

JoLt'10 Participants & Leaders

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JoLt'10 Participants

Cherise Afia

Cherise Afia was born on the 6th June 1994, making her sixteen this year. She goes to Maria Fidelis Convent School and is in year 11, currently studying for her GCSEs. Her chosen GCSE subjects are Sociology, Music and Health & Social. She wants to stay in Social Care because she would love to be a child psychologist.

She lives with her Nan in London, and has been living with her all her life. When her Nan began to get ill and lose the ability to move around, Cherise had to develop early independence and started to look after her. Money wasn't really a strong point and they couldn't meet a lot of their basic needs. As a teenager, Cherise wanted go to places like the cinema with friends maybe once a month, so she began working at a hairdresser's.

When Cherise first opened the letter saying she was chosen for the Journey of a Lifetime, no words could describe how she felt. She was speechless and couldn't believe it, constantly reading and rereading her name and the word "Congratulations". She said she often dreamed of going. Many nights she'd sit up and think about being on a plane for the first time (she's never left London before) and waking up in a whole new country, meeting new people, making new friends and trying new things. Even now she still can't believe she has been chosen. She wants to say how happy JoLt has made her and what going on the trip means to her.

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Thomas Barnard

Thomas is sixteen years old and goes to Moor House School, a boarding school in Surrey.

Tom is full of life, especially energy, and people know him as a kind, thoughtful person with a warm and friendly personality. He is also known for having a sense of humour, always trying to find the fun in life. He has a lot of determination even when things are hard and is not a person who is willing to give up! He thoroughly enjoys helping others by encouraging them to achieve their goals.

Tom has Worster-Drought Syndrome, but he doesn't like talking about it much because he finds it embarrassing, so let's move on!!

He is very keen to improve his skills of communication, understanding, mathematics and map reading and always wants a challenge to face. He has been on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and has thoroughly enjoyed being a part of a team, learning skills such as hiking, putting up tents and cooking on basic stoves. These two-day hikes have given him lots of experience with problem solving, thinking creatively and learning to cope with challenges!

Tom is looking forward to meeting new friends and his long lost brother and sister monkeys in the jungle of Borneo.

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[Laura Barrett](#)

When Laura opened her envelope advising her she had been accepted to participate in the 2010 Journey of a Lifetime to Borneo, she cried with happiness. She could not believe she had been given this fantastic opportunity. She had previously researched Borneo and was overwhelmed with the geography of the area and the wildlife there.

Laura was born prematurely with numerous congenital abnormalities. In her seventeen years she has undergone various investigations, procedures and over 35 operations. She is still in the care of Great Ormond Street Hospital and will need further procedures, but she counts herself lucky when she encounters other children there. She has emerged as a very strong-willed and determined young lady.

She has difficulty in relating to her peers, having spent so much time away from school, but she does have two very good friends. She would like to be part of the normal 'teen' scene and be invited out to parties, etc. She hopes that as part of a team she will make lifelong friends and is looking forward to helping those less able than her and making a positive contribution to the 2010 JoLt trip to Borneo.

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[Jordan Brown](#)

Jordan was born with Hirschsprung's Disease. Because of this he was badly bullied at infant school, junior school and at community college.

In year 9 Jordan made friends with another boy. They used to play chess together during break-times as they both enjoyed it and it was a perfect opportunity to demonstrate their competitive edge. Jordan's new friend was from Poland so they competed for their respective countries during their chess games. But this did not stop the feelings of depression that Jordan found more and more difficult to hide. His Dad kept going to the school to ask them to help Jordan, but all in vain, so eventually Jordan had to leave the community college and now goes to a school in Wellingborough which is some distance from his home. Although Jordan finds this to be a better school, unfortunately the bullying he has suffered all his life has made him hate school and he cannot see this changing.

Jordan has two friends, Ricky and Peter, and they enjoy each other's company. He has also good memories of a holiday in the Forest of Dean.

