



Allegra's Ambition Newsletter - May 2020

It is impossible to update you on Allegra's Ambition's last six months without acknowledging the huge impact Covid-19 is having on many charities and the vulnerable groups they work with. Although Covid has disrupted and delayed a number of our projects it has created new opportunities. We have been impressed with the ingenious ways many of our partners have risen to the challenge, providing essential support to their communities during this time, and pleased to have been able to contribute to their efforts. Do follow us on Instagram or Facebook for the latest updates.

Thank you to everyone who helped us mark Allegra's 21st birthday in January. It was heart-warming to see so many of her friends and to share stories and memories. Your continuing support makes a huge difference to us and to Allegra's Ambition and we are very proud of the legacy we are building.



We are delighted to announce our first two Allegra's Ambition Advocates, Hannah Tice and Sarah Wigley. Both have been brilliant long-time supporters, helping out in so many ways, not least in undertaking some fantastic fundraising challenges: Hannah has ridden on a bicycle from Land's End to John o'Groats and Sarah has walked the whole length of Hadrian's Wall. Hannah also worked for Street Reach last year and is now training to be a social worker with FrontLine. There is information about our volunteer Advocate programme on our website (<https://www.allegrasambition.org.uk/volunteer>). Applications are welcome at any time.

OUR PROJECTS

Rackets Cubed (<http://racketscubed.com/>): In February we met with Rackets Cubed, a charity that runs integrated Squash, Tennis, Education (STEM / Maths) and Nutrition Programmes for local inner-city children from high IDACI schools. We were impressed with their projects and their ethos and aims fit very well with ours. We have been looking at ways to support them and during the Covid lockdown we have been helping fund food boxes and activities packs which they are delivering to a cohort of very vulnerable families in South East London. Longer term, we hope to bring their programme of sport, education and nutrition to a site in Hampshire. They currently work

in partnership with university facilities: Please get in contact if you are able to offer assistance with establishing this project.

Street Reach (<https://www.winchesterstreetreach.org/>) has moved online during lockdown and Friday football is now a zoom session with quizzes, exercise and chat. Young people are also able to have one to one sessions with the dedicated youth workers and they are able to identify and support the most vulnerable.

Carneys Community Centre (<https://carneyscommunity.org/>) is also providing exercise classes, food boxes and online mentoring and support to its young people. It is a testament to the organisation that so many of their young people and alumni are fund raising and finding ways to give back to the community because of their example. We met Noel, an ex-member, when he accompanied us to Downing Street as a Carneys representative a couple of years ago. He is doing some great work during this crisis and you can find out more on his Instagram or via ours.



Youth Options (<https://www.youthoptions.co.uk/>) On a drizzly day in early January day we visited Itchen Country Park to see a Youth Options Bushcraft session being delivered to a group of local primary school children. We have supported this project from its inception. It was great to see the enthusiasm of the facilitators, staff and pupils collecting wood, making a fire and enjoying hot chocolate undeterred by the weather and to hear first-hand about the difference it has made to the young people. We are also working with them on plans for the classroom at their new outdoor learning centre in Eastleigh which is very exciting.

Ebony (<https://www.ebonyhorseclub.org.uk/>): Our annual Ebony Day is planned for July 27th 2020. It is unclear whether we will be able to go ahead this year but unfortunately this looks unlikely. This is hugely disappointing as it is a very special day for everyone who attends and we always get wonderful feedback. We will keep you updated. Ebony Horse Club is itself currently closed and the horses are having a break in the countryside.

CHICKS (<https://www.chicks.org.uk/>): Our Allegra's Ambition break is currently on hold. We hope to sponsor a break as soon as it is safe and are keeping in touch with CHICKS for updates. Do get in touch if you are interested in volunteering. The break runs from Monday to Thursday and you are very well supported by the experienced break leaders. Previous volunteers have had a brilliant experience, describing it as life changing and also a lot of fun.

FUNDRAISING



November seems a long time ago, but we want to give a big shout out to everyone who contributed to making our first Christmas Fair such a success. There was a great variety of stall holders and lots of Christmas shopping opportunities plus coffee, cakes and gorgeous flowers. The event raised over £2,000 through sales of our merchandise and other goods. We are now planning for this year so please put **October 15th** in your diary and get in touch if you would like to have a stall or help out in any way.



Georgina Witter is raising money for Allegra's Ambition by making and selling pink cotton facemasks. You can order them via the Instagram page [@_masked_up](#). They are very stylish and 20% of each sale goes to help fund our projects.



In March, Anna hosted a bridge afternoon and tea in her beautiful barn. It was a lovely event with some fierce competition and a delicious tea. Thank you to everyone who came and helped raise over £1,000. Huge respect to Allegra's cousin, Grace, and to Lucy J both who ran half marathons to raise money for us.

We know how gruelling that is and are very proud of both of you.

Exeter Polo Club selected us as one of their charities for their Christmas Ball and raised an amazing £441. Thank you for thinking of us. The party looks like a lot of fun from the pictures.



St Swithuns' girls at university at Exeter, Loughborough and Royal Holloway University Lacrosse teams were all driving fundraising for us this year. Thank you so much. We hope you have all had great seasons!



We had a lovely surprise when we learned that Tiger Motocross team (<https://tigersmdt.co.uk/>) had selected us as one of their charities of the year. They are an intrepid group of young stunt riders who put on displays throughout the year and a variety of events. Obviously, they are not able currently to be out performing but if you look at their website you get an idea of the incredible feats they perform. It is well worth going to watch them. Thank you for choosing us.

We can never say enough thank yous for the brilliant fundraising activities and challenges so many of you have undertaken. We continue to be amazed and grateful for your support.

Don't forget to check out our website shop (<https://www.allegrasambition.org.uk/shop/>) for hoodies, t-shirts and much more. Our hair ties and bracelets are on special offer at the moment so it is well worth a look.

**We hope you are all staying safe and well and that we will see you all soon.
Follow us on Instagram and Facebook and do look at our website.**

