



eVOLVE



April 2010 Issue

What is that on the Horizon?

First, a little recap on what the Horizons project is all about...

'Horizons' works closely with the Children's Society – Embrace, which is a nationwide charity supporting refugees and asylum seekers (11-19 year olds) who have recently come to this country. 'Horizons' aims to be a fun and engaging group, organising different types of activities to try and promote different issues, from healthy eating to independence. This year is no exception; Jo Wardle and her team have gone above and beyond to add variety to this year's group of individuals.

The group so far have organised many different types of activities, such as bowling, cinema, rock climbing and fancy-dress-ice-skating, where the young people dressed up as different animals from all over the world, which was very well received and of course, great fun.

It is with extremely successful fundraising such as 'Guessing how many sweets in a jar' and taking part in "Smash-It!" that over £300 has been raised so that this vast range of activities were possible for the participants.

The 'Horizons' team are currently in the process of organising a celebration event for the end of term. This will be held on the 14th April in Norfolk Park, where the young people will be awarded certificates for the different activities they have taken part in. This is going to be an exciting event, giving recognition of the achievements for everyone involved.

Jo Wardle, Project Leader, had only good things to say about the group and was eager to attract other volunteers to consider joining



the project in the future.

"It's worth all the planning and preparation when you see the young people smile," she said, adding, "this is something I definitely want to pursue in the future."

Jo is so passionate about helping these people that she can see it sparking a career path for her. She says that if other students want "valuable life experiences" and to take part in a "really important project, working with a group of vulnerable people, trying to break down barriers as we become a more multi-cultural society," then they should definitely get involved with 'Horizons' come September.

Jo has gained a variety of positive experiences from volunteering with young people, but she has certainly come up against challenges. She explained that it can be harder to get people to participate, or to facilitate the group when they explain who they are and what they do because of stigmas attached. The 'Horizons' team have put a great deal of effort into ensuring the project provides lots of fun and they really have proven that the sky is the limit with HV projects!

'Horizons' would like to thank Sheffield Utd for donating 23 tickets for the Young Asylum Seekers & refugees of the Children's Society.

Emily Stott

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Hallam Challenges shine bright!

Hallam Volunteering have successfully added a new dimension to volunteering this year with the inclusion of 'Hallam Challenges'. These Challenges have been an effective way of widening participation in Hallam Volunteering offering any student the opportunity of participating for shorter periods of time, whilst still gaining valuable quality volunteering experience and recognition. The last 'Hallam Challenge', 'Sharrow Lantern Carnival: Workshops and Parade', saw volunteers joining in one, two or all of the lantern workshops on 13th, 20th and 27th March at Highfields Trinity Hall in order to create their own lanterns, which were then used during the Carnival Parade on 11th April.

In this year's 'Sharrow Lantern Carnival', Hallam Volunteering chose to work with CAN (Creative Action Network), the organisers of the Carnival, arranging three workshops for students where professional volunteer artists were on hand to assist our students with their spectacular creations.

The theme for this year's Carnival was music, and volunteers opened their minds to create their special lanterns. Zoe, the Project Leader for the Lantern Team, who were responsible for promoting the opportunity to students, commented: "Our lantern is a musical instrument - we have done drums, but you can do anything related to music, it can even come from a song; the challenge is making sure that is what comes across in what you are making!"

The alternative volunteering model of this 'Hallam Challenge' drew lots of students' attention, and many international students joined the volunteers' team as well, as you could just turn up on the day for however long and volunteer

Zoe said: "You don't have to be a current Hallam volunteer to do a Challenge, so for us, the main thing was not making the lanterns but promoting it to the students from Hallam University and getting more people involved in Hallam Volunteering and aware of the service for students that they provide."

Although some students had never done something with art, their creativity brought them much more confidence to finish the lanterns with the help of the professional volunteer artists. Cheryl, who does a Communication Studies course at Hallam, said she definitely learned a lot from this unique challenge, "Before we came here, we didn't have much idea about how the lanterns are created, but now, look at the lanterns we did - they are really impressive."

