

During these difficult times please be assured *people and places* are doing all they can to support our projects, partners and volunteers, this newsletter is all about what we can all do to offer support.

Nigel Pegler

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### Could you volunteer a couple of hours every couple of weeks from your home?

We cannot deny that 2020 has been a challenging year for our volunteer programme - we have not been able to send volunteers to the programmes we work with for 9 months - and even an optimist cannot see us being able to do so until spring 2021 at best - a year after our last volunteers returned home after their placements. A year where all of the programmes we work with are struggling to survive - some doing better in that struggle than others.

#### **BUT WE HAVE BEEN BUSY - NOW THERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN VOLUNTEER FROM HOME TO HELP SUPPORT THEM**

Whether you have already volunteered with us or hope to travel with us in the future we really need your help now - just a few hours a month could make all the difference

*"With Covid-19 closing schools and making international travel virtually impossible, the teachers at [Treak Community Centre](#) have been trialling online classes for our students. A key component of these activities has been the help we've received from volunteers who have connected with our staff and students through a variety of online platforms - thank you. We are very keen to develop this online interaction, learning together and continuing the cultural exchange that has proved so beneficial to our students, staff and the volunteers who work with us."* Michael Horton, Treak Community Centre

*"Working with people and places has been both educational and inspiring. Following on from my 4 week placement in 2019, I was keen to maintain contact and continue to give assistance in any way I could. It has been an absolute pleasure to be part of the development of some hugely important training that will help to further develop and shape the education and care of the youngest children in The Gambia. I am very grateful and feel privileged to have been offered this opportunity and hope that I can contribute further for years to come. It is heartwarming to know that support can continue successfully through technology, as challenging as this may be for some people in other countries."* volunteer Joanne

### So what could you do?

[Take a look at our e-volunteering opportunities here](#)

....here are some ideas - but you may have an idea we haven't thought of!

Read a story [take a look here](#)



or do a short arts and crafts video - or a slide share on how to use spread sheets or slide share! - this could be just a one off commitment - just an hour or two

Join English speaking sessions for the local staff at the programmes where we work - just an hour every week or two



Work with us and local educators to create training programmes for local staff - from as little as 2 hours work a week

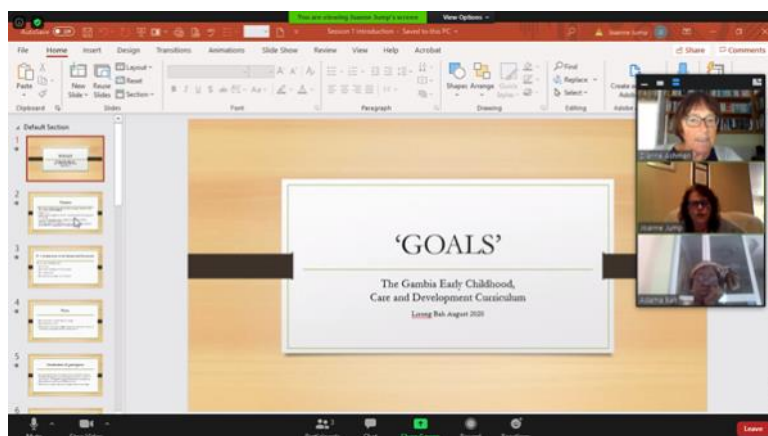
Join zoom or skype calls for remote lessons for children led by local teachers - an hour a week for a term



Work on a specific brief - here a couple of examples of work done to date

One volunteer has created designs for simple models which the children in Cambodia can build at home using local materials – they will photograph their models to send to him, and this will provide an alternative to their regular academic learning.

