



## **In Praise of our Remote Volunteers**

Over the past few months, I have gathered a team of remote volunteers to help us catalogue our photographic collection. They have been hard at work going through our images and adding the relevant keywords to them. So far, they have catalogued several hundred images, bringing those photos out of our archive and into the light.

These are just a few examples of photos that the team has catalogued since they came together in July.



*Baby portrait on the street, Anstruther*



*Old wheelhouse of 'Ardgour III'*



*Jock Taylor and Fergie Bowman mending nets*

A big advantage of being remote means our search for volunteers is not limited by distance or geography. We have people located in such disparate places as Shetland and Plymouth, and even one person in the United States.

Many people were recruited either through Volunteer Scotland or by word of mouth from the museum website. This demonstrates the power of online reach and has taught me how many keen people are out there ready to give their time to heritage organisations. The key part is finding them.

Why are people so keen to volunteer? I like to think I have some insight into that. I began my association with the Scottish Fisheries Museum as a volunteer myself. In my experience, volunteering allows one to gain new skills and experience, as well as find out about a field of knowledge that previously did not seem interesting. I certainly had no passion in fishing when I first began, and now, after volunteering and working at the Museum, I consider myself a dedicated enthusiast. Volunteering can broaden one's horizons in ways you might never have expected.

But you do not have to take just my word for it. Here is one of our current remote volunteers writing about his experience:

*"My experience volunteering has been very positive and productive so far. I have given myself two hours per week to focus on my volunteering role and test my knowledge in fishing. As someone who has had various experience within the industry, it feels great to offer something back in return. What I'd like to achieve by taking part in the Digitisation volunteering role is to be more technologically literate than what I was before I started and learn skills that can be beneficial to me in the future.*

*What I find the most interesting about my role is finding collections of old photographs from the village I grew up in or boats that I have had the chance to see in real life and compare them to recent pictures and see how much they have changed throughout the years!" ~ Genesis*

If you want to join in, there is still time to sign up! Further details can be found [here](#). If this sounds like something you would enjoy, email [photo@scotfishmuseum.org](mailto:photo@scotfishmuseum.org) to get started.

In the meantime, I am extremely grateful to the whole team of remote volunteers we currently have! This work would not be going nearly as quickly without you giving us your time to help us make the collection so much better and more accessible.