As students we are always facing different challenges in our studies, most of all time - but 'Hallam Challenges' provides an alternative way into volunteering in a flexible format. The hard work at the workshop was all worthwhile when the volunteers were able to see their lanterns lit up in stunning parade fashion. Look out for many more 'Challenges' next year.

Yan Zhu





Discover a spectacular new way to science!

Remember when science was boring and the class was led by a stuffy teacher from the Stone Age? Well, Hallam Volunteering has changed all that this year with Discovery Lab. The project is all about making science more fun and interactive for children in local primary schools. Volunteers in this project are in the process of hosting event days where local children come to the dramatically decorated HUBS for the afternoon to learn about parts of their curriculum, but in a much more exciting way than sitting in a classroom.

Initially at the beginning of each project, a lot of time is spent within the volunteer group discussing the curriculum and the specific topics that they want to focus on. From these idea sessions, they can then match the information to their activity ideas,

whilst ensuring that their main focus is on fun. After all, the recipe for happy children is equal quantities of work and play!

The activities are usually science based, although other topics are covered, with games helping to enhance the learning experience for the young minds involved. Recycled materials are used whenever possible for all the props and games, meaning there is much more scope for creativity for both volunteers and children, and the use of initiative is encouraged at all times to nurture individuals' strengths. It brings out the more creative side of the volunteers as they revisit their primary school years with a spot of painting, cutting and sticking, as well as developing their team building skills. It is a great way to learn while having fun and the confidence within the group of volunteers has grown throughout the year, with more original

ideas coming into practice.

Project Leader Megan Hobson said of the experience, "to see the volunteers taking on the kids and introducing them to their creations is great, and everyone always leaves with a smile on their faces, that's what makes it all worthwhile."

Discovery Lab is a great project to get involved with, be it as a project leader, a volunteer or a school who may be looking for something fun and educational for all children. It nurtures the imagination for all involved, something that may seem to fall by the wayside in the professional world, and gives those with an interest in children a positive way to contribute to their education.

Jenny Pead

Embrace your 'Green' side

It was all go for the Green Team earlier this year when they began their sessions and their quest to engage primary school children with environmental issues. Pupils at Pipworth Community Primary School, located three miles from the city centre of Sheffield are the lucky group working with the Green Team this year!

The Green Team, which is made up of seven volunteers and two project leaders, have employed exciting teaching techniques to work with the teachers and Year 6 pupils.

All the teaching staff and young pupils were both inquisitive and enthusiastic about the topic of deforestation in South America. Discussions were funny and stimulating for the young children this developed their understanding of the deforestation effects, the animals of the rainforests, the native people of the rainforests and the loggers.

The Green Team had scheduled 7 sessions in the school with each one focusing on a different continent and the issues relating to the continent. For example, the first session was based around deforestation in South America; the second and third sessions focussed on drought and endangered species in Africa as well as Global Warming in Antarctica. The fourth and fifth focused on Ocean pollution in Australia and air pollution in Asia. In one particular session on Tuesday 9th February there was particular emphasis on recycling, wildlife and carbon footprints, as they planned to plant cress seeds to demonstrate how plants need water to grow (the effect of drought) and spoke to the children about various issues facing endangered species such as poaching, overexploitation, hunting and persecution.

The Green Team have tried hard to include snippets of information that the children can take away with them which acts as awareness for the future. As Kiri Coubrough, the project leader spoke, "the purpose of the project is to teach the children about the environment and environmental issues that affect not only well publicised areas but locally as well." It sounds like the Green Team have got a firm green-fingered grip on helping to educate the pupils about various aspects of environment!

Go Green Team!

Yu Chen Wang





C-e-l-e-b-r-a-t-e good times!

On the 24th day of both February and March, The HUBS played host to two spectacular show case events!

