

## More Stories from the Abbeydale Picture House:

### Ros Wastnidge - Financial Accounts



"I was really quite excited to be part of the team going to help with the restoration of such an iconic Sheffield building. A close relative of mine actually worked at the Abbeydale Picture House in the 1920s, soon after it originally opened so I felt a bit of a link, albeit quite a remote one.

We arrived full of enthusiasm and were given a variety of tasks by the organisers, sorting ourselves into teams depending on preferences and capabilities. I ended up in what was, rather grandly referred to as "The New Room". It was quite high up in the building and contained an assortment of rubble and a terracotta floor which was crumbling in places. Anna and Mark set to hammering the floor to remove any loose terracotta and I cleared the rubble and attempted to sweep the floor, in the absence of a vacuum cleaner, creating a thick pink smog! When the smog had cleared I did a bit more scraping of loose plaster on the walls, gave the room another sweep and then painted the walls with PVA, to literally stick the crumbling plaster together.

The other task that I helped with was sorting a pile of wood currently stored on the balcony into usable and scrap and transferring each type to other places. I lost count of how many times I trekked up and down the staircase with a variety of rubbish. It's just as well I'm used to taking the stairs at Oneleven.

It was good to see the other teams progressing in their tasks as well. The planters outside looked great after their facelift with blue paint, although I think red would have been a better choice at that end of town! Lorna was in charge of sawing wood, painting it and screwing it into position down by the screen and the floor was cleaned, marked out and painted all before the end of the day. Debbie and a few helpers took it upon themselves to wash everything in the kitchen in the last hour until there was nothing left to be cleaned.

A take away pizza lunch was enjoyed by most and we shared our experiences over the odd cup of tea and mini donuts throughout the day.

Although I was really tired by 4.00pm, I thoroughly enjoyed the day and had a chance to chat to a number of people who I rarely see in the day job, as we laboured together.

Thanks for the opportunity."

## Kathryn Anderson - Service Improvement



"We had a great day volunteering at the Abbeydale Picture House and it felt like we were extremely productive and made a real difference. There is still a huge amount of work needed to get this cool building back to its former glory and so I think we should arrange more visits in the future. I think the team that are working on the upkeep and restoration would be extremely grateful.

There were various jobs that we were required to help with; cleaning, heavy lifting, painting, tidying, sawing and drilling and so we split ourselves into teams depending on what we fancied doing. I was in the team tasked with doing a spot of painting in the main theatre room. We started out with sweeping the floor and giving it a mop and then whilst I painted a set of doors the reddest red you've ever seen, the rest of the team marked out the required pattern on the floor with masking tape. We then grabbed the rollers and brushes and got stuck in with the painting. It was great to do a job that had such a big impact."

I think it would be fair to describe the building as shabby and whilst there is still a way to go, the work we did helped to make it a little brighter and more loved. It was good to feel useful and I look forward to visiting the Picture House again if only so that I can say "ooh look, I painted that!"

## Liz Wallington - Procurement



"Little did they know of the Finance directorate's competitive drive as we were split up into teams and assigned tasks after we arrived. As soon as it was explained to our team that the aim was to paint the floor we all thought "right let's get this done". So, we got stuck in and did a full day's hard work, which was also really enjoyable and really satisfying. Although we only scratched the surface of sprucing up this beautiful building, we did feel we'd made a good contribution and I hope the CADs team can secure more volunteers and more funding to continue to restore this wonderful old part of Sheffield's heritage."