Another volunteer worked with a school principal on training materials for a new curriculum



" As we in [The Gambia](#) are working hard to adapt our very important tourism industry for the post Covid it is important that we can continue to access the skills that people and places volunteers share with us. - even if they cannot travel to be with us. We are keen to work with volunteers who have business, IT, web design and language skills - we look forward to working with you - a warm welcome awaits you on the sunshine coast even if it is virtual sunshine!" Adama Bah - The Gambia

At the moment we have e volunteer opportunities in [The Gambia Cambodia](#) and [Morocco](#) and in the coming weeks Swaziland

We have just launched our [new e-volunteering website](#) where you can learn more about this initiative

We really need your help - so please think about giving the programmes we work with a few hours this winter - and thank you to all who are supporting us and all who will in the future. With your support we can continue to support the wonderful people we work with and for around the world

If you feel you can help

please contact [dianne@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk](mailto:dianne@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk)

[or register your interest for free here](#)

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### e-volunteers at work

In the six months since the pandemic struck a number of volunteers have been working with us to try out various ways of volunteering from home. Some had previously volunteered and were keen to continue supporting 'their' project in what were clearly going to be difficult times. Some had placements already arranged and were keen to start volunteer work even though they couldn't yet travel. Some thought their volunteering days were behind them and were delighted to see a way of supporting volunteer projects that fitted in around their busy lives at home.

So what have e-volunteers achieved already, working from the comfort of their own homes, and how can we take this further in the coming months?



In [Morocco](#) we started with conversation sessions between house-mothers from the Education For All boarding houses and four volunteers – these sessions took place via Zoom once a week throughout June, July and August. By that stage the house-mothers' confidence in speaking English had developed enormously and we had all got to know each other well - they were asking for more! So starting in September we reduced the whole group conversation sessions to once a month and paired up house-mothers and volunteers for weekly one-to-one English lessons – they were very clear – they don't just want to speak English they want to understand how the language works, so those of us taking these lessons are mugging up on our English grammar! One of the deputy house-mothers has now asked to be included and a further volunteer has joined the group.



The boarding houses have now reopened so the next phase will be for volunteers to participate in some English lessons with selected groups of girls – this will begin in November. We already have one volunteer lined up for this but we need more – is this something you could offer?

Volunteer Linda says: *'I am enjoying supporting Moroccan housemothers who work for Education for All. I met most of these women last year when I volunteered with People and Places in Morocco, so I was pleased to join in when, early in the pandemic, P&P arranged a Zoom group for former Moroccan volunteers and the housemothers to get together regularly to chat online. Now I am giving weekly one-to-one English lessons to housemothers via Zoom. This type of e-volunteering is not always easy, but it can be enjoyable and is certainly worthwhile. The housemothers work very hard; they have a difficult job looking after the girls, especially during the pandemic, and it is good to show them that, although volunteers cannot currently travel to Morocco, we still want to offer support and help. There are some challenges with e-volunteering. I had never even heard of Zoom before lockdown, but I have found it easy to use. Depending on the signal strength and other factors, there may be connection difficulties, but re-connecting does not usually take too long. The housemothers say they like the online classes and are finding them useful. They are gradually becoming more confident and more fluent in their use of English, which means they will find it easier to communicate with future volunteers and visitors to the boarding-houses. I would certainly encourage other volunteers to try e-volunteering; it can be very rewarding.'*

In [The Gambia](#) an e-volunteering placement has just been arranged for volunteer Marta, a language teacher fluent in a number of European languages (she can also speak some Mandinka, one of the Gambian local languages). The Gambia is a country whose economy relies heavily on tourism. During the pandemic our local partner Adama, along with others involved in Gambian tourism, has developed several new tours designed to attract a wider range of tourists to the country. One of these is the Ninki-Nanka Trail, described as 'a-much needed contrast to sun, sand and sea package tourism that builds on the untapped potential of the River Gambia - combining river-based and overland excursions, the trail offers immersive and meaningful interaction with local people, in particular through community-based tourism initiatives.' A website has been written to advertise this new tour which will be marketed throughout Europe. Marta is going to use her language skills to help with the translation of this website, initially into Spanish. This is a great example of how we have been able to use a volunteer's specific skills to support project needs and demonstrates how any website development work can easily be accomplished without leaving home.





