

Virtual Volunteering Times

Volume 2 Issue 8

9 April 2021

A GREAT PLACE TO VOLUNTEER

Looking forward.....

When restrictions ease enough we are of course all looking forward to seeing our friends and families face to face and giving them a big hug, but what else are people looking forward to? Here's what some of you and the Voluntary Services team said.....

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Gym/fitness classes

A weekend in London, with a bit of shopping and seeing a show, perhaps Harry Potter and the Cursed Child.

EVERYTHING!

Going out for a coffee or cream team

Classes - learning new things

Eating out at a restaurant—Arbuckles in Ely is a favourite

A day out in London

Getting back into a routine

Going to the cinema

Going to Jesus Green Lido, taking a picnic and a good book. Then cycling into Cambridge for dinner with friends.

Seeing my friends' newborn baby

Returning to volunteering

Dinner out

Go shopping

Holiday / staycation

Going for a lovely coastal walk then sitting in a pub garden overlooking the sea, eating a lovely lunch, drinking a pint of lager and chatting with whoever we meet.



Keeping in Contact

The Voluntary Services Team are in the office if you would like to contact us.

Office hours (& out of hours answerphone)
01223 586616

Where in the Trust? Riddle



A seed with three letters in my name. Take away two and I still sound the same. What am I?

Answer's to last week's puzzles:
Where in the Trust? Values at Main Reception
Riddle: Fence

CUH Arts: 'Special Places & Moments Exhibition' by staff & volunteers

Several weeks ago CUH Arts invited staff and volunteers to send in a snap shot of some of their special moments, places and people.

They were delighted with the variety of heart-warming photos and stories received. Some of their special moments were quite unexpected, including getting a pet chicken, who's proved to be a great egg layer. Other valued places and events that were captured included glorious sunsets, regular places walked, celebrating lockdown birthdays, spending leisure time with friends and family and enjoying learning new creative activities. A collage of photos and stories can be enjoyed in our gallery space leading towards the treatment centre.



Elle Page, Cake



Frank Allan, Sunflower



Ewen Cameron, Sunset



Gallery corridor & exhibition

Keeping busy...

Courtesy Bus & Wheelchair Volunteer Michael has been making the most of the wonderful open countryside, going on some lovely walks around Lolworth, Boxworth and Bar Hill. When the weather isn't so kind there's nothing better than doing a jigsaw puzzle.



Volunteer Guide Jane's garden

A Memories - The Timbavati..... Volunteer Guide Jim



- a private nature reserve, about 131,000 acres of unspoilt natural wilderness within the Greater Kruger National Park, - a low lying sub-tropical region (lowveldt) of South Africa. For many years (1970s) I lived on the escarpment that overlooks the Greater Kruger. I managed a hotel whose guests came to view the dramatic mountain scenery and venture, via a steep mountain pass, to the lowveldt and its game parks. My boss was a Johannesburg industrialist who owned several thousand acres of land within the Timbavati. He'd built an imposing lodge and outbuildings within a secure, high fenced, "kraal". There was even an underground bar beneath the lodge!

I visited the Timbavati frequently driving the hotel's VW Combi, a people carrier of its time, bouncing along the dusty dirt roads. I'd usually be accompanied by my wife, young son, baby daughter and one or two hotel staff. Once within the boundaries of the Greater Kruger my son, Jonny, would stand in front of passenger seat, clinging to a bar on the dashboard, straining to be the first to catch sight of the familiar giraffe, impala or monkey. It might be just a day visit or an overnight stay but however our time was spent it was always full of adventure. Yes, the Big Five were all there in abundance but it would be the rare sighting of a pack of wild dogs, sleeping after a kill, or honey badgers scurrying through the bush that would really make our day. We'd catch a glimpse of one or two of the famous "White Lions", not albinos but normal healthy lions, a phenomenon of a new strain. But there was other smaller life to be seen above ground; - colourful

sunbirds, hornbills, majestic fish eagles and the occasional flock of vultures circling above a predator's kill.

