

Newsletter #4
Working in partnership
October 2021

Generation Green is a 16-month funded project that aims to connect young people to nature, create and save jobs, and build an aspirant workforce for a green recovery.



Alison Stevens,
Programme Director

Welcome

In this issue of our newsletter partnerships are put under the spotlight.

From the outset of Generation Green we knew that partnerships were fundamental to the success of the project. These partnerships go far beyond the Access Unlimited coalition. It's about the partnerships we have each developed, and continue to develop, with organisations, small charities, schools, community groups and individuals.

This multi-layered approach will enable us to reach many thousands of young people and create a legacy that goes far beyond the Generation Green project.

Summer saw all Access Unlimited partners reach out to young people through our myriad of projects. It also proved a great opportunity to connect with teachers away from the classroom and the day-to-day pressures of school life and, of course, Covid.

While the country may feel it has opened again as Covid restrictions and lockdown have been lifted, Covid still presents a challenge for us.

Now that pupils have returned to the classroom, we are seeing some activities and residential stays cancelled or postponed as Covid cases rise in schools.

Over the summer, Covid also impacted on instructor and volunteer recruitment, particularly those coming from overseas faced with quarantine and the associated expenses.

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However, our difficulty to recruit only serves to further highlight the important role Generation Green is playing in connecting young people to nature and building an aspirant workforce for a green recovery.

Despite difficulties, together with our respective partners we have reached thousands of young people over the summer, engaging them in fantastic activities and volunteering opportunities.

Our digital resources and virtual field trips are helping us continue to deliver experiences and training in the face of Covid and the impending winter months, we will showcase some of these in our next newsletter.

As we move into the autumn and winter months, new opportunities present themselves, like low cost residentials for schools as well as seasonal activities and projects.

The weather may be getting colder and duller but our passion for Generation Green burns brightly.

A big thank you once again from me to everyone who is making Generation Green a reality.

Alison Stevens, Programme Director (based at YHA)

Girlguiding ambassador launches new Night Under the Stars badge

Girlguiding teamed up with adventurer Anna McNuff to encourage young people to get outdoors and closer to nature this summer, with the launch of their new Night Under The Stars badge.

To date, more than 5,000 badges have been sold.

The new badge has been created to celebrate and recognise the time all young people spend discovering and exploring nature.

To celebrate the launch of the Night Under The Stars badge, Girlguiding ambassador Anna created and shared a [video](#) and [top tips blog](#) in which she suggested lots of fun and adventurous outdoor activities, from campfire storytelling and evening bug hunts to spending a night under the stars.

The badge, available to purchase from the Girlguiding web shop, allows everyone to celebrate and remember all the times they have spent discovering and exploring nature, whether in their own garden or at one of the Girlguiding activity centres.



Get your badge at the [Girlguiding web shop](#)



South Downs Youth Action comes back bigger in 2021

A partnership with South Downs Volunteering Network has made it possible for South Downs National Park to get South Downs Youth Action up and running again in 2021.

South Downs Volunteering Network works as a collaborative 'hub' in partnership with local organisations and charities to support their interests and protect the environment of the South Downs National Park.

Daniel Greenwood, Volunteering Development Officer for South Downs National Park, said: "It's incredibly exciting to get South Downs Youth Action up and running again as we had to cancel last year's programme due to the pandemic. We're back for 2021 with a bigger programme than ever before."

Twenty Youth Action Days - a series of one-day events and residential experiences for 16-25-year-olds who want to make a difference for the environment - have been funded by Generation Green.

Working in partnership with a range of organisations through South Downs Volunteering Network has meant a wide variety of opportunities are available, including photographing wildlife, species surveying, clearing plastic from beaches, and rural skills and crafts.

Taking place between August and November and with more than 200 places available, the South Downs National Park team used the local press to raise awareness of the opportunities, securing fantastic coverage in the Mid Sussex Times, Shoreham Herald, Sussex Express and Rye Observer.