At the age of fourteen, Jordan felt very depressed about his future. Now he has the chance to turn his life around by being part of a wonderful trip. Hopefully, he will return with a new lease of life, knowing that he is truly a lucky young man and much loved by many people.

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Martha Buckley

Martha is twenty years old. She was born prematurely and has cerebral palsy. Despite long periods in hospital for surgery, Martha is a very determined young lady, who has never let her disability prevent her from achieving what she wants to do. She walks with crutches, and uses a wheelchair for long distances. She is delighted to have been chosen for JoLt'10, and can't wait to begin her adventure!

Martha is currently studying History and German at the University of Warwick and will graduate in 2013. She lives in Warwick with her Mum and Dad, a tortoise, and three adorable cats. In her spare time, Martha enjoys singing, and has had lessons since she was four years old. She also plays trumpet in the University Big Band, and loves to read and watch old sitcoms like Dad's Army!

In August 2008, Martha took part in the European Tall Ships' race, and spent twelve days at sea, which gave her a taste for adventure. She enjoys making new friends, and can't wait to meet her fellow expedition members in May. Martha hopes to raise spirits on the journey with her cheerful smile and sense of optimism.

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Rebecca Cant

Becky was amazed and thrilled when she found out she had been given a place on JoLt'10.

Becky is sixteen and lives in the Orkney Islands (those little dots at the top of Scotland) with her Mum, Alice, Dad, Andy, younger brother Robbie (10) and younger sisters; Thora (12) and Molly (8). She is just about to sit her standard grade exams (GCSEs) and hopes to do something in the business side of music when she leaves school.

Becky has a passion for music, and plays the piano, despite only having two fingers on each hand. She also loves to sing. As well as playing music, she likes to find new artists to listen to and particularly likes Indie music. Becky lives for performing some sort of music/drama and spending time with her family and friends. She can't wait to meet the rest of the group and make new friends.

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Nathan Crockford

Nathan is sixteen years old and currently in year 11 at King Richard School, Portsmouth, taking his GCSEs.

Nathan lives at home with his mum who is disabled and two brothers. He was born with a disability to his right lower arm and hand and has spent all of his life having operations, skin grafts and physiotherapy to address the disability and 'grow' a new thumb!

Nathan's positive attitude towards what must have been many painful ordeals has been enlightening to both students and staff around him. His approach to being 'different' is that 'It's a good difference because it's what's given me a different view on life!'

Nathan is a laid-back, popular student in school and likes nothing better than spending hours in front of his computer planning for his future career in industry (or playing games!).

Warning! Nathan has a wicked sense of humour, and used to love showing all the squeamish staff and students his newly-acquired operation scars, much to his delight!

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Emily Darbyshire

Emily is twenty-one years old and studying for a HND in Business with Tourism at Chichester College. Originally from Horsham, West Sussex, she is living at college in Halls of Residence this year.

In 2006, Emily caught meningitis/encephalitis, which left her in a wheelchair and with a speech impairment. During her rehabilitation period, she managed to regain her driving licence through an assessment centre and now has a car through the mobility scheme. This has given Emily a sense of independence which she loves, getting out and about on the open road.

In her spare time she enjoys shopping with friends, swimming and horse riding. Emily maintains a positive outlook on life and intends to go to University in the future.

Emily does not let her disabilities get her down. She loves to travel and is always up for a new adventure. Emily is thrilled to have the opportunity to travel to Borneo, as she feels this will help her with her studies immensely. She is also looking forward to meeting new people and making new friends. She would like to thank all those who make Journey of a Lifetime possible!

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Connor Deacon

Connor is fifteen years old. He lives with his mum and his eighteen-year-old brother in Prestatyn, North Wales, a beautiful part of the country. He attends Prestatyn High School, is in year 10 and is taking his GCSE exams. His favourite subjects are Art, History, Geography and IT.

Since Connor moved to Prestatyn from Leicester two years ago, he has been getting a lot of support and things are starting to improve. He has made new friends who have a big impact on his life. and likes to spend as much time out with them as he can. When they can, they go ice skating in Deeside. They also go dog walking together on the beach.