We are just in the process of setting up an e-volunteer placement for volunteer Ben in **Eswatini**. Ben will use his knowledge of computer coding to teach a member of our local partner team, which will then be shared with children at an after-school club. This placement is in the early planning stages – however if it works out it will be another example of how linking up with someone via Zoom or Skype enables volunteers to share their skills and conduct training with local staff without leaving home.



In **Cambodia** mentoring work via fortnightly video-conferencing sessions continues, and our local partner reports that this is being very useful in developing the ideas and confidence of the head-teacher, Dara. Dara is willing to try out all suggestions we make for possible e-volunteer projects to support his online teaching programme, and comes up with plenty of suggestions of his own. Every week he sends one of the story videos made by volunteers to his classes via Facebook and discusses it with them in their next online class – he regularly tells us how much his students love the stories. The ideas sent by one volunteer for model-making activities (an e-volunteer match for a volunteer who is an engineer) were taken up with alacrity by his staff who are now doing very creative modelling activities with their own classes. We have started to focus on ideas for the development of a literacy programme using books from the library and hope to develop this in the coming weeks, hopefully with support from an e-volunteer with relevant experience in this field.

Dara is also working with e-volunteer Zara to make a podcast, as reported elsewhere in this newsletter.



In the coming months we hope to take all these initiatives forward and share them with other countries where we work - all the e-volunteer work described above could be applicable in many different places – and as more volunteers come forward willing to try out e-volunteer projects their specific skills and experiences will give us even more ideas for things we can do.

We also have big ideas for expanding our video-making initiative. [So far we have focused on story reading](#), but our long-term plan is to build up a whole library of videos which can be accessed by our local partners and people at the projects where we work, demonstrating a whole range of activities and skills. We would love to find volunteers willing to film themselves demonstrating art and craft activities – ideas volunteers have suggested so far include weaving with paper or long leaves, leaf printing, collages using locally available materials, potato printing, model-making using recycled materials, making flowers from straws or tissue paper. Are there music or drama activities that could be demonstrated online? – if so please share your ideas with us. What about curriculum-based activities? –



Volunteer Yvonne is currently making videos demonstrating a couple of simple Science activities – is this something you could contribute to? One volunteer has suggested using coloured paper to demonstrate fractions and/or symmetry to support learning in Maths – do you have any other ideas? Teachers of younger children sometimes use story bags filled with a range of resources to stimulate activities based on a story they have just read to the children – could anyone demonstrate this on a video for us? Moving away from the classroom, we would love to have a series of videos demonstrating how to create a document in Word, how to make and use an Excel spreadsheet, how to make a Powerpoint presentation etc – could anyone help with this? If you have volunteered in the past, think about the most successful technique you shared with local staff during your placement – could you demonstrate this on video? Even if you don't want to make a demonstration video or feel you don't have the skills to do this, please send me your ideas – there will be others willing to make the videos if you share your ideas.

[So using your skills from home offers lots of scope.](#) Whether you would like a link-up with a particular project for an e-volunteering placement or prefer to make videos from home which can be used more generically across several projects, please do consider an e-volunteer placement, and share this information with others you think may be interested. We may not be able to travel to the projects at the moment, but with a little imagination there are many ways we can maintain contact with them and continue to share our skills.

**WE NEED YOU!**  
**TO MAKE IT HAPPEN**

## Our brand new e-volunteer site



"Covid-19 did not remove the need for volunteer support, it stopped delivery."  
..... Harold Goodwin Professor Emeritus

.....Well we are very proud to announce - it may have slowed us down a little but it hasn't stopped us!

We have been working away for months with our partners and we can now announce the launch of a new site.

[www.e-volunteer.co.uk](http://www.e-volunteer.co.uk)

e-volunteering is a way for you to volunteer from home – it will suit volunteers who want to use their skills and experiences to support a project abroad but are not able or do not wish to travel. We can arrange an e-volunteer placement for you in a number of different ways - take [a look here](#) .