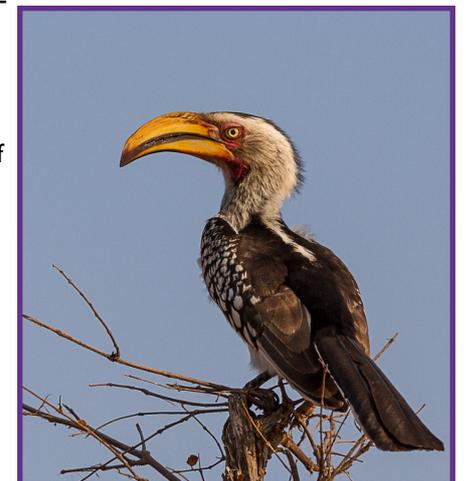
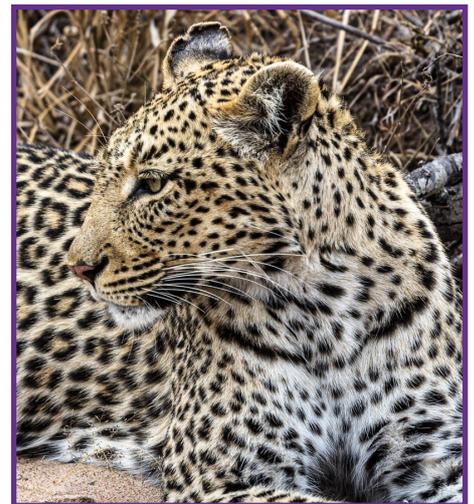
We'd always return from the Timbavati with the Combi loaded up with game of some sort. Venison would frequently feature on the hotel's menu, so, squeamish as we were at the thought and sight of it all, we'd bring back impala or kudu to hang in the hotel's enormous cold room and, occasionally, - a giraffe leg!



I return to the Timbavati every three or four years and usually stay at the Umlani Bush Camp. We're accommodated in traditional African reed and thatch huts. Experienced African rangers and trackers take us on walks and drives and keep us informed of all the latest game spotting, both big and small. Our first drive of the day, after coffee by the camp fire, would be well before dawn. My ex-boss's family lodge is nearby so I know the lay of the land fairly well.

The "White Lions" now appear to be extinct. We can no longer go out and shoot an impala for our supper. Thankfully hunting is forbidden and the culling of game of any sort is strictly regulated. The Timbavati remains a peaceful haven within what is now a vast tract of virgin bush that stretches beyond the Mozambique border to the east and Zimbabwe to the north. But there's a new predator threatening the lives of some endangered species; - the poacher. The abhorrent sight of a slaughtered rhino is sickening (a rhino horn can fetch several thousand pounds), it's a problem that the authorities seem unable to deal with.

I'm planning to return in August 2022, having abandoned previous trips due to Covid. This time my grandchildren will be given the opportunity to absorb the beautiful landscape, the fauna and flora and, of course, the wonderful wildlife.



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CUH Volunteers

**We're on the web!
www.volunteering.cuh.org.uk**

Paws Corner!

'Team Spaniel' are ready for the April showers in their very smart wet weather gear. PAT dog Patience knows there's no such things as bad weather, just the wrong clothing.



On the move.....

Huge congratulations to Volunteer Coordinator Anna! She is going on secondment as the functional skills lead at the Trust. We are very sorry to see her go but wish her all the very best of luck.

We are delighted that our Young Person's Coordinator, Jack, will be moving into the Volunteer Coordinator Role.



Armchair Adventures

Grenada

Grenada is a country in the West Indies in the Caribbean Sea at the southern end of the Grenadines island chain. Grenada consists of the island of Grenada itself, two smaller islands, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, and several small islands which lie to the north of the main island and are a part of the Grenadines. It is located northwest of Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada is also known as the "Island of Spice" due to its production of nutmeg and mace.

The hilly main island is home to numerous nutmeg plantations. It's also the site of the capital, St. George's, whose colourful homes, Georgian buildings, and early-18th-century Fort George overlook narrow Carenage Harbour.

More recently the island has seen the revival of its chocolate production. The chocolate is very bitter, and their speciality chocolate bars contain only 100% organic cocoa beans without sugar or any other ingredients. Very much an acquired taste!

Arthur

