

# VOLUNTEERING IN KYNREN<sup>+</sup>

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### What is KYNREN?

KYNREN is a mesmerising live action open air spectacular that takes you on a whistle stop tour of 2,000 years of history, myth and legend. An enthralling entertainment for all ages, it is the perfect family experience... it is unique in the UK... and it is on your doorstep!

KYNREN takes place in Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham every summer, on 17 to 18 dates from end of June/early July to mid September.

### What does KYNREN mean?

Cynren ('kɪn.rən) is the ancient Saxon word for *family, generation*. We added the K because it is the strong letter of King, and kin.

Kynren is a fitting name for our story that is about a heritage that spans centuries. Generations of volunteers will be involved over decades to come in bringing this show to audiences of all ages.

### Why Volunteer in KYNREN?

There are as many reasons to volunteer as there are volunteers, and you'll find the same in Kynren: you may want to make new friends or spend time with old ones, add new skills to your CV, gain self-confidence, have fun, get work experience to help you find a job, have a change of scenery from work (or from home!), improve your fitness, do something with your family, give back to the community, make a difference, or just do something in your free time...

What really matters is that you are willing to give some of your leisure time to create an extraordinary show for our audiences.

### What will I get out of it?

If you volunteer, you become 'an Archer' and a part of a very special community. You will leave who you are during the day at the gate and become part of something special, where no individual is greater than the whole and where the show is the most important thing for everyone; our common goal. It is a community where everyone looks out for each other.

It's not all going to be rosy; 1,500 volunteers creating an enormous show is going to be a long road, and you will be challenged at times and you will get tired, there will be laughter and perhaps a few tears.

What we do know for sure is that there will always be someone to cheer you on, to pick you up and bring a smile back to your face if you falter. That's what being an Archer is all about.

In 2018, 87.7% of the Archers from 2017 are returning to be Archers in 2018. This should give you an indication of how much they have enjoyed it.

One promise we make to you is that you will get a lot more than you ever give. Take it from all Archers from the first two seasons!

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### Why is KYNREN entirely orchestrated by volunteers?

We want Kynren to create opportunities for individuals, communities and businesses in County Durham, bringing much needed tourism expenditure across the region. Our vision is centred on people, not profit.

A purely commercial show is just a show, while a world class show with volunteers has a soul.

For everyone who participates, this is about a journey, being part of a collective adventure larger than life, generating pride for us as individuals and as a community.

For audiences coming to see our show, our passion, professionalism and commitment as volunteers will be the icing on an amazing cake.

### I do not have any special skills, can I still volunteer?

Of course! Do not worry about having, or not having, any special skills before you join us; all you need is enthusiasm, a positive attitude and a commitment to make the show the extraordinary, spine-tingling live action night spectacular we know it can be for audiences and Archers alike.

There will be opportunities for people of all ages, all abilities, all backgrounds, and all kinds of personality. You can be shy or extroverted, athletic or steady, creative or clumsy – there will be a role for you, and often one you never thought you could do. We want to work with you to find just what you can achieve and to help you get there.

### The trailer of KYNREN looks just fantastic, but can I really do what they do?

Trust us, you will surprise yourself with just what you can achieve, and we are committed to working with you to develop your full potential. We will train you professionally alongside other Archers. That said, we will need some specialist skills for certain roles – in horsemanship or in technical direction for example. We'll be constantly on the look-out for your hidden talents, and to help you find a way to enjoy your newly discovered talent – who knows, you might be working with the pros in 2018, you might be the pro in 2019!

### I want to be part of it, but what can I do as a volunteer in the KYNREN production?

The show needs volunteers not only to participate as cast on stage or crew backstage but in many other visitor services, all equally contributing to the reputation of the show.

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### SHOW TEAM

The Show Team is made up of cast, as well as all the teams who work to get them ready to go on stage.

#### ***On stage:***

##### **Cast**

The cast on stage are the actors, fighters, dancers and animal handlers who all bring Kynren to life - so it's important that we're all well-trained, well-rehearsed and ready for showtime!

#### ***Backstage:***

##### **Costume Team**

The Costume Team is responsible for producing, altering and maintaining the elaborate costumes throughout the year. They make sure the actors and dancers on stage always look their best. They work off season, during rehearsal and show nights. They are involved in costume logistics and cast dressing.

##### **Props Team**

The Props Team is in charge of preparing and maintaining the props and the sets all year round. It also manages the prop logistics on rehearsals and show nights.

##### **Go Team**

The Go Team is an extension of the Stage Management Team. They are key players in guaranteeing the smooth running of the show. They send cast onstage at the right place at the right time.

### EXPERIENCE TEAM

The Experience Team ensures that every visitor to KYNREN has the best possible time from the moment they arrive in the car park to the moment they leave. They safeguard first and last impression that our guests have of KYNREN.

Far from being the quiet team, we depend on the Experience team to be even more outgoing than the cast onstage. They are there to greet visitors with a smile, in a warm, friendly and engaging manner, keeping them entertained after the show as they leave the site.

