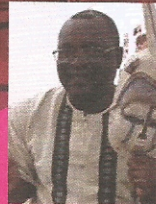




Pickford's House Kitchen



Pickford's House Garden



Emson Maneya - Volunteer

However, one of the most rewarding volunteer experiences has come through the time spent working with Emson Maneya who we met through the Derby Refugee Centre. Emson was keen to get involved in anything and when he said that he loved gardening, Pickford's House seemed the perfect setting. Come rain or shine, Emson has pruned bushes, weeded beds, raked gravel paths and helped shape the Georgian box hedges. He now even has his own vegetable patch which the staff supported by providing seeds, plants and a raised bed. Emson has now gone on to help the Silk Mill team with cataloguing collections and is also working with the museum project team on *Your Place in the World* by helping to identify the African antiquity collection. Emson has said that he is so grateful to Derby Museums for giving him this opportunity. I think we are the lucky ones!

"I am an asylum seeker pending decision and I was looking for an opportunity to make myself useful in the society and reducing stress whilst learning new stuff at the same time. I started my volunteering journey at the Pickford's House which gave me the opportunity to pursue my hobby in gardening. I have since learned a lot about life of the elite during the Victorian era and about other prominent Derby citizens and industrialists who contributed in making Derby such a wonderful town which it still is today.

My next experience was book cataloguing at the Silk Mill with Bill. From the various books and magazines which I had to peruse, I learned a lot about the industrial history of Derbyshire and the Peak District especially the Silk Mill which is an icon of this country's industrial revolution. I have also enjoyed the company of fellow volunteers and the ever cheerful and supportive staff. Currently I am having a wonderful experience working with Rachel and other staff and fellow volunteers on the World Cultures object conservation project. It has been a dream come true working on antiquities which I had only seen in books and the media.

It has been a great honour and privilege participating on an exhibition on African artefacts and from other countries outside Africa. My wish is to see Derby Museums elevated to higher ratings and am prepared to volunteer with them my every spare second if it can help to achieve it. My welcome has been such that I feel like a member of an extended family and I don't wish for the experience to end."