



Award winning ethical, responsible, sustainable volunteer travel



Winter newsletter 2012

Editorial



In my last editorial I said I would be doing a video at the volunteer meeting in Chippenham, well Sallie has decided to prolong the agony and didn't ask me to do one! I think she had too many other videos to record so I was let off the hook.

As always it was great to catch up with other volunteers' and in such a wonderful part of the world, being a moonraker by birth it was nice to go "home"! and thanks to Jane, Sallie`s friend, for letting us use her offices, a wonderful venue.

There are details of the next volunteer meeting in the newsletter and I hope to see some of you there.

On a personal note there is an article in the newsletter about the sad passing of Pastor Peter, I spent a month in South Africa working with Peter and his loss has left a huge hole in my heart.

Read what friends of Peter said about him in the newsletter, I need add no more.

On to happier things, the newsletter as always is packed with information, videos and volunteer stories so enjoy.

Nigel Pegler

Any comments and volunteer experiences welcome at newsletter@travel-peopleandplaces

"Ubuntu" - I am because you are - volunteer solidarity!

Oh, I love our volunteer get togethers – if you haven't been to one – you must!



... a room full of passionate people talking about profound experiences – the challenges and joys of volunteering – and if you are not sure volunteering is for you – this is the perfect opportunity to come and talk to people who have been and done it and will tell it like it is.

[to read more click here](#)

We are coming NORTH for our next volunteer social in MARCH 2013

Our next social will be near Doncaster, just off the M18 and the A1(M), in Bawtry.

Date: March 16th 2013 - 1 pm to 5 pm



Tony front centre

Chippenham social

A big "thank you" to Tony Jones who has arranged for us to use the theatre in Bawtry. We will use a lounge, not the auditorium - don't worry, Kate and Sallie aren't staging a major production here!

[more details here](#)

Why South Africa still needs volunteers



South Africa has come a long way since democracy but there is still so much need – they can't right the wrongs of apartheid in a couple of decades. Yes there is corruption – yes there is inefficiency but there are also many wonderful people doing amazing work. This article from the Economist underlines the problems – BUT we see the small but important steps forward that communities can and are making with the support of the volunteer programme.

Please don't let the big things you can't change stop you from making the small changes you can make.

Here's the Economist article which serves to remind us of some of the challenges South Africa faces.

<http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21564829-it-has-made-progress-becoming-full-democracy-1994-failure-leadership-means>

A tribute to Pastor Peter



We have just heard the sad news that Peter has lost his battle with cancer. This is such a sad loss for those of us that knew and respected him – but an immeasurable loss to the community he cared for in Mapoch South Africa. His family, friends, congregation and community are in our thoughts.

I say no more – [I leave it to volunteers that met him](#)

Don't Pre - judge - says volunteer Lesley



I simply didn't get it. For many years I really did not understand what colour prejudice is all about. After all, surely the colour of someone's skin is unimportant? It's the quality of the person within that's the important factor. But that was before I went to South Africa.

[to read more click here](#)

the ethics of volunteering in orphanages, by Vicky Smith



This blog article reports on a recent debate between Al Jazeera journalist and a large volunteer sending organisation

"Unsurprisingly, there's a great deal of interest in volunteering abroad from the student community, whether as a constructive way of spending gap year travel abroad, CV-boosting experience or altruistic desire to support others less fortunate. And so The [UCLU European Society](#) held a controversial debate to discuss whether such voluntourism is "a modern way of charity, something akin to the annoyance of Gap Yah hipsterism, or a dangerous misconception of what international development is all about.

[to read more click here](#)

"Retirement could be an opportunity to volunteer"

Nick Leader was our first ever volunteer back in 2001 – [here's a piece he wrote for The University of the Third Age.](#)

" I found a rare happiness in the mountains of Nepal "



Volunteer Jai has just returned from [Shermathang](#) in Nepal

“ So what can be said of my month stay in Nepal? Sometimes at night it would rain so hard that it sounded like someone was dropping a bag full of change on the tin roof and lightning would flash and illuminate my small room while thunder shook my bed, every morning the birds would land on the roof with a loud bang and wake me up, the local toilet was nothing more than a wood floor with a hole cut out and you needed to add a mixture of leaves and dirt when finished, no tv no Internet and we were without electricity more often than not, hot water for the shower was rare and the only meat I had was buffalo that was served twice during my stay.