In his spare time Connor enjoys taking part in a lot of sports. He has played for rugby teams since he was five, playing for South Leicester and now Rhyl. He has been on some training days with Leicester Tigers (his favourite team) and has seen some of their games. He would like to play rugby professionally when he grows up!

Connor is supremely excited about being selected to go on JoLt'10, especially after researching Borneo for his interview

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Nathan Dunne

Nathan Dunne is sixteen but has never been out of the UK. He was thrilled to be included in the Journey of a Lifetime to Borneo in July 2010. He found the application process tough but will never forget the day he heard that he had been selected. He was overwhelmed with joy and rang his foster carer with the special news. This has been the greatest achievement in Nathan's life so far.

Nathan is planning to get fitter and prepare himself mentally for the challenges that lie ahead in the jungles of Borneo. His competitive streak has helped him raise more than the six hundred pounds he needs for personal sponsorship. He has undertaken a sponsored swim with boxing gloves on and a sponsored sparring event at the gym where he trained as Muay Thai/Mixed Martial Artist. Now he can't wait to get started. This will be Nathan's last school summer holiday and he wants to make it a summer he will never forget.

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Abigail Foster-Brown

Abigail, or Abs as she is known to her friends, has had to overcome many problems in her life, drawing on inner qualities of strength, perseverance and determination. Abs' friends admire her integrity, trustworthiness and willingness to put others first.

Abs loves reading, especially horror books and the Twilight series. She is a chain-reader of Anne Rice's books and enjoys the themes of good and evil. She also enjoys drawing, especially in the style of 'Manga', an old comic style that originated in Japan.

Abs likes the occasional horror film, too, although these are not always to her friends' tastes who sometimes 'make' her go to chick-flicks. She enjoys going out with her friends, usually meeting up in town and shopping, and hanging around various cafés.

Abs is really looking forward to meeting new people, travelling and finding out more about the world.

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Ivy Gutsell

The first thing you notice about Ivy is her mane of beautiful thick, shiny, red hair that reaches to her waist. It's her pride and joy. Ivy is fifteen years old and lives in Bourne, South Lincolnshire with her carer and three very spoilt cats,

Ivy loves animals, nature and the countryside and decided to choose the countryside and environment course at school as one of her optional subjects.

Being a compassionate person who has lived with people with disabilities, Ivy helps at the Gateway Leisure Club (affiliated to Mencap) for people with disabilities of all kinds. She assists with activities ranging from arts and crafts to pamper evenings and also helps to run the coffee bar.

Ivy is happy with her own company but also sees her mum, stepdad, brother, sister and her nephews weekly. She also visits her nan most Saturdays and they go out shopping, play cards and bake the most scrumptious cakes that they share with the family. Both mum and nan have lively dogs and Ivy enjoys taking them out for long runs.

Ivy is a very adaptable young woman who will usually integrate and try most things once. She is thrilled to be part of the 2010 JoLt challenge and feels it will change her life and outlook.

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Jenny Holt

Jenny is sixteen years old. She is in her final year at Blessed Trinity RC College studying for her GCSEs. She would describe herself as a girl full of determination and enthusiasm. She is always up for a new challenge, no matter how difficult it may be, and loves to experience life to the full.

Jenny was born twelve weeks premature and the doctors did not think she would live. After three uncertain weeks, she had a massive brain haemorrhage and a perforated bowel, which in turn caused cerebral palsy. Despite all of this Jenny fought to survive!!

Jenny lives at home with her mum, dad and two sisters, Lucy and Georgie

Although she is wheelchair-dependent, Jenny never stops wanting to attempt new challenges. One of her achievements is being able to swim 25 metres on her front unaided – this took a lot of effort and determination.

When Jenny was offered a place on the Journey of a Lifetime she was completely lost for words. She feels privileged to be given such a fantastic opportunity to travel, work as part of a team, experience things beyond her wildest dreams and most of all make new friends!

