

"Truly accountable, ethical, responsible, sustainable volunteer travel"



Autumn newsletter 2011

Ed`s comment

Apologies for the late delivery of this newsletter, Sallie has been incredibly busy of late (isn't she always!) and I have just been promoted in my work so we have both been pushed to get the newsletter together.

I will put together a short and sweet newsletter for December and hopefully next year we will be back on course!

In the newsletter you will find an article about my adventures volunteering in The Gambia during the summer holidays, I have put all of my blogs from The Gambia together for those of you who want to read them, they are unedited and posted as they were written so please excuse any non - pc comments!

I hope to see some of you at the *people and places* road show next month, or maybe this month the way the newsletter is going at the moment!

Nigel Pegler



a previous road show in Leeds

November 19th - an important date for your diaries, as *people and places* is on the road again!

Sallie and Kate will be in Newport Pagnell this time (just 5 miles from Milton Keynes, and conveniently close to Junction 14 on the M1) Invitations for this latest event are being snapped up - by previous volunteers who are looking forward to meeting each other again, and by future volunteers who are keen to know more about volunteer opportunities with *people and places*.

There's always a real 'buzz' in the air when volunteers meet each other: exchanging news and views, swapping stories, sharing photographs - and asking questions! Sallie and Kate love the opportunity to explain what's been going on in *people and places* - and answering questions, of course!

So, to find out more about what volunteering can be, come and join us! Please email sallie@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk or kate@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk for further details and to book your place

Now that`s what we call a career break

Here's another grand communication system - THE BLOG - which as many of you know, is Sallie's strength, rather than mine!

Fortunately for all of us, many volunteers are also doing their thing in the 'social networking' department - here's the latest (that we know about anyway ...) from volunteers who are obviously more techno-competent than I ... <http://robinandjane.blogspot.com/>

To read the rest of Kate`s blog click [here](#)



Links to Nigel`s Gambia blogs

During the summer holidays this year I finally got around to actually doing some volunteering myself instead of just writing about other people doing it!

It made a refreshing change to volunteer and I would like to do it more often but time and money constraints won't always allow it.

Instead of writing about my experiences in The Gambia I have taken all my blogs and made them one story for those of you interested in my volunteer time with GIG in The Gambia they reflect my thoughts at the time, the frustrations, the triumphs and the blood, (mosquito bites!) sweat and tears.

Read them [here](#)



The volunteers were praised repeatedly by the Headmaster



"I just attended the 50th Anniversary of the School's foundation - started with Rs.3,600 50 years ago - how times and monetary values have changed! Many a speech and I was even expected to pontificate myself (1 minute focus on Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge support but not allowing the government to get off its budgetary obligations - the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Education was Chief Guest...!)

To read the rest of the blog click [here](#)

Tshume playing field - fundraising news

Many of the volunteers who have worked at Tshume - and their supportive friends and family - have raised an amazing £3250 for the sports and playing field at Tshume - however the target is £5400 ...

We are very concerned at [TravelPledge](#) that we have been holding these generous donations for some time, so we have discussed the alternatives with Paul and Tshume and they are working on a plan to do a much reduced facility.

This would be such a pity - so if any of you have any funds you were planning to send for Tshume, please send them as soon as possible and help Tshume create a safe environment for their kids.

to read the rest of the blog click [here](#)



The ethics of volunteering - what do you think?

There's been a lot in the print and web media recently about the ethics and challenges of volunteer travel. One of the reasons we started *people and places* was to campaign for change - better practice by recruiting organisations - a fair deal for volunteers and the communities they seek to serve.

Those of you who have volunteered will have first hand knowledge of some of the challenges and valuable insight into the realities. Those of you who are new to volunteering may want to raise questions that we should be answering.

to read the rest of Sallie`s blog click [here](#)

A reminder of some of the challenges African youngsters face



A recent UN report on African youth tells us little really that we did not already know BUT there are a few interesting sound bites which serve to underline the challenges many African youngsters face -

- 20 % of Africa's population is aged 15 to 24
- AIDS is responsible for more than one out of every two deaths among young girls in Africa
- 60% of female youths are unemployed

to read the rest of the blog click [here](#)

South African schools - love of books and lack of food

Port Elizabeth - news from our local partner, Paul at Calabash, indicates the huge challenges faced by township schools. The following is about just one school, but applies to many others.

"I went to to check on progress with the new library, and it was apparent the school has made little progress. However, the book boxes that were set up with the help of recent volunteers are still in use and being circulated between the classes. So kids have access to books in class, some progress ... now we need to encourage the school to get started on the checking-out system so that kids can take the books home as well...

To read the rest of Pauls blog click [here](#)



Futures Foundation The Gambia - what a difference a year makes!



A long-held ambition of Gambian educator and trainer, Lisong Bah, had been to develop pre-school training for teachers and thus to provide early childhood education of real quality for her country.

To learn about the volunteer programme supporting this project click [here](#)

There had been teacher-training through Gambia College for some time, but there was no specialised training available in the field of early childhood development (ECD).

In June 2010, after years of hard work and discussions with donor organisations and national government, Lisong at last had her goal in sight.

to read the rest of the blog click [here](#)

Cambodia - our partner explains how we are helping

Crucial support for children and families in one of the world's poorest nations

Following Sallie's article in the summer newsletter titled "Cambodia Projects - Marmite and Bicycles", I thought it may be useful to give some background to the circumstances surrounding our two Cambodian projects. But before I do, it might be worth pondering on the light hearted title of the summer report.

to read the rest of the blog click [here](#)



volunteers continue to "pass the baton"!



Yes, I know - we're always going on about this ... but I just wanted to share a recent baton-passing example, where returned volunteers offer help and advice, encouraging a 'new' volunteer to build upon their previous work in [W.B.Tshume School](#).

to read the blog click [here](#)

Welcome to Archana, Ibex project liaison in India

We're delighted to be working with a "new" member of the Ibex team. Archana Mahapatra has been working with Ibex for quite some time, but her role now includes volunteer and project liaison.

Through planning and preparation is vital in creating genuinely effective placements - for the projects as well as the volunteers - and Archana has definitely been doing an absolutely grand job!

To read more about Archana [here](#)



the rains arrive in India - and so does Dianne!



The following news from Dianne at the end of September, returning to Deogarh for her second placement in [Chitardai School](#):

"I arrived in Delhi on Friday in the middle of the worst monsoon rains Delhi has experienced for 30 years - so flooded roads, some knee-deep, long traffic jams and general chaos. However the water went down surprisingly quickly and I was able to do the city tour I had planned in the afternoon, going to the mosque, the old city and Humayan's tomb, a World Heritage site which was the model for the Taj Mahal.

To read the rest of the blog click [here](#)

fire makes over 600 homeless -

The following came in from our partners Azafady in Madagascar at the beginning of this month

Fire in Amparihy

On Sunday evening at around 9pm a fire broke out in the fokontany of Amparihy. Fanned by extremely strong winds, it quickly spread from house to house and across the dry shrubs in between. People attempted to put out the fire by throwing sand on their houses and breaking a water pipe to use as an extinguisher. Two fire engines also arrived at the scene from the airport and QMM but as there were no roads leading to the houses where the fire was it was very difficult for them to access the area.

to read the rest of the blog click [here](#)



And to close our eminent non exec Chair continues with his animal theme!



Recently likened to...a...Badger...a Teddy Bear...

and now -

Is he a Phoenix or a Bird of Paradise?

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