What can be said about my month stay in Nepal? I loved every minute of it.

[read more here](#)

seven women, one man & some enthusiastic mules - a voyage of discovery in Morocco



Donna Okell is the founder of fairer business - a consultancy that assists companies with their Corporate Social responsibility - helping many small to medium sized businesses in their goals to run more sustainable and responsible companies.

Donna works with us on employee volunteer programmes. In early October she lead a group of people who wanted to learn more about volunteering to meet with our partners in Morocco.

[here are a couple of pieces she wrote before and after her trip](#)

Naxal orphanage “how utterly uplifting yet conflictingly heartbreaking”



My visit to the orphanage –

I recently spent a few hours at Naxal Orphanage –

My time in Nepal was focused on a trek in the stunning Annapurna sub-range of the Himalayas and then followed by a week enjoying all the non-mountainous tourist activities available in Nepal. We really saw the best of what is a beautiful, warm, friendly and unique country.

The trek I had done was a challenge for which I had fundraised. The charity that I fundraised for is an Irish Children's charity, so it was fitting for me to see some work with children while I was there. I would have loved more time, but the half day visit was all we could really manage.

[To read more of Emma story click here](#)



meet the *peopleandplaces* team



Volunteer Marvin talks about his time volunteering in The Gambia



Volunteer Jane talks about volunteering and living in a rural South African township



Volunteer Bob Wolfson talks about volunteering in Deogarh India



Click on Sallie`s picture for a link to her radio interview

Paul from Calabash and Sallie speak out about irresponsible volunteering



[Volunteer travel - a real force for good, BUT.....](#)

Our local partner in Cambodia runs training courses in child protection for volunteers



[This from ConCERT Cambodia](#) most recent newsletter

" In January ConCERT started running child protection training for volunteers who come to work with children and vulnerable people in Cambodia.

read more [here](#)

What an eye opening experience! What a blessing! - our local partner Paul writes about his time at the volunteer special



I had the wonderful opportunity of visiting the UK in November and attend one of the Road Shows that was hosted in Chippenham. Sallie and Kate often say how fortunate we as local teams are, because we have direct contact with the projects we serve, as well as working with volunteers on site.

Attending a Road Show was very special though, because I was able to get a glimpse of the energy that remains with returned volunteers, and those considering volunteering. I also got an insight into how much time and effort Sallie, Kate and others like Nigel and Dianne put into this.

[to read more of what Paul said click here](#)

New volunteer project in Kenya!



We have wanted to work in Kenya for some time – but we had real difficulties finding a local partner that

we felt shared the same values as us – but now we have found them in the team at [TurtleBay Beach Club](#) -

Situated in Watamu Marine Park – smack on the beach – Turtle bay Beach Club has a history of supporting the local community and conservation projects.

We will be working with them at a local school for the disabled and a marine conservation project.

watch this space – [Dianne](#) has recently returned from a visit to the projects and so now we just need to get everything written up for the site – which should happen in the next couple of weeks.

If you would like us to contact you when we start recruiting drop her a line kate@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk

If you haven't already spotted our YouTube channel it's worth a look. There are video interviews from volunteers and if you have videos of your time volunteering or one of the talks you have done – we know many of you talk to groups on your return from volunteering – please send them to us so we can share them.
[Take a look at the YouTube videos here](#)

[Take a look here at slideshare for slide shows from volunteers](#) – again if you have a slide show to share please do send it to us thanks so much to all the volunteers who have contributed to date.
Remember we are on facebook too – [follow us here](#) – in the blog and on facebook are where we tend to post our latest news.

If you like beautiful pictures and funny visuals we are also on [pinterest – follow us here](#)

and finally we are tweeting too – [follow us here](#)

phew – so there's lots of info out there from us – please follow us where ever you choose.
Remember if you want notifications when a new story is posted on the blog you will need to register up in the top left hand corner

would you write a review about your volunteer experience with us either at

[volunteer forever.com](#)

or at

[go overseas.com](#)



Wishing you all the best for the New Year from Sallie and Kate, Dianne, Nigel and Harold