

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



### Spring newsletter 2011

#### Ed`s comment

As I write this *people and places* celebrate their 5th anniversary, what an amazing achievement for Sallie and Kate, from the seeds of an idea to Best Volunteering Organisation 2009. It seems that every time I edit the newsletter a new project (sometimes more than one!) has been added to the portfolio.

As I said in the last newsletter I will be volunteering in The Gambia this year and I have been writing a blog on the *people and places* website and the links are below

<http://blog.travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk/?p=1230>

<http://blog.travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk/?p=1232>

<http://blog.travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk/?p=1311>

<http://blog.travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk/?p=1390>

So that`s another newsletter put to bed , hope you enjoy it and if you have any volunteer stories please email them to [newsletter@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk) or perhaps you would like to join the *people and places* blog if so please click [here](#) and then click on [register](#) or [log in](#)

**Nigel Pegler**

#### Time to say thank you

From Sallie and Kate

It`s not possible!!!

It is 5 years since our first volunteer returned from the very first placement we arranged. Kate and I thought this was the ideal opportunity to say a big thank you to all the people who have supported *people and places*. We can't name everyone individually - so if you are not personally named - we still say THANKYOU!"

So here are our **BAYFA`s** (Blooming Amazing Five Year Awards)

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

#### Yet another first for *people and places*

In January Donna Okell from [International Travel Connections](#) (ITC) contacted me (Sallie).

ITC were keen to develop a programme where they and their clients could engage more closely with the people in places they visit. Donna and I, together with the ITC team and our local partners, worked hard to develop a meaningful and sustainable programme to enable ITC Travellers to spend very short periods of time visiting and learning about the initiatives. [The ITC Giving programme](#) was born.

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



#### New projects in Cambodia



Work with child prisoners or with local fishing communities in the Siem Reap area. In Cambodia, children as young as 13 are tried in the adult legal system and many go to adult jails - or they are living with their mothers in prison.

There is a high rate of domestic violence in these families and people have often experienced trauma. There are also many child protection issues such as trafficking and sexual abuse.

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

#### New project in Romania

For those of you who would rather not travel too far !!! we now offer you an opportunity to volunteer in Romania.

Romania is a country of great natural beauty and diversity with a rich cultural heritage - scenic mountain landscapes; unspoilt rural areas; historic cities - but broad economic poverty remains, especially in rural areas and in the south-east of the country.

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



#### Support education and rebuild healthcare in a Nepali village



I (Sallie) first visited the Nepalese village of Sermathang nearly three years ago - and I promised that we would one day recruit volunteers for this wonderful community project. The school and health centre were forcibly closed during the Maoist troubles.

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

#### The latest project in Peru-GROW

Work with the local communities in Amazonian Manu - this project seeks to assist local people to generate a livelihood whilst improving their health and conserving their environment.

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



#### Our new education advisor visits Morocco project



Dianne Ashman, a retired teacher who has volunteered with us in [India](#) and [The Gambia](#), contacted us and asked if she could help *people and places* develop and improve our education projects - we said YES PLEASE! Neither Kate nor Sallie, nor indeed our local partners, are professional educators - we just knew that this was a great opportunity to improve our work with the education projects.

Dianne has just returned from the education project in Morocco and - my, what a difference she has made to the quality of information we have and the confidence the projects have in the volunteer programme. [Here is an update from Dianne.](#)

#### This is a must read

Those of you not following [The Wolfsons blog](#) are missing a gem - from water filters to questionable hats - to amazing wildlife - to romantic (not!) interludes - oh, and in between, some pretty darn amazing work as volunteers in India - read their story as it unfolds



#### Volunteer advice

Sallie was recently asked by the press what impact volunteering had on volunteers - who can say it better than the volunteers themselves?

To read all of the volunteer quotes click [here](#)



#### It`s raining frogs in Peru

Congratulations to our partners in [Peru](#). They have just been awarded the highly coveted Rainforest Alliance verification mark for high standards of sustainability.

This is a real achievement and well deserved recognition of the fantastic work they do in The Manu biosphere reserve, working with indigenous and displaced communities to increase their income, whilst caring for their precious environment for all of us.

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

#### "Frankly I didn`t want to go that route"

A thought provoking interview with our local partner Paul Miedema in Port Elizabeth. Read it [here](#)



#### TravelPledge - the charity

Read the latest update from Nick at [TravelPledge here](#).

Thanks to every volunteer and supporter who has donated.

As Nick says,

" These projects need and deserve our support; in many cases communities do not have any other opportunity to raise money from people visiting the place they call home."

#### Volunteer networking

Kate writes:

Many of you will be familiar with my oft-repeated reference to volunteers "passing the baton" from one to the next, by which we mean helping to brief each other and maintain continuity in the projects.

We send all volunteers` reports and project updates of course, but once we put volunteers in touch with each other, lots more information is shared - each previous volunteer can prove to be invaluable as a sort of 'personal travel advisor', as in the following email correspondence between previous volunteer, Julie, and future volunteer, Nicki about the experience at [Amar Jyoti](#)

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



#### Fresh, fresh water for Citardai

What great pictures of the children at Chitardai enjoying clean water. Take a look at The [Wolfsons](#) blog to learn more

#### Great news from Pastor Peter

This message will be of interest to anyone who has volunteered at [Mapoch S.A.](#) and has met the wonderful Pastor Peter.

Dear Marnie

Hi dear sister I write this with the hope that you will pass my message of gratitude to all my friends overseas.

I would have liked to mention them all by name but it would be unfair to those not mentioned

Exactly one year ago I was diagnosed with non hodgkinsons lymphoma cancer. At that time the first person I contacted was Jeremy Stafford; at that time I wanted him to inform my family as I was totally devastated by the news.

Naturally he couldn`t do it but promised to tell all my overseas friends I have made through Volountours and people and places. I know for a fact that you all prayed for me and were as shocked by the news as my immediate family.

Now on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March I went for a CT scan and blood tests and the doctors have proclaimed me free of the dreaded cancer cells, I still have to attend the cancer clinic for the rest of my life , but the likelihood is that I will die of other diseases instead of cancer

I want to thank you all for standing by me in my time of need and emotional upheaval.

Every single one of you has played an important role in my recovery

**Peter Mabasa**



#### The professor, the police, the press and the party- all in one day!

Sallie writes :-

April 6 was a pretty busy day for me - the launch of our new programme with [ITC Giving](#) ( see separate blog also) and [Harold's](#) (our co founder and chair of our advisory board) party to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday of Responsible Tourism in the UK.

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



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