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Henry Kakooza

Henry was born on 11th of April in Uganda in 1994 and lived in a village with his family. He has good memories of Uganda and remembers playing a lot outside with his brothers. It was usually sunny and he was happy there. He came to the UK when he was twelve with his two brothers to join his mum.

They lived in Hounslow. Henry went first to Oakland School and then to Marjory Kinnon School. Henry's saddest time was when his mum died and he and his brothers had to live with foster parents. He hopes he will visit Uganda next year so that he can see his Dad and his friends. When he leaves school Henry would like to go to college and later find a job where he can help people and make some changes in the world.

Henry's hobbies and interests include reading, sports, swimming, St John's Ambulance and gardening

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Felicity Pickard

Felicity (Fliss) is fifteen years old and lives in Burnley with her mum, dad and King Charles spaniel, Alfie. Fliss has cerebral palsy which affects her left side. Despite this, she is determined not to let anything stop her achieving what she wants to do. She attends Blessed Trinity RC College where she is a peer-support prefect and is studying for her GCSEs this year.

Fliss thoroughly enjoys sports, especially table tennis. When playing any sport she becomes highly competitive! Leadership also plays an important part in her life and she thrives on helping others. She is a Boccia Officiator, a committed volunteer at her local disabled sports club, "Burnley Bears", and a Sports Ambassador for Lancashire. This means she is always busy. Horse riding is another sport she enjoys. Although she was told she would find it difficult, she has proved everyone wrong and has now learnt to jump.

When she heard she had been chosen to travel to Borneo with JoLt, nothing could describe her excitement. She is now eager to conquer the challenge ahead.

Fliss brings a wicked sense of humour to everything she does. There's never a quiet moment when she is around!

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Mathew Pounder

Mathew Pounder; is seventeen years old and visually impaired. This could be seen as a huge disadvantage but Mathew says that it is just something that has to be overcome in order to progress in life.

He studied at St Vincent's School for Sensory Impaired & Additional Needs for over seven years, completing 11 GCSEs and a BTEC National in Sport. He has been accepted into a number of universities including Liverpool John Moores University and Edge Hill to further his knowledge in certain aspects of sport.

Alongside his academic life, he has embraced the challenges that sport has thrown his way. After overcoming the gap between himself and his able-bodied peers, he now competes at a high standard in international football. He was recently chosen to be part of the England Visually Impaired Development Squad.

Finding personal success in sport and overcoming his disability has turned his downfall into his passion. This is why his ambition is to work in the future with disabled and disadvantaged people as people have done with him.

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James Priest

When his father left home and his mother was unable to care for him, James was taken into care and placed with his grandparents. After a spell in a children's home, James was fostered, then adopted. He asked to leave his adopted family when he was fourteen because he was being badly treated. He returned to the children's home and was once more placed in foster care, but a difficult relationship with his carers caused him to run away to live on the street when he was fifteen. He was eventually taken in by a friend who helped him access Social Services once more. During this time he rediscovered his mother and went to live with her briefly until the relationship once more fell apart and she asked him to leave.

A force for good in James's life was a school teacher who worked with him from year 7 on his numeracy and literacy skills and also supported him with the demands life was placing on him. Sadly in year 9 she passed away and the grief of her loss left James with a severe depression which led to insomnia, self harming and OCD issues.

James has always wanted to do something positive with his life. He had been a member of the Boys Brigade when he was young and went on to join the Army Cadets. They gave him life skills and helped him learn how to be part of a family. He made good friends and, with the self confidence and help they could offer, started a course at South Staffordshire College studying for a First Diploma in Agriculture. He chose agriculture because he enjoys working outdoors.

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Katie Seal

Katie is fourteen, currently studying for her GCSEs at Arthur Terry School, Sutton Coldfield West Midlands.

Katie was born fourteen weeks premature and suffered a brain haemorrhage leaving her with cerebral palsy and visually impaired. Katie lives at home with her mum and dad and two older brothers who have always been very supportive and encouraged her with everything she does. Her interests are listening and singing along to music in her bedroom, reading and using the Internet. She loves to watch programmes about wild life.

