

Newsletter February 2020 Written by Jill Corso

Here we are, about to embark on our second season and we are only just publishing our second newsletter! It feels like we have hardly had time to draw breath for a year! 2019 was very busy and 2020 is looking very similar.

The First Year

The round-up of our first year of operation is available in our annual report that is given to the charity commission. It is also on the website at <https://visionofadventure.org/AnnualReport>.

There is also a video round up of the year <https://visionofadventure.org/video-year-one/>. This has yet to be audio described – any volunteers?

The video is available on a DVD if anyone would like one for a fundraising presentation or similar.

2020 Courses

The process of allocating course places has gone fairly smoothly and most courses are full or nearly full. Dave has/ or will be updating the website with the current availability and will attempt to keep the website up to date as things change.

Currently, the following courses have places available:

Cycling at Witherslack April 3rd to 6th (This is a new course recently added)

Canoeing at Witherslack April 17th to 20th

Caving at Witherslack May 1st to 4th

Climbing (beginners and relaxed) at Yealand July 17th to 20th

Multi Activity at Borwick Hall October 2nd to 5th.

Please get in touch if you would like a place.

Most courses are also fully supported by the guiding team. This is great news as we'd be run ragged trying to do everything!

Support Team Manager

The biggest change for 2020 is that we are taking on someone to run the business side of the charity. Up till now we have had Sinead in the office one day per week supporting us. Sinead will be leaving us soon (for reasons of an overfull life rather than any problems with the job) and we will be taking on a full time Support Team Manager.

Hopefully this will result in more efficiency in our dealings with yourselves! Please bear with us in the meantime, especially during the period where we have no admin support!

Another advantage of the full-time support Team Manager is that it should free Jill up to organise more courses and events.

Full details of the job are on the website,

<https://visionofadventure.org/jobs/>. Please spread the word!

Jeanette Gill Special Award

We are very honoured to have been awarded a Jeanette Gill Special Award by the Barchester Charitable Foundation. The awards were made possible by a generous legacy from Jeanette who was a resident at a Barchester care home. They are "awarded to outstanding projects that enrich lives and encourage an active lifestyle through arts, music, sports and culture for older people or adults with a disability" The cheque was presented to us at the Laurel Bank Care Home in Lancaster who treated us to an excellent afternoon tea. This donation of £9955 will be used to support 10 of our weekend courses.

The application for this award was very much enhanced by some excellent quotes from last year's course and end of year evaluations. Many thanks to those who wrote things that I have been able to use in this and other applications. Your words are really worth money!

Grants

A lot of effort is going into grant applications and we are awaiting the outcome of many bids. We are delighted that the Whirlwind Trust are supporting us again with funding towards our climbing courses.

Most funding bodies require us to report back on the success of the project, if anyone would be prepared to help by writing a report following a course this year please let me know.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR (Steve Bateman, Chair of Trustees):

This an apt title as I will be spending more time than usual sitting over the next few weeks as I managed to fracture my right hip falling off a tandem. Anyway, enough of that.

These are exciting times for Vision of Adventure. Many of you may have seen Facebook posts about the grant for £9,955 recently received and the Advertisement for the new role of Support Team Leader.

The creation of the new role is part of an effort to secure a long term future for Vision of Adventure and whilst grants such as the one recently picked up are welcome it is difficult to obtain grants for running expenditure such as salaries and overhead costs. This is where fund raising comes in and the success of last year's London to Brighton was of great benefit. That was last year's major effort and help was also given by many individuals with their own fund raising and donations.

The Support Team Leader will have overall responsibility for fund raising and will need your ideas and input. For my own part, provided I am back on the tandem in good time, I will be doing a ride in the USA later this year for which I will seek sponsorship for Vision of Adventure.

If you currently have any ideas, schemes or would like to chat something over please contact me. (Contact VoA's office at office@visionofadventure.org to obtain Steve's personal email address and/ or phone number.)

Here's hoping.

Best wishes Steve

Fundraising

There are a few ways that you can raise funds for VoA with no cost and very little effort.

Whenever you buy anything from the internet you can gain funds for Vision of Adventure.

AMAZON SMILE: If you buy from Amazon then instead of using www.amazon.co.uk use www.smile.amazon.co.uk. Bookmark this and you can't go wrong!

GIVE AS YOU LIVE: If you buy other things over the internet including rail tickets then buy them using the GIVE AS YOU LIVE process—
<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/vision-of-adventure>

More details how these work at the end of the newsletter.

Cycling Tops

Following a bit of a false start last year we are now in a position to order Vision of Adventure cycling tops. They will be red, blue and yellow and feature our logo. Many thanks to Barry who designed the logo and the shirts. Sinead will be getting in touch with sizes and prices very soon.

Fund Raising - more details

Using Amazon Smile. If you buy items through www.Amazon.co.uk then try using www.smile.amazon.co.uk instead.

The first time you visit this site you'll be asked to log into your existing Amazon account and then select a charity of your choice – preferably us! Simply search for Vision of Adventure and link it to your account. Even easier, if you visit this next link the search is done for you! www.smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1180451-0.

When you buy things from Amazon they will donate a small percentage to us. It's a bit less than half of one percent, but as Tesco say, "Every little Helps". Subsequently always remember to visit www.smile.amazon.co.uk - a good tip is to bookmark it and you will always return to it.

Using GIVE AS YOU LIVE. Instead of tying your purchases to a single site like Amazon this method allows you to buy things from virtually any site on the internet and the organisation GIVE AS YOU LIVE collects a small percentage (slightly more than Amazon!) and sends it on to Vision of Adventure. It works a bit like Quid Co if you know how that operates.

How it works:

- You sign up on Give as You Live and nominate Vision of Adventure as your chosen charity.
- During this process you are also asked to add a small piece of code (called an extension) to your web browser (unfortunately

not all browsers!).

- Every time you visit one of the web sites that are part of the 'Give as you Live' scheme this extension causes a window to pop up and reminds you that your visit can raise funds for Vision of Adventure. If you confirm that you are okay with this, then the purchase website is routed to and any purchase you make at that visit will raise money for Vision of Adventure.
- You don't have to do anything more—the money is collected and sent to Vision of Adventure automatically.
- You don't always have to raise money every time you visit a website in the scheme. (And similarly, if you delete the extension then you'll no longer generate the pop-up window).

Works on over 3800 web sites from holidays, insurance, train tickets, B&Q etc.

What have you got to lose? Nothing! What do we gain? Lots!

Find out more or Sign up on the Give as You Live scheme by visiting this link:

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/vision-of-adventure>

The link is also shown on the Vision of Adventure's website.