During all four phases of show night, as an Experience Team Archer you could find yourself in any of the following roles, or several in one night: Box Office Assistant, Shop Assistant, Security Bag Checker, Ticket Check Assistant, Kiosk/Trolley Sales Assistant, Traffic/parking Control, Accessibility Assistants, Tribune Ushers/Marshals.

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### CAVALRY

One of most unique elements of our show is the stunning role our horses and cavalry play. Just as horses were an integral part of the history of England, our horses are centre stage whether riding into battle, jousting, flying flags or pulling carts during pastoral scenes. Our cavalry Team ensures our equine stars are well-fed, exercised, groomed, dressed to the nines, ridden beautifully and driven to perfection.

#### ***On stage:***

Show Rider Team

Carriage Driving Team

#### ***Backstage (Non riding roles):***

Cavalry Go (Stage Management Team)

Cavalry Dressing

Grooms

### OPERATIONS

The Operations Team ensures that the grounds and facilities on the KYNREN site are “show ready” and fit for purpose. They keep the 8,000-seat venue pristine and safe for volunteers and visitors at all times.

#### **First Aid Team**

Gaining a First Aid at Work qualification you will act as a ‘first responder’ during rehearsals and will work alongside medical professionals on show nights.

#### **Rescue Divers / Rescue Swimmers**

Keeping our actors safe as the stage includes a huge man-made lake!

#### **Event Control**

Working closely with the Show Night Operations team you will help oversee the safety and security of everyone on site.

#### **Show Night Operations**

Liaising with Event Control you will help marshall crowds and visitors entering and leaving site. As the ‘eyes and ears’ of Event Control this team acts quickly to help resolve issues should they arise.

#### **Site Operations**

The team helps to ensure that ‘everything is in it’s place’ on show nights. This can include helping erect crowds barriers to ensuring that volunteers have water and refreshments.

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All year round we have an Estates Team who manages the buildings and the grounds, from general maintenance to DYI to landscaping.

### TECHNICAL TEAM

The Tech Team is at the cutting edge of each performance, ensuring that everything runs like clockwork from the tech suite. They keep the lights, sound and video, mechanics and hydro works running properly.

As a Technical Team Archer you could find yourself in one or more of the following roles on show night: Lighting Team, Sound Team, Video Team, Show Control Team, Technical Room Operators, Follow Spot Operators, Electrical Team or Sound Monitoring.

The Pyro team sets all special effects, fireworks and fire and ensures they are all deployed safely for the delight of our audience.

### If I volunteer, how much time will I have to give?

Each team has different expectations of time commitment allocated to training and attendance hours on show nights. This is why it is important you discuss these at our Open Evenings to understand what suits best your lifestyle and aspirations.

All activities start in January, with an induction programme and specific training for all teams. Then after Easter the entire family of Archers is on site to prepare the Season with General rehearsals. The dates can be found below.

Each show will require a base number of volunteers, yet the recruitment target is for a higher number to allow for a rota and a commitment to 12 out of 17 shows for each volunteer. You can decide which of the 12 shows you attend to suit you.

### General Rehearsals

- Friday 27th (evening), Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th April
- Friday 18th (evening) and Saturday 19th May
- Sunday 3rd June
- Friday 8th (evening) and Saturday 9th June
- Saturday 16th June (Press Preview)
- Friday 22nd June (evening)

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### 2018 Show dates

Saturday 30 June	9.30pm	Friday 17 August	8.30pm
Saturday 7 July	9.30pm	Saturday 18 August	8.30pm
Saturday 14 July	9.30pm	Saturday 25 August	8.30pm
Saturday 21 July	9.00pm	Sunday 26 August	8.30pm
Saturday 28 July	9.00pm	Friday 31 August	8.00pm
Friday 3 August	8.30pm	Saturday 1 September	8.00pm
Saturday 4 August	8.30pm	Saturday 8 September	7.30pm
Friday 10 August	8.30pm	Saturday 15 September	7.30pm
Saturday 11 August	8.30pm		

We know that many of you only have evenings and weekends free, so the training is organised accordingly.

We know we need you to sustain your energies and enthusiasm all through the season. You won't want to let your fellow Archers down, but there will be times when you can't be there – and we will work with you to make all this possible.

### What are the Open Evening sessions?

They are the start of the adventure for an Archer, and an introduction to volunteering in KYNREN if you are still undecided. Scheduled to last 90 minutes, our Open Evening sessions will help you discover all the opportunities available and the profiles relevant to each role. You will take a behind-the-scenes look at the KYNREN site, learn about the show and listen to Team Leaders to get a feel for what each team does. You can let us know your preferred team options so that we can do our very best to place you in the team which suits you and your skills. So hurry, sign up and come to see for yourself before you finally commit!

### Ok, I think I want to know more and perhaps indeed, give it a try... what is the next step?

If you are thinking of joining us, come to our our Open Evenings, and then you will be sent an application form. Once submitted we aim to come back to you within a week with a role allocated. You get to state your first two choices and we will do our best to accommodate, but no promises!

Regardless of which role you land - on stage, behind the scenes or visitor facing - each and every volunteer will be going through the same introduction to the fun we will have in the next year.

## WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO THE KYNREN FAMILY!