In February, 'Hat's Off' saw the Hubs transformed into a red, cream and black beauty where the team successfully weaved these three colours into all aspects of the Hat's Off including the display stands for each project, programmes, invites and of course the buoyant balloon arch! There was more creative flare than one of changing rooms' wacky wall paintings. All project leaders, committee and Hallam Volunteering staff assembled to demonstrate all the fabulous work we have done this year. Guests invited came from all spheres of Sheffield to discuss the projects, achievements and values of Hallam Volunteering.

With guest speakers from a community partner, a recent Hallam graduate along with our very own Kate Healey, Volunteering Officer and Elaine Heathcote, Monday Club project leader – all bases were covered. With the recollection of experiences and memories, guests would have found it difficult to find a reason not to take their 'Hat's Off' to Hallam Volunteering! A brilliant evening that would give the Oscars a run for its money in terms of precision and planning.



For one night in March the Hubs was Sheffield's answer to Willy Wonka's chocolate factory, minus the small orange umpa lumpas and Jonny Depp! 'The Event' really was a sweet success! With more chocolate than you could shake a candy cane at, you could find most people gathered round the chocolate fountain as if it were the watering hole! However, guests had to part from their cupcakes, cookies and chocolate supply to take the time to listen to the brilliant and often humorous speeches given by project leaders, college students and other participants working with Aimhigher. It was fabulous to hear a little snippet of experiences from the different participants ranging from our very own university students, to the college students. It was impossible to ignore the scope of Hallam Volunteering and it quickly became clear how far the work and successes of these projects has spread.

We must give a special mention to Matthew Voyse and the Showreel team for the wildly witty film they had produced to represent these Aimhigher projects. The film incorporated the themes of well known television programmes as well as other fantastic imaginative sketches, all whilst being an absolute credit to the team and capturing the great spirit of the Hallam volunteers, college students and school children.

Congratulations to all those involved in 'The Event' and 'Hats Off'. Mission Complete.

Amy Louise Moore





Jigsaw

This year Hallam volunteers continued the brilliant work of the well established project called Jigsaw which aims to benefit children and young people with autism.

This project gave volunteers the chance to befriend a young person and visit them in their family homes, participating in activities such as reading and playing computer games, which in turn encourages them to develop skills whilst being very enjoyable.

All volunteers attended an Autism Awareness talk and a Jigsaw training day beforehand, this ensured

that volunteers were well prepared to visit and spend quality time with the children and young individuals. After the training, they were paired up with a young person based on their shared interests and location and then proceeded to meet the child and their family, doing various activities of their choice. Some of the parents had been extremely welcoming; cooking meals for their child's volunteer or some had taken them along to the cinema.

One of the key elements of success is the flexibility, the volunteers and the individuals met with each other on the basis of fitting in with each others lifestyles.

In addition to the regular meetings, a brilliant part of Jigsaw this year is a 'Family Fun Day'. This is taking place on the 24th April at the Hubs, and will last for around two hours. It will consist of activities such as painting, jewellery making, board games and a games room.

The project leader, Suzanne Cahill says, "It's a chance for all the children to attend a day out and spend some time outside of their home with their befrienders. Parents and siblings are welcome too so it will be a fun day out for all!

Donna Child

'On-side' is on the right track

Did you get 'On Side' at the Concord Sports Centre? If not, here is what you missed!

This project which is a development of "Sport Support" is designed to make a real difference in the lives of adults with physical and learning difficulties by focussing on physical activity. Our very own Hallam Volunteers organised a fun-filled sports day on the 18th of March, which involved lots of sporting activities and provided the participants with coaching and encouragement to get involved and try new things.

The day was funded by the very successful 'Smash-It' fundraising event that the volunteers took part in. The On Side team had been working with the individuals taking part in on-side prior to the sports day in order to get a sense of their project and to build relationships with the participants; they did this by visiting frequently for over four weeks. After getting to know them, the team in unison were really looking forward to making a difference to the participants.

The participants were extremely grateful and thanked our volunteers personally as they thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the variety of activities the Hallam Volunteers put on offer, including Cricket, Boccia, Wii Sports and many more! Hallam Volunteers not only had an entertaining day out, but also were able to see the visible change activity can make to people's lives!