So Sussex helps South Downs National Park engage young people

A longstanding partner of South Downs National Park has been instrumental in delivering Generation Green funded activity.

So Sussex, a family run company that runs outdoor activities and events throughout Sussex, is delivering nature day visits and residential experiences with YHA South Downs for Generation Green through its Schools Without Walls programme.

Schools Without Walls allows key stage 1, 2 and 3 pupils to undertake outdoor learning.

Already 81 young people from disadvantaged backgrounds have enjoyed an inspiring day out on the Downs during the summer through So Sussex's Schools Without Walls programme. And a further 350 young people will have completed day visits and residential experiences by the end of the project. A number of participants will earn a John Muir Award through repeat visits.

So Sussex is also benefitting from the partnership with South Downs National Park, as its staff are able to access additional training and resources provided by Generation Green funding.



Park Life

New Forest National Park's apprentice rangers are sharing their skills and developing new ones with ranger teams in partner organisations across the National Park.

Jordan Jones and Ben Atwell, whose apprenticeships are funded by Generation Green, are each spending time with Forestry England, National Trust, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and RSPB.

Through a placement with each partner organisation, the apprentices gain experience in a variety of ranger work, from public engagement and event delivery to site maintenance and practical habitat management.

Gary North, New Forest Recreation Manager at Forestry England, praised the partnership saying: "The New Forest Ranger Apprenticeship is a great opportunity and route into the organisation to understand who we are and what we do, as well as develop key employment skills. There's a real opportunity for the apprentices to experience both practical management of the nation's forests and engage with the people who use them, and be able to leave a small impact and feel a sense of achievement, whether this was maintaining a walking trail for people to enjoy for years to come or educating a visitor to act responsibly on their next visit."

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Partnerships boost summer programme for NNPA

The summer holidays proved a great opportunity for Northumberland National Park Authority (NNPA) to engage with young people aged 12-16 and their families.

Working with three organisations - Useful Vision, Berwick Youth Project and North Tyne Youth, NNPA delivered a series of Generation Green-funded activities during August.

Partnering with Useful Vision, a charity which provides opportunities for blind or partially sighted children around the North East, enabled six families with visually impaired children to access Generation Green-funded activities with NNPA.

The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre near Hadrian's Wall was the setting for the activities which included Birds are Brill and Sensational Senses.

Working with Berwick Youth Project, young people aged 12-16 visited locations around the National Park every Tuesday for six weeks during the summer holiday, taking part in a variety of activities ranging from map reading and fire lighting to clean air surveys and wildlife photography, which were led by Young Green Leaders and National Park volunteers.

Keen to cut their carbon footprint, NNPA brought the National Park to North Tyne Youth's summer retreat residential at Otterburn Sport Centre. North Tyne Youth works with young people in rural Northumberland, bringing them together at events, trips, and youth clubs.

National Park staff and young volunteers delivered a day packed with Generation Green-funded activities, including geocache trails, senses activities, tree id and a scavenger hunt, to young people during their summer retreat.

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Work with University of Derby brings wider benefits to coalition

In issue 3 of the newsletter, we brought you news that the Nature Connectedness Research Group (NCRG) at the University of Derby had been appointed to support the evaluation of the Generation Green project.

NCRG was the first group of its kind to focus on the relationship between people and the rest of nature. Its research has been honoured in the UK's 100 Best Breakthroughs list, compiled by Universities UK, for its pioneering work looking at people's sense of their relationship with the natural world.

Led by Outward Bound Trust, NCRG is now collating qualitative and quantitative data from the Access Unlimited coalition's Generation Green-funded activities.

As well as data on diversity, geographical representation, numbers of young people reached and socio-economic groups, the coalition is also gathering first-hand testimonials, video footage and feedback from the thousands of people experiencing the Generation Green project.

Through the relationship, NCRG has given Access Unlimited partners free access to its online 20-hour CPD Connecting to Nature course. The course is designed to help people connect better to nature and maximise the wellbeing benefits.

