



# EAST OF ENGLAND VOLUNTEERS EMAIL BULLETIN

## DECEMBER 2011

### Message from Regional Director

I have had a lot of question from volunteers asking about the rationale in merging with Fairbridge.

One of our key commitments at the start of the integration process was to take the best bits of both organisations, to create a new charity that really will deliver for young people. We're now starting to see many examples of this happening in practice – we have been identifying great examples of Fairbridge policies which will be adopted Trust-wide and the development of our united identity is also an area where I genuinely believe the 'best of both' principle is being applied.

Together, we will offer a more joined-up service to young people, helping many on a longer journey from despair to success. Crucially, we'll be more efficient – helping more young people with the funds we can raise.

I also want to thank everyone who continues to deliver excellent business as usual during this period of change. We are on course to support nearly 4,000 young people in the East of

England this year, a record high, with a top quality service, your continued support is critical if we are going to achieve this goal. Press coverage between 16<sup>th</sup> July and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2011, Print and broadcast coverage reached more than **1.8 million** people across the East of England. This included details of our Enterprise Campaign, reports on youth unemployment and case studies of our celebrate success finalists

If you've ever been in any doubt about why this is so important, then our celebrate success event held recently in Cambridge showed cased our amazing young people.

At the event, one of our awards winners was Chris Bartrum who since joining The Prince's Trust xl club– which supports young people who are struggling at school - run with Respect4U, has shown great maturity and taken ownership in dealing with his condition, Chris told me that "The Prince's Trust xl club gives you lots of things, and not just training and skills to help you get a job. It has given me a sense of belonging and has really helped me build friendships which I hope will last forever,"

Graham Ball – Regional Director, East of England

### Staff Changes

As many of you will be aware, Shopie Houghton-Hood, Programme Executive – Awards, will be leaving us shortly to go on Maternity Leave.

Shopie's last day will be Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. I am sure you will all join us in the Norwich office in wishing her well as she prepares for her new arrival.

I'm pleased to say that, from January, Oa Mackdonald will be covering Shopie's role on Development Awards in

Norfolk. Oa currently works on the xl programme having previously worked on Awards with clients from Suffolk Probation. Oa will also be picking up responsibility for the Enterprise Programme in part of Suffolk when Suzanne Hogg goes onto Maternity leave.

Until January, Gail Norman, Programme Executive Awards in Cambridgeshire will be looking after the Awards Programme in Norfolk.

## Celebrate Success In The East of England

This year's East of England Celebrate Success Awards were held in Cambridge on 17<sup>th</sup> October. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> year that The Prince's Trust has held these awards, designed to recognise the outstanding achievements of young people supported by The Prince's Trust.

It was a fantastic event and I was so pleased to see so many volunteers in attendance. I know those of you that I spoke to found the evening enjoyable and truly inspirational.

Congratulations go to all the winners, finalists and their champions, for their achievements. We wish them all good luck going forward to the short listing for the National finals which will be held early next year.

You can read a few details about some of the winners below, please do visit the website for more information and to see videos of some of the winners, [www.princes-trust.org.uk/celebrate](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/celebrate)

### Stacy Bradley – Winner Young Achiever of the Year Award.

Stacy had a traumatic childhood and early adulthood, being exposed to abuse, neglect and assault.

Stacy was desperate to break out of this cycle and to help others in her situation and so applied to take on volunteering roles in this field. She applied to The Trust for financial support to do this.

Stacy is now in full time employment and recently completed a two month work placement with the Prince's Trust in Norfolk. She is looking to work with The Trust on new projects in the future.

### Hayley Draper – Winner Enterprise Award

Hayley encountered a number of personal problems during her childhood. She however always had a passion for coffee and a dream of starting her own coffee shop.

After several months of unemployment, with the support of The Prince's Trust Hayley opened The Window on Lower Wensum Street, believed to be the world's smallest coffee shop.

Since opening the business has gone from strength to strength and become quite a focal point in the area both for her loyal local customers and visiting tourists searching for an excellent cup of coffee. Hayley has been very grateful for the support she's received from The Trust, and particularly her Business Mentor Peter Shields *"He has been instrumental to my success. At first, we had fortnightly meetings where we reviewed my progress and talked about any challenges while planning for the future. Peter also provided moral support to keep me motivated and on track."*

### Samantha Jones – Winner Breakthrough Award

When Samantha's dreams of joining the Royal Air Force were shattered following a diagnosis of diabetes she didn't know where to turn.

Inspired by the NHS staff she had encountered, Samantha took part in the Get Into Hospital Services programme at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. She excelled on the programme and now works in the same department where she undertook her work placement and is looking forward to a career in the NHS.

### Chris Bertram – Winner Educational Achiever Award

Chris suffered from a number of problems at home and school, ADHD and had problems forming relationships. Through The Trust's xl programme Chris has managed to overcome a number of these problems, developed new skills and is emerging as a mature member and integral member of the group.

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## Contact the Volunteers Team in the East of England

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