

Award winning ethical, responsible, sustainable volunteer travel



Winter newsletter 2013

Editorial



I have to start by making an admission, Sallie and Harold forced me, sorry I volunteered, to make a video for *people and places*, I suppose as the Editor I had to do one sooner or later, plenty of other volunteers have done it and far more eloquently than me. If you are expecting a link to the video I`m not doing one (unless Sallie forces me to) so if you are desperate to see it look at the link to YouTube under volunteer videos and so much more.

Nigel Pegler

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

We won !!!!



Winner: people and places, UK - www.travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk/

[read the full story here](#)

Judges' reasons for winning: "Highly commended in 2007 in the Best Volunteering category, they won this same category in 2009. The judges were impressed by their campaign for responsible volunteering; they have also been active in campaigning for child protection whilst running their small business. Their campaign has been funded entirely through their business. Making extensive use of the social media the two directors have given their time freely to fight for change. Over the last few years, practice in volunteering has improved, although there is still much to be done - people and places have been at the heart of that movement to raise awareness and demand action, working with many partners in the UK and abroad".

Bragging rights - some nice stuff people have said about us recently

We have to provide references for the World Responsible Travel Awards (and in case you didn't know we won! [read more here](#)) - thanks everyone for all your support! and here are some excerpts:

From Local Partners

"people and places have been leader in this area (*child protection*) for some time.They personally visit all projects for a lengthy assessment before accepting the project as a partner. They're particularly demanding about child protection practices and actively work with projects to help them improve their policies and practices ensuring that the children, (and the volunteers), are kept safe. "

[more here](#)

That Sallie gets everywhere - with Kate Stefanko of course!



to see what they have been up to [click here](#)

this from Dianne – our Volunteer Programme Advisor

Another successful volunteer social



Our latest volunteer social was held at *people and places'* headquarters in Faversham at the beginning of November. This is also Kate's home and we know volunteers always enjoy coming here to such a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. About 30 of us braved some fairly awful driving conditions to get there, and as always the journey was well worth the effort – an afternoon of stimulating conversation with past and future volunteers, all sharing their ideas, experiences and enthusiasm for volunteering.

[more here](#)

child protection isn't just about paedophiles

" Children must be protected from many forms of exploitation – the commoditisation of children by many "suppliers" in the volunteer travel industry is also a serious form of abuse. All too often well meaning volunteers are exploited too – particularly those wanting to serve "orphans"

[to read more click here](#)

Volunteering in the news

A few articles and programmes we would like to draw to your attention - they're well worth taking the time to check them out: [click here](#)

news from the Emmanuel project, Port Elizabeth



Here's the latest newsletter from Estolene at [EACC \(Emmanuel Advice and Care Centre\)](#) - there is, as always, good news and less good news ... but just read everything Estolene has to say, and you will get a sense of the extraordinary determination and optimism which keeps this grass roots community project going. And stipends are covered through March 2014 ... VERY good news !

It's already a long time ago that I gave you the last update on what's going on at Emmanuel. There's still a lot happening [here](#)

The right project + the right volunteer = mutual gains !



This is a story about The Gambia, an MA student of Tourism, Environment and Development - and the mutual benefits gained through a well-matched and well-prepared volunteer placement.

to read more [click here](#)

a good news story from Kate



I pondered for some time about this one - there have been so many good stories during 2013 that I simply couldn't decide which one to pick. So, I decided to look forward to 2014 instead - where Saint Lucia will be welcoming our first 4 volunteers early next year.

As you know, we spend a lot of time and effort in building strong local partnerships before we begin to match volunteers to projects -



here's a photo of the team at Sacred Sports Foundation, our Caribbean partners.

to read more [click here](#)

There are loads of new volunteer and partner`s video interviews and stories

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](#)

Volunteer to host a student



So many of our volunteers travel to volunteer because they want to really get to know other cultures. All say they have experienced such warmth and hospitality from their hosts – here is a great chance to host students from another culture - extend the hand of friendship - to learn more visit www.hostuk.org

[Here is just one story from HOST](#)

people and places suspend Nepal Volunteer Programme

It is with **great sadness and frustration** that we have to suspend matching volunteers to our partner projects in **Nepal**.

It is illegal to work in Nepal – even as a volunteer – without a work permit.

[read more here](#)

where will you volunteer next year?



It's now three years since I started volunteering as project advisor for People and Places and in that time I have visited nearly all our projects, in nine different countries – Morocco, Cambodia, India, Nepal, South Africa, Swaziland, Kenya, the Gambia and Saint Lucia. In all these countries I have talked to our local partners and to people at each of the projects about what sort of help they would like from our volunteers and how we can best contribute to the work they are doing there. I thought you might be interested to read a summary of what I have learned – maybe one of these projects would appeal to you as somewhere you could volunteer next. [So, in no particular order](#)

your project needs YOU!



The Lord Kitchener poster is in my mind when I paraphrase slightly and say: "YOUR PROJECT NEEDS YOU" ... to tell your story and help us find more volunteers to continue your work.

I know that many of you already do this through giving talks and presentations to school groups, church groups, clubs and associations of work colleagues ... for which we also thank you.

[But here's a thought:](#)

meet the *people and places* team [here](#)



[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.

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

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](http://volunteerforever.com)

or at

[go overseas.com](http://gooverseas.com)

We send warmest greetings at this special time of the year and wish everyone a very happy and healthy new year - we wanted to add a photo here but we don't have one of Sallie, Kate, Dianne and Nigel in silly hats – we must rectify that !