The course is having a positive impact on people who have completed it, including Bethan Meredith YHA's Generation Green Apprentice. She said: "The course definitely highlighted and proved the positives of nature connectedness. I've learnt that connecting with nature is not just about the environment you're in, but the way you interact with that environment."

You can access NCRG's Connecting to Nature course here:

<https://www.derby.ac.uk/short-courses-cpd/online/free-courses/nature-connectedness-relationship-with-nature/>



WWF partnership helping Scouts support Generation Green outcomes

Fifty digital resources, which support the outcomes of Generation Green and connect young people with nature, have been created by Scouts who are working in partnership with WWF, the world's leading independent conservation organisation.

Activities in the resources have been aligned to the Green Champion programmes.

The co-authored resources complement the Million Hands programme, and are just one of the projects through which Scouts is helping create more than 100,000 Green Champions to inspire the next generation of young people to connect with the outdoors.

Participating in A Million Hands is one way Scouts can achieve their Community Impact Staged Activity Badge, by taking practical action in the service of others, to create positive social change.



First Travel discount negotiated for schools

A partnership with First Travel Solutions (FTS) is ensuring affordable and sustainable travel for schools who are taking part in a Generation Green-funded programme.

First  **Education and School Travel**

With travel costs often being prohibitive for schools, YHA has teamed up with FTS to ensure schools visiting the YHA network can access the discount as well as other benefits.

FTS provides managed passenger transport throughout the UK using coaches with EURO V or EURO VI engines; these are the cleanest on the UK's roads.

Rick Smith, Head of Education and School Travel at FTS and a former YHA hostel manager, said: "As well as providing value for money, we also focus on sustainability and the impact of travel on our environment. This fits with our wider environmental aims and is important for our involvement in the Generation Green programme and its wider aims."

As part of the partnership FTS provides a dedicated booking contact and invoicing process for each school. All vehicles are monitored by a 24hr control room and FTS will also replace a vehicle at no additional cost in the case of a breakdown.

As a formal tour operator, FTS also adheres to regulations guarding against any unforeseen financial failure, which ensures schools' deposits are 100% protected.

Rick added: "We are very proud to be working with YHA on the travel aspects of the Generation Green programme. We have been longstanding partners in other areas of the charity's work and fully support the aims and objectives of this wonderful organisation. Finding a safe coach travel option for any off-site school trip or residential visit is immensely important and requires attention to detail in the planning and delivery. We provide a high quality coach travel service to schools and groups across the whole of the UK on a daily basis."

To access the discount schools simply email First Travel with details of their visit and a discount is immediately applied. Simple as that!



Outward Bound partnership brings summer to Manchester

In July, after 665 long, dark days The Outward Bound Trust opened its doors once again for young people to enjoy a summer adventure programme.

A summer adventure at Outward Bound is the chance for young people from across the UK (and usually the world) to come together for a week or three of learning and adventure, self-discovery and fun.

Generation Green funded over 100 places this summer – and 10 of these were allocated via the young person's charity Young Manchester.

With a staggering 1 in 3 children living in poverty in Manchester, the charity aims to provide young people across the city with increased opportunities in all aspects of their life by commissioning projects that respond to their ever-changing needs.

Getting young people outdoors and spending time in nature was a priority for Young Manchester following another inner city lockdown, a second round of school closures and prolonged isolation from friends. To enable this, Young Manchester offered 10 young people a place on a week-long residential in Aberdovey to help rebuild confidence, develop self-esteem and resilience.

Oliver Blomfield, Head of Summer Adventures at Outward Bound explained: "Organisations like Young Manchester are working day in, day out with the young people who can benefit from our services the most. Our ongoing partnership means we can identify and signpost vital opportunities like these, to young people who might not otherwise be looking for an Outward Bound adventure."

Generation Green is funded by the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The fund is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency.

Green Recovery Challenge Fund



The National Lottery Heritage Fund



Generation Green is the first project to be delivered by the Access Unlimited coalition. The project capitalises on the coalition partners' combined reach of more than two million young people. Learn more at www.yha.org.uk/generationgreen

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