The Project Leader, Alex Anderton, commented on the day's success, 'We had a great turnout and a successful participation rate'.

The day concluded with a presentation and some motivational speeches, which all scored a hit! So next time an event like this takes place, will you be... 'On-Side'?

Rachna Kotecha and Tanya Masih





Time Travellers

Volunteers from the Time Travellers project have been cracking more holes in the space time continuum than on a Doctor Who stag weekend, and I always thought the HUBS was like a giant TARDIS, looks tiny from the outside and but from the inside.... its HUGE!

Like many of the projects, Time Traveller's has now come to an end and as they are yet to feature in eVOLve, So I caught up with Project Leader (or Time Lord) Caroline Watkins to find out what the project have been up to.

The team consists of 11 volunteers; time travelling to classrooms, running history-based activities designed to get pupils in year 3 primary schools interested in all things past. Teachers at the various schools give volunteers a briefing of what historical period they wanted volunteers to cover and then volunteers were given the freedom to organise what they wanted to do in their sessions.

Two of the sessions ran at Tinsley Junior School, where a group of about 30 pupils were warped back to prehistoric times, learning about dinosaurs, looking at fossils and even trying a bit of archaeology. Classes were divided into groups to take part in a series of teaching games and quizzes about the times before man even walked the earth, except The Flintstones of course.

Lowfield Primary School pupils were transported back to learn about the longboats and those horned helmets which were very much in fashion in Viking times. Pupils were engaged in learning about how the Vikings lived, what they ate, what they wore and where they lived etc. Final sessions were held at Springfield Primary School and their chosen historical time was the Victorian Period, particularly learning about the lives Victorian children, in the workhouses of London town.

As with all Volunteering, the benefits are widespread, as the project attracts students studying History and those with aspirations of becoming teachers, giving them the much needed experience for their future careers. When I asked Caroline whether she thought the project had been a success, she told me in modest terms that the pupils were looking forward to them returning, even though it was there last session. But maybe one day they will go back.....to the future.

Mark Copping

Ready? Steady? Dance!

Think of an activity that brings children together in a safe, comfortable space and that allows them to express themselves creatively while taking part in something that will keep them healthy and entertained. If you can imagine this, then you've cracked the secret to one of the great projects Hallam Volunteering has been involved in this year. 'Ready, Steady, Dance' is a fun, creative experience aimed at children in years three and four who are currently based in two primary schools in Sheffield.

The 'Ready, Steady, Dance' team arrive at schools raring to go with a plethora of choreographed dance routines at the ready. The children take part in everything from street dance to musical theatre and Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' is the majority's favourite so far this year.

The project lasts six weeks and invites the children to work hard because at the end of term they get to perform as part of their school assembly demonstrating everything they've learned with our very own Hallam Volunteers. This show is performed for the delight of the team, school staff and parents.

Megan Edwards, head of this exciting project, has only positive things to say about the project: "I love dancing and have done since I was young so it is a really positive experience to be able to share this passion with the children, supervising having a fun time and getting fit. It's not just a normal PE lesson, it's miles better."

It seems this project is fun not only for the children involved but also for the team of people whose ideas spark the foundation of the dance routines and the skills for dancing that help form the live show at the end of term. If you would like to get involved in this project next year please do not hesitate to pop along to the Activities Pod in the Hubs.

Jayne Winn





EDITORIAL

Hello All!

This is the third and final issue of eVOLve! The Publicity Team have been very proud to produce these newsletters to show off the brilliant successes of our volunteers. Many project leaders and committee members have made a valiant effort to develop their projects and roles with new themes and responsibilities, and for that you are all heroes!

On behalf of this year's committee we would like to say it has been an absolute pleasure to have worked with every single volunteer in the many ways, shapes and forms. We see that everyone's time and effort has made such a difference to the many children, young people and adults that we have worked with this year.

Finally... a BIG congratulations and of course good luck to the new Hallam Volunteering Committee of 2010/11!