She would like to become a nurse or a counsellor to help other children. She wants to give back to the community what she has received in her life.

Katie is a quiet girl, but her determination to succeed inspires all who meet her. Despite her disabilities, she provides encouragement and support to those around her and is always prepared to listen.

When she learnt that she had been chosen for JoLt'10, she felt it was a dream come true. It will help to boost her confidence and self-esteem and is well-deserved.

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Amber Smethhurst

Amber is fifteen years old and attends Lafford High School. She lives in a village called Billingham in Lincolnshire with her mum, dad, brother, Sean and sister, Jade.

Amber has had cerebral palsy since birth. She was ten weeks premature and lived on a heart monitor for a while so her family knew she was always going to be a child who couldn't wait.

She has had a difficult time over the years. She has been picked on and called names because of walking problems and frequent falls, followed by the need for eye surgery. Despite all this, she gets on with life and is known around the village as the great little girl with heart.

Amber takes part in the school council and all the army days and is the only girl in the BTEC sports group. She will be doing a charity run this year along with her support group, Amber's Angels, named after her Uncle Damian who passed away.

Amber's Angels think highly of her:

'Growing up with her has been great as we have all learned from her and know that things aren't always as bad as you think. She is well liked in school and a good friend to everyone. She will be one of the children to leave a positive mark for the school to remember. Amber has done her 'survival of a lifetime' and now deserves a 'journey of a lifetime'.'

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Paige Stevenson

Paige Stevenson is fifteen years old and lives in Clydebank, outside Glasgow in Scotland, with her mum, dad, brother Jordan, sister Afton and dog Robbie.

She has an undiagnosed growth condition and is just over three feet tall, although this has never prevented her from living life to the full. She is currently studying for her standard grade exams and working towards her Duke of Edinburgh bronze award.

Paige enjoys skiing, dancing and socializing with friends. She has been a member of her local Girls Brigade for eleven years and meets regularly with the youth group of Short Stature Scotland.

She was both surprised and delighted to be chosen for this year's journey and would like to thank the trustees for selecting her, the staff of Clydebank High School for nominating her and family and friends for supporting her. She is looking forward to meeting everyone who is going on the trip and is certain that it will be a life-changing experience.

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Naomi Sykes

Naomi is a smiley, popular girl with a real zest for life. Naomi has been a young carer for most of her life. This involves looking after her parents who both suffer from mental illness and alcoholism. She helps them on a daily basis, not just emotionally but also with household chores such as shopping, laundry, cooking and cleaning. At the same time she has to make sure she stays focused on her schoolwork.

Naomi enjoys school and is proud of her roles as Vice House Captain and Prefect. She is also one of the editors of the school magazine 'The MegaMag' and collates the news from the whole school to produce the magazine on a monthly basis. At this year's award ceremony, Naomi received the 'Princess Diana Memorial Prize' which is awarded to pupils who have had to cope with adversity during their school life.

Naomi also works as a cleaner for a local computer shop which pays for two riding lessons each week. She starting horse riding just over a year ago and is already a confident rider. She enjoys this so much that she spent two weeks at the stables for her work experience placement during which she groomed, mucked out and tacked up the horses.

Naomi enjoys attending the 'Young Carers', an organisation for other young people who have the responsibility of caring for family members. Here she can chat with friends (she talks a lot!) and enjoy days out with the adult volunteers.

Naomi is extremely excited about the JoLt expedition to Borneo and believes it will be a life-changing experience!

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Douglas Vallance

Douglas Vallance is sixteen years old and was born with a hearing impairment. He lives at home in Clydebank, Scotland, with his mum and dad. Douglas has a good sense of humour and enjoys a joke with his friends.

At present he is a 5th year pupil at Clydebank High School and will leave this summer after securing a place at the local college to do a City and Guilds course on Motor Vehicle Engineering.

He is a member of Clydebank Rugby Club and captain of the under-17 team. He recently registered with the Scottish Deaf Rugby and will train with them soon and hopefully one day get a cap for Scotland. His other interests are fishing and bowls. He is a member of Dalmuir Bowling club. Their team won the league in 2009.

