

**Would you like to join the Zooniverse?** You could be watching penguins? Or perhaps transcribing documents about children in care from the 18<sup>th</sup> century appeals to you? These and a range of other projects - such as helping to measure dark energy - are available through the Zooniverse platform which enables volunteers to take an active part in research projects.

The Zooniverse team at the University of Oxford and Adler Planetarium's Citizen Science team in Chicago select a range of interesting computer based projects. You don't need any specialised background, training, or expertise to participate, but you do need access to a computer. You can spend as much or as little time as you wish and it doesn't have to be on a regular basis.

### **Getting started**

Go to <https://www.zooniverse.org/>. At the top of the page is a "projects" button where projects are listed and you can see if there are any projects that appeal to you. If there are, you can register from the same home page.

Then go to the project(s) you have chosen and click on the "classify" button at the top of the page of the project you have decided to volunteer for. Sometimes this is under a button "explore project". There is also a "talk" button on this page so you can discuss anything you find particularly interesting with other volunteers.

**SLRP will co-ordinate a coffee meeting once a month** for volunteers who would like to meet up. Please let Veronica Wigley know if you would like to be involved in these or need any further information. ([v.wigley@vwigley.org.uk](mailto:v.wigley@vwigley.org.uk))

### **Example Of A Project Which Needs Volunteers:**

*Voices Through Time: The Story of Care* The Foundlings Hospital is a project to digitise the earliest part of the hand written records (dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century) of the Foundling Hospital in London, which was set up to care for children whose mothers could not take care of them. Documents from about 1741 give details of the children, their state of health, letters written by mothers appealing for their children to be accepted by the Hospital, and billet books containing fabric tokens that the mothers left, both as an identifying record and a symbol of their connection to their children. Following digitisation these documents will be made more widely available to the public via the internet, while also ensuring that they are preserved for the future.

<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/jojo38/voices-through-time-the-story-of-care/about/research>

