

Can you spare one morning or afternoon a month to help us bring the history of the Darby Houses to life?

The Darby Houses are open from Easter to November each year. During this period each day is split into two sessions - 11am to 2pm and 2pm to 5pm. We ask for a minimum commitment of just one session - a morning or afternoon - or more frequently if you would like to!

All introductory information is provided and new volunteers learn the ropes alongside our established guides and staff to build up knowledge and confidence.

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**The Darby Houses are open to visitors from March to November each year.**

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Information on  
*Volunteering*  
at the  
DARBY HOUSES

For more information about the Darby Houses and Volunteering please contact:

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Coalbrookdale

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*or write to:*

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*Dale House*  
*Rosehill House*



The IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUMS

## The Darby Houses



The Darby Houses are one of the ten museums owned by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust.

Both Houses were built by members of the Darby family of Coalbrookdale. The Darby family were responsible for the founding of the Coalbrookdale Company and for the creation of the Iron Bridge.

The Darby Houses explore the history of this family. All the major members of the Darby family lived at either Rosehill House or Dale House, and played a central part in the development of the Coalbrookdale area.

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**Volunteers can choose to volunteer in Rosehill House or Dale House, or both!**

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## Dale House

Dale House has been restored as a Quaker ironmaster's residence of about 1780. This date was chosen because it is when the most substantial alterations were done to the house and when its most famous residence Abraham Darby III lived there.

Archaeological evidence has been used to help in the reconstruction of the rooms, as the house underwent many modifications over the years.



## Rosehill House

Rosehill House has been restored to show it as it was around 1850. The house contains the possessions of the Darby family, including furniture, pictures, silver, china, books and small personal objects. These give visitors to the house a view of the way of life of this Quaker family and others connected with them.

## A Volunteer's Experience

*"On a cold, dull, late November day I looked at the Iron Bridge for the first time. It was 1972 and Tarmac had begun its restoration programme to save the bridge from being irreparably damaged by the unstable sides of the Gorge. Thirty four years later I am still telling the story of the Iron Bridge to rapt attention in the room where the idea for an Iron Bridge was conceived - Abraham Darby III's study in Dale House.*

*The greatest reward any guide will receive is the feedback from visitors - the laughter over wax makeup that melts, the amazement over the lady's diary which states that she ironed all day on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and the disbelief that Dale House nearly ended up in the demolition yard!*

*P.S. There are treats too, from the Museum. These take the form of interesting talks and visits to places of interest, such as the Wedgwood factory, all greatly appreciated by the volunteers".*