Youth Travel Bursary Winners

Here are selection of our winners over the years. We hope they give you inspiration.

2013 – Jack Wishart and Oliver Robinson

Jack, currently studying for a degree in Chemical Engineering at Cambridge, is travelling to Northern Thailand to work on a clean water project for a month in July with the Karen Hilltribes Trust. The project involves working alongside the Karen people to help install a simple but effective gravity fed water system to provide the village with access to clean water. Such water systems have led to a dramatic reduction in the spread of water borne diseases such as typhoid and E. coli in villages where they have been successfully installed. For the duration of the stay he will be staying with, and joining in, the activities of the Karen people and will become part of their close knit community.

Oliver is a student at Oxford University, and will be working with a team for 8 weeks in a rural Ugandan village. “Our aim is to make a lasting improvement to people’s quality of life by improving facilities and raising awareness around health”. He will be working with the local community to protect water sources, construct water storage tanks, teach sanitation and to build healthier and more efficient stoves. In living as the locals do and becoming integrated into the community, this trip will promote sustainable development to help those suffering from poverty for years to come.

2012 – Jenny Morris and Jessica Goosman

Both Jenny and Jessica are former pupils of Arden.

Jenny, a current medical student at Leeds, is spending a month in July with colleagues from Leeds working in a deprived rural mining area of Tanzania. The project, under the auspices of Light in Africa, involves work in a children’s home for orphans as well as taking part in health education seminars and assisting with medical dispensaries. Money raised by the volunteers is spent locally on developing new food kitchens and in the provision of free medical care.

Jessica, a geography graduate currently qualifying in law, is spending two months in Northern Thailand. Her work with the indigenous forest people involves providing professional advice and skills, under the Forest Peoples Programme. This will help them oppose aggressive developments which threaten and jeopardise their way of life. The programme also involves using the indigenous people’s skills and knowledge to advise government bodies and agencies on the management of the natural forest resources where they live.
2011 – Lucy Pickering and Imogen Butler

Singer and musician Lucy Pickering at Durham University, joined King Edward VI Camp Hill sixth form pupil Imogen Butler as winners this year. Both former pupils of Arden started their travels in August.

Lucy taught at schools in Kathmandu and took part in a community project whilst there.

Imogen was seeking to discover the effects of the demolition of the Kowloon Walled City squatter settlement in Hong Kong on the lives of the former residents. She travelled to Hong Kong to interview the Kau Fong Association and other eminent ex-residents. Her findings will provide detailed information about the effects of the demolition of the Kowloon Walled City, which could potentially be applied when considering urban slum demolition elsewhere.

2010 – Julia Shelley, Olivia James, Thomas Jewell

Three Knowle students travelled to Edinburgh, Borneo & Nepal this year.

Julia Shelley joined a musical comedy group of Cambridge undergraduates and performed in London and at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe throughout the Summer. Durham University student Olivia James spent 2 months in Nepal developing a greater awareness of the music culture of diverse ethnic groups. Thomas Jewell headed off for a year in Borneo as a volunteer at an outward bound school in Sabah, Borneo with the Project Trust educational charity.

2009 – Mollie Routledge, Jenny Hawkin, George Walker

Ghana, India & Nepal – the destinations of three ex Arden School pupils following their successful applications. We broke the YTB rules to award grants totalling £3,000.

Mollie Routledge spent the first half of 2010 working in Hyderabad at a hostel for young people. Jenny Hawkin, already studying at Cambridge spent six weeks teaching in an Orphanage in
Nepal. George Walker, a Medical School student, took 3 months out as a volunteer in a hospital in Ghana.

It was difficult to select three winners from a good number of quality applications. The high degree of research and commitment the three teenagers demonstrated in their applications and presentations made the difference when it came to the final selection’, says Bob Thurtle, Chair of the Lions Community Services Committee

2008 – Roisin Mendonca & Alison Walker

Knowle residents Roisin and Alison met up at Arden School where they were both formerly pupils. Roisin, on the left, returned after a six week Summer assignment in Zambia where she worked at a centre for homeless children in the capital, Lusaka. ‘I had a wonderful summer in spite of the challenges,’ said Roisin. ‘The money from Lions enabled me to do more than I would ever have imagined – as well as feeding, clothing and teaching children, we were able to plant vegetables and crops for them to harvest later and we provided materials to help the building of a new classroom.’

On the right Alison went to Malaysia for three months and assisted in community projects in Sabah, North Borneo, to provide facilities such as infant schools, meeting halls, libraries, and clean water systems. Alison is hoping to put her experience to good use when she plans to become a social worker.

2007 – Amy McGuinness & Andrew Decker

Amy McGuinness, who lives in Dorridge, and Andrew Dekker of Knowle are both former pupils of Arden School.

Andrew is a medical student at Nottingham University and plans to spend eight weeks early in 2008 at the Groote Schuur hospital in Cape Town, South Africa. Cape Town is regarded as one of the most violent cities in the world and their trauma unit is one of the world’s busiest, treating 15,000 patients annually.

Amy McGuinness completed her Physiotherapy degree at the University of Birmingham and before taking up a permanent appointment, she spent a period of time as a volunteer at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi. Her attachment there was under a charity funded scheme which links that hospital with the Birmingham Children’s Hospital.
2006 – Gillian Dolphin & Jenna Ward

Jenna, medical student at Leeds University at the time, spent 6 weeks at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi where she was a volunteer worker in the Obstetrics Department. “Working at the hospital has been really challenging but I had a great experience there” she said.

Gillian was studying Nursing at Coventry University before spending part of the next summer at a school in Darjeeling in India.

Earlier in the day Jenna had spoken to many of the older pupils still studying at the School and encouraged them to consider planning an adventure of their own.

2005 – Jenny Sheen & Katie Smith

Katie Smith travelled to Svalbard in the Arctic Ocean on a month long Young Explorers Expedition, and post-graduate Jenny Sheen from Knowle set off to Sri Lanka to undertake a 2-month journalism placement in Colombo.

‘I read about the Bursary in the local newspaper and felt that my proposed trip to the arctic wilderness to explore and study the vegetation distribution in the different habitats might qualify for a share of the money,’ said Katie from Dorridge, who celebrated her 18th birthday whilst away.

Jenny, whose ambition was to become a features journalist on a national paper, had already graduated at Bristol and gained work experience on a teenage girls’ magazine in Scotland and later at the Solihull Times. She funded the balance of the costs herself, working this Summer teaching English as a second language in Edinburgh. ‘I discovered the project online and became passionate about the opportunity to broaden my journalism experience working for an English language national daily newspaper based in Colombo,’ she said.

2004 – Paul Taylor

Paul was the first winner of the YTB. Before applying Paul had previously funded his own trip and spent three months working unpaid in an orphanage in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa where the children were either Aids infected or had lost parents as a result of Aids.

The next year Paul decided to return to South Africa for another 3 months as part of a team to make a film and DVD of the children in the orphanage in order to help raise funds towards a re-building programme for the orphanage. In addition, the project helped raise the awareness of the effect of Aids
both in South Africa and the U.K. His bursary assisted Paul with his travelling, accommodation and film and DVD production costs of over £6,000.

Paul’s film ‘We Are Together’ featuring the children of the Agape orphanage in South Africa enjoyed great acclaim being shown on Channel 4 TV and in a number of nationwide art cinemas in 2008. The film went on to raise over £250,000 for the orphanage.

[Click to view the Telegraph article on Paul’s film]