Love Amy x Publicity Officer 09/10

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HALLAM VOLUNTEERING COMMITTEE TALK TO US!!

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"A big thank you must go to the out-going 09/10 HV Committee, who have been truly superb" (pictured above) TJ Browne, HV Project Volunteer Coordinator





That's all folks!

Helen Roberts - Equal Opportunities Officer

"I loved being on the committee this year, as I had a chance to tell other students about 'Hallam Volunteering' and be part of such a great organisation, I loved Residential and doing the dance and being part of such a fantastic team of wonderful people. I loved to see my team change and what we achieved this year in making sure that we are open to everybody"

Harriet Swain - Working with Young People Project Representative

"My 3 years at University have brought me some much more than just a degree, and Hallam volunteering has been central to these extra learning experiences. I have taught lessons, sat on a committee, made some best friends, acted as Cheryl Cole and got a free t-shirt! I owe so much to Hallam volunteering and will continue volunteering because of my AMAZING times with Hallam! Miss you all already! Xxx"

Jessica Barratt - Working with Children Project Representative

"I have loved being part of Hallam Volunteering! Residential was a great way to start it all off, maybe not the dancing to high school the musical (that's where any dignity I had was soon lost, all thanks to the wonderful Kate Healey!) Cheers :-) I have made friends through HV that will last me a life time. I am soooo sad to be leaving this year, even though my time at Hallam is coming to an end, the memories are going to last forever :-D"

Rich Owen - Working with Children Project Representative

"Being on Hallam Volunteering committee has meant a great deal to me I have learnt a lot and met some amazing people. The best quote of the year would have to be from Harriet at the Christmas party. If you ever want to know how many reindeers there are meant to be, Harriet is the girl to ask- 'Santa only has 8 reindeers, Rudolph doesn't count as one'."

Emma James - Fundraising Officer

"Being fundraising officer this year has been one of the best experiences of my 4 years at University. I have made links with so many different people which has been invaluable. My best achievement has been doing the three part V Factor where I made such good friends with members of Drama, the Antics and union staff. I have worked with a great team who have been fun and supportive and have sat on a committee of bright and enthusiastic people. I'm so sad to leave!! Xxx"

Lucy Richards - Working with Adults Project Representative

"I've really enjoyed being on the Committee and helping making decisions for Hallam Volunteering. Residential was a really great chance to get to know everyone although the Committee dance was still very embarrassing, but learning it was a lot of fun! Writing up the minutes makes me laugh because it reminds me of the funny stuff that was said during the meetings. I'm really looking forward to being on the Committee again next year, although I'm going to miss everyone who's on it this year!"

Alex Tate - Events and Technical Officer

"I have really enjoyed my time as events and tech officer on the Hallam Volunteering committee. My favourite event that we have worked on would have to be V-Factor. Myself and the team learnt lots from this event, by the time we did the final we were able to create a fantastic stage set with some amazing visuals. One of my favourite times was residential - lots of fun times there including performing the committee dance, slightly embarrassing but a good laugh. I will really miss Hallam Volunteering next year, It has been such a good experience working with you all.

Amy Louise Moore - Publicity Officer

"What can I say... it's been emotional! Having a place on Hallam Volunteering Committee has been truly awesome. I will miss being able to witness the distinct difference Hallam Volunteering makes to a lot of individuals! I should probably apologise for my regular bursts of giggles in meetings along with frequent use of the phrase "This might not be relevant but...." I'd like to thank Hallam Volunteering staff, the committee and of course, the Publicity Team! You all rock! Xxx"

Kate Healey - Volunteering Officer

I have loved volunteering and I am devastated that I will be leaving after four years. It has kept me sane throughout uni and perhaps made me a little insane too. The memories I have will last a lifetime as will the friends I have made! No doubt the activities pod will be a quieter place without me, but that doesn't mean I will be leaving quietly!

Yours truly, Kate Healey

P.S. I love you all, yes every single one of you! It has been a pleasure representing you!!