Depending on how much time you are able to give - just an hour every couple of weeks (or even just a one off) will enable you to create a story video, or we can structure a placement by matching your skills to project needs in the same way as for a travelling volunteer, and your placement outline will be structured to allow for regular online meetings with the people you will work with at the project.

**e-volunteering will enable you to give the time you want to support a community project or school from your own home - when it's convenient for you.**

We have developed "e-volunteering" with four countries where we work – [Morocco](#), [The Gambia](#), [Cambodia](#), and [Swaziland](#) (As most of you are aware, we work in other countries too – but many are busy supporting communities in desperate situations due to the pandemic).

*"With Covid-19 closing schools and making international travel virtually impossible, the teachers at [Treak Community Centre](#) have been trialling online classes for our students. A key component of these activities has been the help we've received from volunteers who have connected with our staff and students through a variety of online platforms – thankyou. We are very keen to develop this online interaction, learning together and continuing the cultural exchange that has proved so beneficial, to our students, staff and the volunteers who work with us." Michael Treak*

The e-volunteering opportunities we offer will be updated as we and our partners identify ways in which volunteers can offer remote support. To keep up with the latest news we suggest you [follow our blog](#) and follow us on [facebook](#) and please feel free to email us at [dianne@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk](mailto:dianne@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk) if you would like to chat about our [e-volunteer initiatives](#)

*" e-volunteering with People and Places Morocco Project has been really worthwhile during the pandemic: it has helped improve the House Mothers' spoken and written English, giving them the vital confidence to help their students and communicate with visitors in the future. It is proving to be fun for both participants, being a real cultural exchange."* Wendy

*"Working with people and places has been both educational and inspiring. Following on from my 4 week placement in 2019, I was keen to maintain contact and continue to give assistance in any way I could. It has been an absolute pleasure to be part of the development of some hugely important training that will help to further develop and shape the education and care of the youngest children in The Gambia. It is heartwarming to know that support can continue successfully through technology, as challenging as this may be for some people in other countries."* Joanne

*"I was frustrated because people still have the same needs they had before, and cutting us all off from each other does not help them get the things they need, like educational help."* Ben

*" As we in The Gambia are working hard to adapt our very important tourism industry for post Covid it is important that we can continue to access the skills that people and places volunteers share with us - even if they cannot travel to be with us. We are keen to work with volunteers who have business, IT, web design and language skills - we look forward to working with you - a warm welcome awaits you on the sunshine coast even if it is virtual sunshine!"* Adama Bah - The Gambia

e-volunteering with [people and places](#) will not end with the pandemic. As leaders in responsible travel we are committed to enabling "e-travel".

And finally a sincere and enormous thankyou to all the volunteers that have helped us in the early days of developing this initiative - your patience, advice, commitment and skills have been invaluable - special mention needs to go to Joanne, Linda, Wendy, Carole, Tina, Zara, Andy and to those about to start e-volunteer placements including Ben, Marta, Diana; also to our champion story readers - Yvonne, Zara, Kate, Ben, Suzanne, Sue, Tilly, Laura, Nicki, Eileen and Jane.

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### News from the projects



The pandemic is causing challenges for all of us - here's an update from many of the programmes we work with about how they are trying to meet these challenges - from marathon cycle rides to emergency water supplies (imagine trying to wash your hands when there is no water!)



## Eswatini (Swaziland)

The Neighbourhood Care Points in Eswatini are currently being used as feeding stations – the children go there every day for food which they take home to share with their families, but they are not yet allowed to stay for any teaching or other activities. However the government of Eswatini has announced that schools will reopen in January 2021 so it is hoped that the NCPs can also resume normal teaching then.

The story videos which many volunteers have made are being shared with our partners in Eswatini. Eunice (education coordinator for the NCPs) has been reviewing the curriculum during the closure and the stories have now been incorporated into their schemes of work. She says, *'Thank you so much for the stories, we really do appreciate especially the people that take their time reading for the children. The stories will be shared with the children as soon as everything gets back to normal.'*

If you are interested in an e-volunteer placement with the NCPs in Eswatini please email [dianne@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk](mailto:dianne@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk) – we are currently creating e-volunteer opportunities to support this project.