After visiting a seaside town with his family and watching a demonstration by the Air and Sea Rescue Teams, Douglas became interested in the RNLI. His goal in life is to work for them as a volunteer. This will involve working closely with others in very challenging and dangerous conditions.

Douglas is looking forward to the challenges that JoLt'10 will bring and meeting new friends along the way.

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Scott Vinckler

Scott is sixteen years old and lives with his mum, step-dad and elder sister, Lauren, who is 19, in Sarisbury Green, Southampton. Scott lived for four years in Livingston, Scotland, where his Grandma and Grandad still live and he occasionally visits for short holidays. His Dad lives in Warsop, Nottinghamshire which is the heart of Robin Hood country. Scott was awarded a place at Fareham College on a three-year Catering and Hospitality Course. This has been suspended until Sept. 2011 as he had major surgery and long term physiotherapy.

Scott was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma in February, 2007 and this resulted in an ankle prothesis and further reconstructive surgery on his right leg. Although the surgery could have been restrictive, Scott has not let it affect his lifestyle. He still plays paintball and attends Army Cadets. He also enjoys wind surfing and is a massive Xbox fan.

Scott is planning a career in catering, hopefully working on cruise liners which will enable him to travel and experience other cultures.

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Leeanne Walker

Leeanne Jade Walker is an extraordinary teenager but just like 'ordinary' teenagers, she likes to hang out with friends and go shopping.

Leeanne has always wanted to go abroad but she has never had the opportunity to do so. Leeanne can be independent at times but most of the time she is very dependent.

Leeanne lost her mum when she was nine years old. Living without a mother for six years has made Leeanne look for adults for support. Leeanne moved into her aunt's house when she was nine and things happened there that Leeanne didn't like. When Leeanne told her school what was going on, the school got the social services involved. Leeanne then moved into a foster placement in Erdington in 2008. It was very hard for her at first but she has been there for two years now and calls the people she lives with her family.

Leeanne also lost her brother in June 2009, which was hard for her although he lived in Plymouth and they had not seen much of each other

Even though Leeanne has been through a lot in the past seven years, she is proud of who she is.

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JoLt'10 Leaders

Georgina Bird-Lieberman

Georgina is a doctor specialising in Paediatric Neurology. This will be her third JoLt expedition but she has been involved with JoLt for many years and served as a trustee for three years.

Her love for working with children and adults with special needs started at age 13 when her form teacher invited her to help out on Sunday afternoons at a Mencap group. She enjoyed these afternoons so much that she continued working with Mencap throughout her remaining school years and also started to work as a volunteer for various other charities. In 2000 she realised she could combine such voluntary work with another of her passions, foreign travel and she spent two months over the summer working at a camp for children and adults with various learning and physical disabilities in North America.

She has travelled around Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand independently and also to North India and Bhutan with JoLt 2006 and Namibia, South Africa and Lesotho with JoLt 2008. She was also a member of the all-women JoLt fundraising expedition to Namibia in 2007.

In her spare time Georgina likes nothing better than indulging the competitive side of her character by playing cards or backgammon with family and friends. She also enjoys cooking for and entertaining her friends and dancing whenever possible – especially at JoLt's Burns night!

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Alan Broadbent

Alan is a 27-year-old PE teacher who lives in Paphos, Cyprus. This will be his second JoLt expedition and he is really looking forward to meeting the new Jolters, and all the challenges ahead. Just before moving to Cyprus to take up his current post in a small private school in Paphos, Alan travelled around Thailand, Cambodia and Malaysia and is excited to be exploring this part of the world further.

He is Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-ordinator for the school which gives him the opportunity to see his students working in the community and achieving personal development through challenging themselves.

The summer before Alan started sixth form he volunteered at a respite centre during the holidays. The positive experiences he took from this encouraged him to continue volunteering through his school life and on throughout university. Whenever he is back in the UK he visits and helps out at the centre as often as possible. In his spare time, in addition to enjoying the Cyprus sunshine, Alan enjoys cooking, swimming and all forms of sport, especially cricket where he plays in Cyprus League Division One (although there is only one division!!)

