

Tabitha Lambert-Bramwell

Heritage Placement, Summer 2015 – Summer 2019

I started my work experience placement at Middleton Hall in 2015 whilst doing my A-Levels with the intention of gaining knowledge of the heritage sector, and more generally due to personal interest in museums and history. I grew up close to Middleton Hall, so appreciated the opportunity to gain experience right on my doorstep. I have found volunteering here to be a rewarding experience as I have been able to witness and be a part of important developments at Middleton Hall, such as the ongoing restoration of the Tudor barn, and the massive impact that a group of dedicated volunteers and staff can have on a museum.

Completing work experience at Middleton Hall has equipped me with invaluable skills, such as the ability to be adaptable. I have been involved in numerous tasks whilst at Middleton – from organising the volunteer rota to creating exhibitions to assisting in the preparation for group visits. Generally, learning about the history of Middleton Hall over the years that I have been here has given me an increased appreciation for the restoration of historic buildings. As a house with over 800 years of history, the dedication that many people have shown towards restoring this building has led me to reflect on the value of historic buildings in general.

My work experience has been extremely beneficial to me, especially whilst studying at university. I completed a History degree, during which I was able to reflect on the importance of museums on a wider scale. I wrote my undergraduate dissertation on the ways domestic servants are represented in museums and undergoing work experience at Middleton Hall had a major influence on this. I am currently doing a masters in Modern British Studies, with hopes to continue onto a PhD following my graduation.