## Cambodia

The biggest event for Treak Community Centre this month has been their sponsored bike ride from Siem Reap to Kep – the Treak Trek.

*They told us: 'It now looks likely that international travel (and therefore our volunteers and visitors and income) will be disrupted well into 2021. Realising the challenges we face, the staff got together and said that they would like to play their part in fundraising to help the school. The idea of an annual TREAK TREK was born, which in 2020 will be a 320 kilometre sponsored bike ride from Siem Reap to Kep on the coast. This will be a big challenge for the staff, who have never attempted anything like this before. We have been in serious training during August, cycling every Thursday, gradually building up to 100 kms. We of course hope to raise money through the ride, but it will also be an enormous adventure for the staff, taking many of them to parts of their country they've never seen before. In addition it will be a great team building exercise, as already evidenced during the weekly training sessions.'*

The ride began on October 6<sup>th</sup> and was successfully completed on October 12<sup>th</sup>, a total distance of 346 km. They had many adventures along the way, including monsoon rain, flooded roads, an epic journey in the back of a truck and a 'missing' guesthouse. They saw the bats at Battambang, experienced the traffic jams of Phnom Penh, celebrated two birthdays and finished with a celebratory meal of freshly caught crab by the sea at Kep. [Read about their adventures in their blog](#) -

Well done to the Treak team! [If you would like to sponsor their ride you can do so here](#)





If you are interested in an e-volunteer placement with [Treak Community Centre have a look here](#)

### **The Gambia**

After a long lockdown, The Gambia is just starting to open up again. The Ministry of Education recently announced that schools for grades 7 – 12 will reopen on October 14<sup>th</sup> with all lower grades opening two weeks later so Mary's Little Lambs Nursery and Prep School can finally reopen on 28<sup>th</sup>. The staff are currently busy preparing for this - strict safety protocols are in place, meaning the staff must ensure the school has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, that hand-washing facilities are available and that there are clear rules for safe behaviour around the school. Training for the new school curriculum has not yet been able to take place because of restrictions on holding workshops, but it is hoped these regulations will be lifted soon and that training can take place during the Christmas holidays. We wish everyone at the school well as they reopen.

The Gambia is trying to kickstart their all-important tourism as flights recommence at the end of October (fingers crossed). However quarantine regulations mean that it will still be some time before the number of tourists, and therefore income from tourism, returns to pre-pandemic levels.

If you are interested in an [e-volunteer placement with Mary's Little Lambs have a look here](#)

### **Morocco**

Good news – the Education For All boarding houses were able to reopen in October, and schools also reopened. The first girls to return were those in exam classes, but all girls are now back on a part-time basis – the houses are able to open at 50% capacity so they spend one week at school and one week back in their villages. When at home they are able to participate in online learning following Education For All's very successful fund-raising initiative to provide tablets and Internet access for all girls in exam classes.

The biggest challenge of reopening has been lack of water. There was little snow in the mountains earlier in the year meaning water supply to the towns failed – imagine the challenge of deep-cleaning the houses ready for the girls' return with no water other than a few bottles bought from the supermarket, and imagine the responsibility of ensuring the girls' safety with no water for hand washing! Thankfully this problem has now been solved thanks to a generous donation of three 3000L water tanks – how relieved they all are to have water in the taps again!



If you are interested in an e-volunteer placement with the [EFA boarding houses check it out here](#)

## **Madagascar**

From our partners in Madagascar: *'In Madagascar, September is the month for beginning anew. The weather begins to warm up, the lemur babies are due, and the school year begins. In Sainte Luce, the Stitch Cooperative has returned to the Studio, working on beautiful new designs and unique products - which we hope will be in the Etsy store for Christmas! Meanwhile in the wider Anosy region, big changes are underway in sanitation and hygiene. This year we were very excited to begin a new WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) collaboration with UNICEF Madagascar, aiming to eliminate open defecation, improve hygiene practices, and increase access to clean water. We have already reached over 1,200 rural villages with information on handwashing, making your own hand washing station and building your own toilet. With everyone around the world becoming more aware of how simple techniques such as handwashing can protect families and save lives, the work of this team is ever more crucial in isolated and rural areas.'*