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Alan Buzza

Alan was originally recruited whilst teaching Maths at Harrow School. That was eighteen years ago and Alan has been a leader on each of the nine JoLt journeys since then.

His work has always been with people and mostly in sport, having coached and played rugby professionally for several years as well as working occasionally as a management consultant and sport psychologist. He has also spent time as a project manager in Chile with Raleigh International, another youth development charity.

Alan has travelled in over 70 countries in a variety of capacities; backpacker, rugby tour manager, English teacher and of course JoLt leader, however his 2001 fund raising trip for JoLt proved the most demanding way to travel...

The challenge was to start with nothing [naked apart from a bin bag] and go for 100 days without using money whilst travelling to the four cardinal points of Britain and Ireland. Along the way he was allowed to earn and acquire up to 7 possessions and obviously to collect as much money as possible for JoLt.

The challenge was met and Alan's claim to being 'the luckiest man in the world' was born out by the fact that the 100 days included an impromptu trip to Australia to collect from the British Lions fans at the third test match in Sydney. He still maintains that it wasn't as challenging as a JoLt journey.

Alan is currently Director of Rugby at Loughborough University and is married to Hope.

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Dorothy Dalton

JoLt was founded by Dorothy with the very first expedition taking place in 1984. Dorothy has been senior leader on every JoLt expedition since then except for 1990 when two expeditions were run at the same time: Dorothy led the 1990 group to Zimbabwe and Botswana. JoLt'10 to Borneo will be Dorothy's final "Journey of a Lifetime".

It was in India, where she was born, that Dorothy was bitten by the travel bug. At school, Dorothy says she was only good at one subject, Mathematics. Mathematics, like travel, has given her many years of pleasure. She taught Mathematics for twenty years, completing her career in education by becoming Headteacher of Northwood College. She went on to become chief executive of a national charity and chief executive of ACENVO, a professional association for chief executives of national voluntary organisations. Dorothy specialises in charity governance and both writes and edits on the subject.

Dorothy has organised and participated in several fundraising expeditions for JoLt. She has canoed, kayaked and white-water rafted the Zambezi (1993), cycled the length of Cuba (1995), crossed the Jordanian Desert by camel (1997), walked across the Andes with the help of donkeys, mules and horses (1999), completed a three-week trek on elephants in Nepal (2005) and a walking trek in Namibia (2007) and more recently trekked and white-water rafted in the Maliau basin returning with the tropical disease, Leptospirosis.

Dorothy and Bill have been married for 39 years and have two terrific sons, Mike and Tim; two fabulous daughter-in-laws, Emily and Casey; and two wonderful grandchildren, Emma and Jacob.

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Marcelle Gibson

Marcelle Gibson, a 36-year-old special needs classroom assistant from Northern Ireland, is joining this year's JoLt expedition to Borneo and can't wait to meet the rest of the team, regardless of what she's heard about them! Marcelle is one of two newbies this year and hopes that both she and Joe can rise to the challenge of being a JoLt Leader!!

Marcelle is married to Craig who competes in international and national motorbike road races in Ireland, the UK and Isle of Man. They have one son, Jamie who is currently in Upper Sixth and has a keen interest in snowboarding and music, especially guitar.

Marcelle has been working in the Learning Support Centre of Cookstown High School for the past 14 years and has undertaken various activities and adventures including Duke of Edinburgh camping trips, outdoor activity weeks in the UK and Europe. She works mainly with kids between the ages of 14 – 16 and enjoys seeing them develop their life skills and promotes independence as being key to a positive adult life. She has always been involved in charity work including parachute jumps, marathons, charity runs/walks and has fond memories of her hike along a section of the Great Wall of China to raise money for Mencap in 2002. She is also involved with the company 'Sing Live UK' and has performed in concerts both here in the UK and in Florida.

