

Allegra's Ambition Newsletter November 2020



As expected, it has been a very difficult six months for all our charities and even more so for the vulnerable people they work with. We have continued to be impressed with the dedication and creativity our partners have shown in overcoming the challenges Covid-19 has thrown at us and we remain committed to supporting them to deliver their essential services. It is a tribute to their hard work that, despite all the constraints, most of our projects were able to start up again over the summer and make a real impact on the lives of the young people they support.

OUR PROJECTS

Youth Options (<https://www.youthoptions.co.uk/>) We are delighted that the Allegra Classroom at Youth Options' Outdoor Learning Centre in Eastleigh is being installed this month. We expect the Centre to be open by January. We have long been supporters of Youth Options' outdoor learning projects. They work with vulnerable young people using bushcraft to help build self-esteem and to improve mental health, behaviour and wellbeing. The classroom will provide an indoor space to enable them to deliver classes in all weathers. We are very grateful to our donors, particularly the Sumner Wilson Charitable Trust, Hopetoun House (Wellington School) and Rathbones.

Street Reach (<https://www.winchesterstreetreach.org/>) continued to work online through lockdown developing a variety of creative ways to keep in touch with and engage with young people. They are back delivering face to face outreach and Allegra's Ambition Friday football has started again which is very positive.

Rackets Cubed (<http://racketscubed.com/>). We have continued to support Rackets Cubed with their incredible efforts supplying food boxes and activity packs to a huge number of families in different parts of the country. Food poverty has been identified as an ongoing concern for many young people and so this project has continued beyond lockdown.

Carneys Community Centre (<https://carneyscommunity.org/>) has adapted its offering to support its community both online and face to face over the last few months. We were pleased to be able contribute to their providing food boxes to vulnerable families during lockdown. We are also funding their Year 11 homework club again this year which is all the more important given the disruption to education over the last few months.

Ebony Horse Club (<https://www.ebonyhorseclub.org.uk/>) We were hugely disappointed not to be able to run our annual Ebony Day this summer as a consequence of the pandemic. We were touched by the many supportive messages from our brilliant volunteers who help to make the day so special and from Ebony who say the day is "the highlight of their summer".



We very much hope that it will be a different picture next year and that we will be able to set a date for 2021 soon. We will keep you updated via Instagram and Facebook and hope many of you will be able to keep the date free. We are continuing to fund two schools' riding sessions with Ebony which we expect to start up again post lockdown.

CHICKS has been rebranded as **Go Beyond** (<https://www.gobeyond.org.uk/>) Covid-19 has been very disruptive but they have just started to provide day breaks from their Cornwall property. They are currently offering their service to vulnerable young people in school bubbles in the south west. We very much hope our residential break will resume next year.

Winchester Sport and Leisure Park (<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/projects/5740/replacement-leisure-centre-project>) is continuing to progress. Winchester council have just recently approved funding for appropriate drainage infrastructure which will enable the Allegra's Ambition outdoor gym and trim trail to go ahead and we are now entering the design stage. The experience of Covid-19 has shone a light on the importance of outdoor spaces for leisure and exercise which are free to everyone and we are proud to be a partner in this exciting project.

FUNDRAISING

This has been a very difficult year for fundraising for all charities and it has been no different for Allegra's Ambition. Events have been cancelled everywhere. This makes us especially grateful to those who have managed to fundraise for us over this period.

Josie and Tori spent months training for the Swiss Iron Man 70.3 which was due to take place in September. When it was cancelled they set their sights on competing in Weymouth and then in Portugal both of which were also cancelled! Undeterred they managed to find an Iron Man in Turkey which they both completed last week in magnificent times. We are in awe of all their efforts. Training must have been exceptionally difficult with lockdown and the closure of pools. Thank you both so much.





Huge thanks to Georgina who started @_masked_up. She has raised £400 for Allegra's Ambition by making and selling gorgeous cotton facemasks. We know how much work went into this project and are so grateful.



The fantastic staff team at Hopetoun House @Wellingtoncollege ran a combined 53 kilometres on 14 June in aid of Allegra's Ambition. Thank you to Sam Gutteridge for organising, to the amazing tutors who took part and to all of you who donated so generously to this brilliant effort.



Through lockdown the wonderful Naomi ran an online Saturday barre class with proceeds going to a different charity each week. We were lucky enough to be one of the recipients. Thank you Naomi for raising £200 for us. It is so appreciated.

The Tigers Motorcycle Display Team (www.tigersmdt.co.uk) are a brilliant group of young motorcycle display riders (aged 5-16). They have chosen Allegra's Ambition as one of the two charities they are supporting this year. Although most of their events have had to be cancelled, the team have been thinking of other creative ways to raise money and recently held a sponsored sleepover event. We are very grateful for their support and urge you to check out this talented group on Instagram @tigers.motorcycle.display.team.

We were very disappointed that Covid uncertainty made it impossible for us run our Christmas Fair this year. However, we have lots of merchandise on our website so please take a look and consider us when you do your Christmas shopping. We are currently offering free shipping until 2 December. We plan to produce some Allegra's Ambition joggers to complement last year's hoodies which were a great success. We will be taking orders and will post more about it on Instagram. If you would like to order please contact us.

We were very grateful that @thehampshirefair selected us as one of their charities for 2020. The fairs run twice a year with a great range of small brand stall holders taking part. This year they are running two virtual fairs online. The second takes place from 16th – 29th November, the perfect time for Christmas shopping. Do please follow them on Instagram to



find out more. A percentage of anything you spend will be shared with us along with three other local Hampshire charities. Thank you so much.



If you shop with Amazon, Allegra's Ambition has recently signed up to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>. When shopping on Amazon if you enter the website via the smile link (<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>) and search for Allegra's Ambition on the charity options Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price of the goods you buy to Allegra's Ambition. Please do try it and remember every penny that we receive goes directly to supporting our projects.

Thank you as always for all your fantastic support. We are so grateful to every one of you.

Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook and www.allegrasambition.org.uk