If you would like to know more about the programme in [Madagascar take a look here](#)



## South Africa – Good Work Foundation

Our partners in Hazyview, South Africa, are delighted to have won the Standard Bank Top Women Award in the Youth Development category. Kate Groch, founder and CEO of Good Work Foundation attended the virtual awards ceremony and accepted the honour on behalf of all the men and women in the GWF team who believe in a more equitable society for all South Africans. We offer them our congratulations on their success.

If you would like to know more about [Good Work Foundation and how you can volunteer with them take a look here](#)

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## Making a podcast – how volunteer Zara is making fantastic use of her skills

Volunteer Zara has a placement planned – she is going to go to [Treak Community Centre in Cambodia](#) - she works in the publishing industry and she is going to use her skills to help develop a literacy strategy at the school at Treak. Her plans were to travel this year, but of course the pandemic has intervened. So Zara is using her skills on an e-volunteer project until she is able to travel.



As part of her work in the publishing industry, Zara hosts the Insight Guides podcasts – [follow this link to listen to her work:](#)



Because of the pandemic we at *people and places* are currently unable to send volunteers to travel to the projects we support – however we do want [e-volunteers](#) for these projects, who will work to support them from home. How can we generate interest in projects when people are unable to travel there and experience the country and culture for themselves? Making a podcast which people can listen to, including discussions with local people talking about their work and culture seems a perfect solution. So how incredibly lucky we are that Zara has exactly the skills we need! She is currently working on a podcast about Cambodia, as that is the country where she will travel to volunteer. However the plan is that she will then go on to work with more of our local partners, creating podcasts for their projects too.

Zara started by writing questions which were sent out to our partner in Cambodia for consideration – it was important to have questions which Zara as a volunteer would want to ask, and also to include questions from local people covering issues they think volunteers should be aware of when working with people from their culture. An interview then took place via Zoom between Zara and Dara, [head-teacher at Treak](#), which Zara recorded. She then researched audio-editing software and has been learning to use it. The editing process has involved removing pauses and breaks, and re-recording her own questions to make sure her voice and Dara's are of equal volume. The next stage will be to write and edit in the intro and outro, and to add music. Dara provided appropriate music but not in the correct format, so researching music editing software has been another challenge.



Zara says creating the podcast has been a steep learning curve for her, but something she is thoroughly enjoying. In her work for Insight Guides she has written and selected content for podcasts and hosted them, but this is the first time she has been involved in the technical side of recording, editing and production. She even spent a weekend on an online course about making podcasts (some of it useful!) to help her learn how to make a really good job of this task. The job is proving more time-consuming than she expected but is something she feels is really worthwhile – and the next podcast she makes won't take anything like as much time!

What a great e-volunteer placement – a useful resource for the project who will be able to use the finished podcast to promote what they do and encourage interest from potential volunteers, and good professional development for the volunteer herself. Also really beneficial for *people and places* as we start to attract interest from e-volunteers – with any luck we will end up with podcasts hosted by Zara for all the projects where we are placing e-volunteers.

We hope to include Zara's completed podcast for Treak in our next newsletter – look out for it!

If you are interested in an e-volunteer project with [Treak Community Centre check out it out here](#) – you don't have to be able to make podcasts – they can use your skills in lots of other ways too!

## Could you read a story for us?

Here is another example of the story videos volunteers have been recording to send to the education programmes supported by *people and places*. Local teachers are sharing stories volunteers have read and then discussing them with the children - great for literacy and English!

If you could spare an hour to do this (even less if you already know how to make a video!) please contact [dianne@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk](mailto:dianne@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk)



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## Introducing Fiona -aren't we lucky?

