

# Allegra's Ambition Newsletter

## May 2022

We are delighted to have been able to start visiting our Allegra's Ambition projects again over the last few months and to see first hand the inspiring work our partner charities are doing to make a difference to so many young people's lives. We are continuing to develop new partnerships and could not do it without your incredible support.

### COMING UP:

Our annual **Allegra's Ambition Ebony Day** will take place on **Monday 1st August** in Lower Wield. Young people from Ebony Horse Club <https://www.ebonyhorseclub.org.uk/>, based in the heart of Brixton, come to spend a day in Hampshire to ride ponies, play games and enjoy a fantastic barbecue. For some Ebony riders it is their first time going outside of London and riding in the countryside. It is the favourite day of the year for many of them. We are so grateful to everyone who gives up their time to make the day a success, and especially to everyone who so generously lends their ponies. Please, please let us know if you could volunteer a horse or pony this year. If you are interested in finding out more do get in touch via email or on social media. It really is an amazing day and you can make a real difference.

**Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup>** Thank you so much to The Hampshire Fair for choosing Allegra's Ambition as one of their charities again this year. The fair will take place on October 5<sup>th</sup> at The Grange, Northington. Allegra's Ambition will be there along with a huge range of fantastic stall holders. It's a fun day out and the perfect place to start your Christmas shopping. Do come and see us.

### OUR PROJECTS



Ebony Horse Club <https://www.ebonyhorseclub.org.uk/> On a crisp sunny day in March we went to Ebony to meet staff and students from The Michael Tippett School and College <https://www.tmts.me.uk/index.asp> and

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observe their weekly session. It was great to see the Ebony staff and volunteers in action and we were so impressed with the support and attention each student received. The young people spent time mucking out, grooming and bonding with the horses and had the chance to ride. Students at Michael Tippett have a range of complex needs and the Ebony team carefully tailored the experience to each individual. School staff shared how much the young people had grown in confidence over the course of their sessions and the enthusiasm and positivity from all who participated was wonderful to see. Thank you to all our supporters who make these lessons possible.

**Magdalen Farm** <https://magdalenfarm.org.uk/> Our partnership with Magdalen Farm continues to develop following the great feedback from everyone who enjoyed a residential break at the farm last Summer. This year, in addition to sponsoring trips for Youth Options, Kids on Track <https://kidsontrack.org.uk/> and Street Reach, we are also funding residential stays for two groups of refugees who are being supported by International Care Network <https://www.helpandkindness.co.uk/organisations/194/international-care-network>, a charity that works with vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers across Dorset and Bournemouth. We are sure everyone will have an amazing time.



**The Bourne Academy** <https://www.thebourneacademy.com> is a school in a deprived area of Bournemouth. Hayley Gaj, Sendco & Transition Lead, was also one of Allegra's teachers at St Swithuns and trekked to Base Camp of Mount Everest in support of Allegra's Ambition. She was inspired by visiting and volunteering with Allegra's Ambition to help get the Youth Options outdoor learning centre up and running last year. Bourne wanted to develop a neglected area of the school grounds to provide the opportunity for outdoor learning to their students but also to the wider community of young people living in the area. We have matchfunded with Bourne to enable them to refurbish their outdoor learning area and assault course.

**Youth Options** <https://www.youthoptions.co.uk/> We are continuing to fund bushcraft activities at the Outdoor Learning Centre and are thrilled that Allegra's classroom has enabled the site to be used in all weather conditions.

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**Street Reach** <https://www.winchesterstreetreach.org/> The Friday Football project is going from strength to strength. Young people attend to enjoy the football and access advice and support from the outreach youth workers - the feedback from Street Reach is very positive.



**Carneys** <https://carneyscommunity.org/> aims to reduce offending, re-offending, and anti-social behaviour, whilst improving social mobility and community cohesion. The services are targeted at disadvantaged young people aged 11-30 from deprived backgrounds in Wandsworth. The work is focused on building self-discipline, self-esteem, confidence, and employability of young people, as this is key to reducing offending. The charity engages around 600 young people each year in positive and constructive activities.

*"If I'm here I'm not on the roads. If I had nothing to do, I could possibly be a gang member. It's keeping me preoccupied and being fed as well."*

We are proud to be funding an ongoing project at Carney's Community which engages at risk young people through Boxing and other activities, and provides one to one mentoring by a team of workers, a number of whom have come through Carneys programmes themselves. Many of the mentees report having being 'passed between' different agencies (one person had to tell his story to 40 different professionals before accessing support) which can lead to them becoming frustrated and withdrawing from support services. The mentoring Carneys offer is unique and key to rebuilding trust, enabling young people to reach their full potential.

## FUNDRAISING

It seems a very long time ago but we would like to give a big shout out to everyone who supported our Allegra's Ambition Christmas Fair. Thank you to the brilliant stall holders, to Amelia Ashton for lending us her house, and to all of who came to help and to buy. It was great to see so many people there and to update and share what Allegra's Ambition is about.

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Thank you to Exeter University Polo Club for raising a fantastic £307 for Allegra's Ambition at their Christmas raffle and to Durham University Lacrosse team for choosing us as one of their charities for this year and raising a brilliant £720. You are all stars.



We are very grateful to The Hopetoun and the Wellington College community for continuing to embrace and support Allegra's Ambition. Your generosity whether undertaking sponsored events, designing Christmas cards or buying our hoodies and beanies means so much and is making a real difference.

Our white hoodies and t-shirts are perfect for the tennis season. Do take a look at our website <https://www.allegrasambition.org.uk/shop>.

A reminder that you can raise money for us every time you shop with Amazon. Enter Amazon via the smile link (<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>) and search for Allegra's Ambition on the charity options. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price of the goods you buy to Allegra's Ambition

**Thank you as always for all your fantastic support. We are so grateful to each one of you. Every penny you raise goes directly to supporting vulnerable young people and their families and we would be nothing without you. If you have any fundraising ideas or want to know more about what we do please get in touch.**

If you wish to DONATE please visit <https://www.allegrasambition.org.uk/new-index> for easy ways to give

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