be working on uneven ground. Also, an ability to carry out some physical work for most of the day. Tasks are assigned with sensitivity towards people's abilities and skill levels. Most importantly, volunteers must have a willingness to get stuck in!

Volunteers will need to bring sturdy footwear (ideally not trainers), work clothes (something you do not mind getting dirty), long-sleeved top and trousers are recommended if they will be working with brambles and nettles, work gloves (some can be provided onsite), sun protection, waterproofs, lunch/water. All other tools and equipment will be provided on site.



## National Trust for Scotland: Inveresk Lodge Garden

**Website:** [Inveresk Lodge Garden | National Trust for Scotland \(nts.org.uk\)](https://www.nts.org.uk)

**Contact:** [GJenson@nts.org.uk](mailto:GJenson@nts.org.uk) (Gary Jenson – Head Gardener)

**Tasks:** Gardening and maintenance

There are many jobs on this 13.2 acre site depending on experience, knowledge or ability. Tasks could include weeding, pruning, cutting back, woodland work and pond maintenance. Additional tasks are available to those who have appropriate skills, e.g. glasshouse maintenance. All tools are provided.



## Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

**Website:** [Volunteering Opportunities | RSPB Volunteering](https://www.rspb.org.uk)

**Contact:** [scotvolunteers@rspb.org.uk](mailto:scotvolunteers@rspb.org.uk) (Jackie Brown)

**Tasks:** Various

Volunteering opportunities are posted on the website, but it is worth noting that there is some flexibility. If you are interested in an opportunity but it doesn't quite fit your needs, they welcome discussion via the "Ask a question" button. Some can be adapted to be available for just one day.

They also have volunteering opportunities that you could do from home and there may be additional opportunities at the main Scotland Headquarters in Edinburgh Park. Email if interested.



## The Conservation Volunteers

**Website:** <https://www.tcv.org.uk/>

**Contact:** [josef.williams@tcv.org.uk](mailto:josef.williams@tcv.org.uk)

**Tasks:** Greenspace enhancement

TCV's Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Team (EBAT) works in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council to develop and deliver biodiversity enhancement projects across Edinburgh's greenspaces. The nature of their work varies based on seasonal constraints and the recommended actions of the data from the Edinburgh nature network.

Volunteering tasks are posted on the website and you can search by postcode to find something nearby. Sessions may include spring meadow management, traditional scything, ground preparation, seed and wildflower plug planting. Also looking at the theories behind meadow management and sustainable grassland management, citizen science surveys including; bee, butterfly and wildflower identification and how to collect and process seeds for future use and how to develop a close loop process of creating wildflower areas, no matter the size. There will also be projects that are more practical focused or more workshop based, creating habitat homes (e.g. bird, bee, butterfly, and bat boxes).

They aim to make these activities open to all abilities, and where practicable they will always attempt to make reasonable adjustments. Volunteers will always be working with experienced core volunteers, so those joining will be in very capable hands. They will always aim to start and finish projects (or at least stages of projects) on each delivery day.

Sessions are open to the public and as such sign up is free. Volunteers just need to complete welfare before attending.



## Edinburgh Community Bookshop – Leith

**Website:** <https://edinburghcommunitybookshop.org/volunteer>

**Contact:** [alasdair@edinburghcommunitybookshop.org](mailto:alasdair@edinburghcommunitybookshop.org) (Alasdair Corbett)

**Tasks:** Pricing books and rotating stock

They are a charity bookshop and tasks may include pricing books so they are ready to go on the shelves, and rotating stock so that new items can go out. It's a simple coloured dot system so volunteers can easily see what can be taken off the shelves and replaced. The shop is open seven days a week from 10am - 4pm. Email in advance to arrange a volunteering day. There are no physical requirements and the work can be adapted to suit each volunteer.



## Friends of Roslin Moat

**Website:** [Friends of Roslin Moat | Edinburgh | Facebook](#)

**Contact:** [roslinmoat@gmail.com](mailto:roslinmoat@gmail.com)

**Tasks:** Habitat maintenance

They have a variety of opportunities for folks to volunteer, although most of them are only for half a day. Almost all of the activities take place during the winter (to minimise disturbance to wildlife). All volunteer events are posted on the Facebook page but they also welcome email enquiries.

Tasks may include hedge planting, bird hide renovation, curling pond habitat maintenance, removal of invasive plant species and broom removal to widen area for wildflowers.

Volunteers are asked to bring gardening tools with them if they have them but tools and gloves can be provided if needed. The tasks do not require any prior knowledge or skills. A reasonable level of mobility and fitness is ideal, but they will do their best to accommodate anyone with specific needs.



## Leadburn Community Woodland

**Website:** <https://leadburnwood.com/volunteering/>

**Contact:** [leadburncw@hotmail.com](mailto:leadburncw@hotmail.com) (Rik Smith)

**Tasks:** Habitat maintenance

Leadburn is about 4 miles south of Penicuik. There are a variety of tasks including maintaining and establishing open woodland and raised bog with public access. Maintenance of young planted trees, removing their plastic tree guards but adding wire netting where necessary to protect against deer. Removing non-native seedlings and other non-native conifers. Path and mini-dam maintenance. This maintains the open and welcoming nature of the woodland whilst establishing native tree and shrub species over non-native thicket regrowth. Good paths encourage access whilst leaving quieter areas for wildlife. Access and tasks mostly easy and can be matched to the capabilities and experience of the group. Good footwear, waterproofs and gloves advised. Tools provided.

Removal of rhododendron is the focus at Whim, a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Rhododendrons are highly invasive to the exclusion of all other vegetation and much of the wildlife, so removal will allow this beautiful bog woodland to recover. Access is easy. Rhododendron cutting with loppers and handsaws matched to the capabilities and preferences of the group. Good footwear, waterproofs and gloves advised. Tools provided.

Monday sessions are usually at Leadburn and Tuesday sessions are usually at Whim (not far from Leadburn). If a larger group wanted to volunteer (no more than 15 people), then additional weekdays could be arranged at Whim. Sessions officially run from 10:00am-1:00pm, however the organiser usually stays all day so volunteers are welcome to stay longer if they want to. Full instruction is given, along with safety briefing. Working areas on both sites are 100-500m from parking areas, and volunteers would always be working with someone who is organising the day. Bring your own food and drinks. No toilet facilities, although there is a café/toilets at Whitmuir about 15 minutes from Whim.

Email in advance for full details and exact location.