She became involved with the Deaf community 10 years ago when she took an introductory course to British Sign Language, became hooked and is currently a volunteer at a local Deaf Club where she helps to organise various events throughout the year.

In her spare time she likes to read, listen to music, walk and can also list snowboarding as a major work in progress. She reckons now that she has mastered going backwards brilliantly she might try going forward next time. She is looking forward to meeting and getting to know the lucky individuals who are going to be involved in this year's Journey of a Lifetime.

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Olivia Hussey

Olivia Hussey (Livvy) currently works and lives in Devon as a GP. She trained at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine in London and qualified in 1996. She has been involved with JoLt for the last seven years and her first trip was the JoLt'04 trip to New Zealand. This will be her fourth trip as a JoLt leader and she has also been on three of the All Women's Fund Raising trips in aid of JoLt.

Livvy has done several hospital jobs before settling down to life as a country GP including, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, geriatrics, obstetrics & gynaecology and two years working in a busy Accident and Emergency department.

Livvy likes travelling and, as well as her JoLt trips, she has worked and lived in Australia and travelled in Europe, America, Africa, New Zealand, India and Egypt. In her spare time she likes to read and listen to music but has also taken up running in recent years; running a 10 km race in 2004 to raise money for JoLt. She likes scuba diving but doesn't get much chance to practice in the cold British waters! She did try her hand at surfing once, a great West Country and Australian pursuit, but gave up when she kept falling off the board!!

The JoLt'10 trip is an experience that she is very much looking forward to, not only for the chance to travel in such beautiful scenery and experience things she is otherwise unlikely to but also the chance to meet 24 interesting and special teenagers not to mention the seven other leaders on the expedition.

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Andrew Lowe

Andy is Assistant Headteacher at St Paul's Catholic College, West Sussex, and has responsibility for the leadership of learning and teaching across the College. This role also includes the training of staff from other schools and educational authorities.

Andy was a JoLt leader in 2006 and 2008, and conducted the Borneo reccie in 2009. With a passion for the natural world and the outdoors he has been training and assessing Duke of Edinburgh Expedition groups for the last eight years, running a team that takes over 70 students each year on trekking and camping expeditions. As a Member of the British Mountaineering Council and in the process of Mountain Leadership training, he is rarely indoors!

Before teaching in schools, Andy worked in outdoor education, having been a water sports instructor in the UK and abroad. As a fanatical windsurfer and surfer, he can be found most windy days scanning the coast for the best beach.

These interests have taken Andy around the world with a soft spot for the beaches of Australia and Hawaii. With an individual fashion sense and mischievous sense of humour he will be one for the others to keep an eye out for!

Andy is married to Christy, a consultant in Emergency Medicine. They are expecting a baby in June.

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Joe Webster

Joe is a 31-year-old artist living near Dartmoor. He teaches secondary Art in Exeter and paints and exhibits in local galleries and in Portugal.

At sixteen he joined the White Cross Mission as a volunteer working in a Romanian Orphanage. This life-changing experience convinced him to work with young people, especially those with special learning needs or physical disabilities. In his Gap year he worked as an ancillary with Special Needs school children. He has helped take disabled teenagers to Paris, led a three week theatre trip to Brittany with 40 mixed British and French teenagers and taken 40 pupils on an Art-Drama residential to London.

Joe loves travelling and keeping painting diaries of his experiences, including backpacking through most of Europe, North America, Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, Egypt, Morocco and Mexico. At 18 he went hiking in remote Russia and Siberia on an exchange trip with teenagers. He worked as a teacher in Portugal for 18 months and in Australia for nine months whilst completing part of his Arts degree. Afterwards he drove solo for 4,000 km up the West Australian coast, even encountering a hurricane!

Joe enjoys spending a lot of time outdoors particularly painting, gardening and flying kites. He plays Didgeridoo, Berimbau (Capoeira) and sings and plays guitar.

He is very much looking forward to joining the JoLt expedition to Borneo and hopes his creative skills will offer extra enjoyment to the journey, adding new skills of expression and creating permanent records of the experience.

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