Welcome Fiona Adamson to the people and places team



Fiona has volunteered to work with Sallie and Dianne on the new people and places [e-volunteering initiative](#). So those of you who volunteer from home for one of the programmes we are working with remotely will probably come into contact with her in the coming months.

Fiona first approached us when she was exploring the idea of volunteering her skills to one of the programmes we work with...she was matched to the [Community Programme in Cambodia](#) ... all was in place for her to travel earlier this year.....and then.....Covid!

With her travel plans on hold, Fiona asked us if there was any way she could support us remotely and particularly was there anything she could do for people and places. With the development of our e-volunteering initiative the timing was perfect - and just look at Fiona's skills!

Fiona has a wealth of experience in corporate and small business environments, improving performance and creating exceptional customer experiences.

In her current role as Business Development Manager Fiona provides sales and marketing direction and support to Care Home Managers and their teams, in addition she coaches the teams in improving customer service delivery. and suggests ways in which they can improve the service that their residents and enquirers receive. She is also an excellent networker and has events management experience - particularly creating events with stakeholders - organisations and individuals in the local community with the aim of supporting each other's business goals.

Fiona says

*I was planning to work alongside the team at Treak in Cambodia this year but, as with all of us, my travel plans were curtailed. However, supporting the volunteer projects of people and places is even more important than ever so I have chosen to continue to support their work by e-volunteering. Despite the pandemic and restrictions we all face I am extremely grateful for all that I have and by e-volunteering I am able to help others in a meaningful way.*

Welcome Fiona - and a huge



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## Why we ask for DBS or police checks for e-volunteers

Recently we were asked why we demand DBS /police checks and references for volunteers who are offering to work online with us - (not in situ) - for the organisations with which we work.



### Good question and here's our reply

Our first priority is the safety of the communities and volunteers we work with.

We have a duty to do all we can to ensure that the children, young people and any at risk adults that we work with are safeguarded from harm.

[We have a robust child protection policy - which guides our work](#)

We have to be mindful of safer recruitment

A key part of the safer recruitment process is the use of a [DBS check](#) (or the international equivalent). A DBS check refers to the Disclosure and Barring Services, which helps employers make safer recruitment decisions and prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups, including children. DBS helps access if any applicants have criminal records or are on any barring lists which would raise concern about their ability to be able to administer care, or to work in the sector at all.

Most importantly, these [background checks](#) enable us to make sure the people we work with are protected.

In addition we require 2 referees - who we will contact directly.

We recognise that:

- the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however it can also present risks and challenges - grooming and cyber bullying for example
- we have a duty to ensure that all children, young people and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online
- we have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online
- we have a duty to guide volunteers in safe online procedures - to protect them as well as the children and vulnerable people they will be working with
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers other agencies and volunteers is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

All volunteers who work with children online will be asked to commit to and sign our [child protection policy](#) - which applies to e-volunteering as well as in country work.

We hope the above explains why we must ask you for DBS/police checks and references - if you have any questions please write to me - [sallie@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk](mailto:sallie@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk)



We seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- appointing an online safety coordinator
- providing clear and specific directions to volunteers on how to behave online through our behaviour code
- supporting and encouraging the young people using our service to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others
- supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online
- developing an online safety agreement for use with young people and their parents/carers
- developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child/young person
- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly · ensuring that user names, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively
- ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate
- ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used only after their permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given
- providing supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety
- examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation

If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:

- having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse)
- providing guidance for all volunteers on how to report any suspected abuse - we require that volunteers do not address any suspected abuse
- reviewing the plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

## Greetings from Salin and Dara at Treak Community Centre



Click on the picture for video

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Many of you will be aware that there have been important changes to the data protection act recently - we at people and places welcome them - we have already emailed you about this but please take a look at our policy here

<https://travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk/privacy.aspx?category=14#.WyfOcdR95pg>

[Take a look here at slideshare for slide shows from volunteers](#) – 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.

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.



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If you have any comments on this newsletter or anything you could add to the next one please email me at [newsletter@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk)