

# PORTLAND ROCKS

16<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for taking an interest in our social history project "When the Railway ran to Portland, what do you remember?" As part of the project we are looking for up to three volunteers to work alongside myself, the project lead.

A job description is enclosed, please take the time to read it carefully and if you are interested please write to me detailing how you can meet the job description and anything extra you can bring to the project.

Application letters can be returned to the Island Community Action Office in Easton Shopping Centre or emailed to me at [portlandrocks@live.co.uk](mailto:portlandrocks@live.co.uk) Letters should be submitted by Friday February 9<sup>th</sup> after which I will be in contact to discuss a possible meeting with you regarding volunteering with us. Don't forget to include a contact phone number. A synopsis of the project is below;

"As you know the railway to Easton closed to passengers in 1952 and finally to all traffic in 1965 over 50 years ago. To have any sort of memory of the line as a working entity someone will be in their mid to late 70s or older, to have worked the line that will certainly be the case. The line was unique in many ways, the traffic it was built for, the manner of its working, the challenges of getting the line built and the protracted amount of time this took. There will still be residents and former residents with memories of the line that form a vital link to its history that have not been recorded. Using audio visuals and the internet we will record as many memories as possible making them available to the public for research or even genealogical purposes.

There have been projects collecting photos of the island's railways and some definitive books have been written but to my knowledge nobody has collected the memories of those who can remember when trains ran into Easton, a social rather than technical history of the line collecting the memories of how local people remember and used the line?

By 'trade' I am a music teacher and musician and for the past eight years, I have been a director of the Portland Rocks CIC successfully running music and art workshops for young people. I have been a rail enthusiast all my life and am in regular contact with a former island resident, well into his 80s who lives in Utah USA. It struck me that those with active memory of the line in its working days like him will now be of a similar age. With your support we will use an interest in railway and social history, sound recording and collating skills to create a living history of the line, collecting oral memories of those who remember when trains were still active on the island.

We will be creating an online archive including photos and transcribed recordings that will be placed with the Dorset History Centre and freely available. Letters of support for the project have been received from the Dorset History Centre, Portland Museum, National Railway Museum, Railway Studies department at York University and Stuart Morris.

We could take display boards of information currently available to local events and gather evidence from people who come along to talk to us. It could be that we source artefacts connected with the line, if any of you like me, are model makers we could produce items in 3D for use by the visually impaired. You may also have ideas of your own as to ways we can gather and display information. Portland Rocks has a web site that automatically feeds social media at [www.portlandrocks.co.uk](http://www.portlandrocks.co.uk). The project will take around twelve months to complete running until November 2017."

If you have any questions about the project or the application I can be contacted on the above email address or you can ring me on 07596657363. I do have a day job teaching music at Wey Valley School so may not always be able to take your call so please leave a message and I will get back to you.

Kind regards

Martyn Mullender  
Director Portland Rocks CIC