



Durham
University

Volunteering and Outreach

Impact Report Epiphany Term 2023

The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service



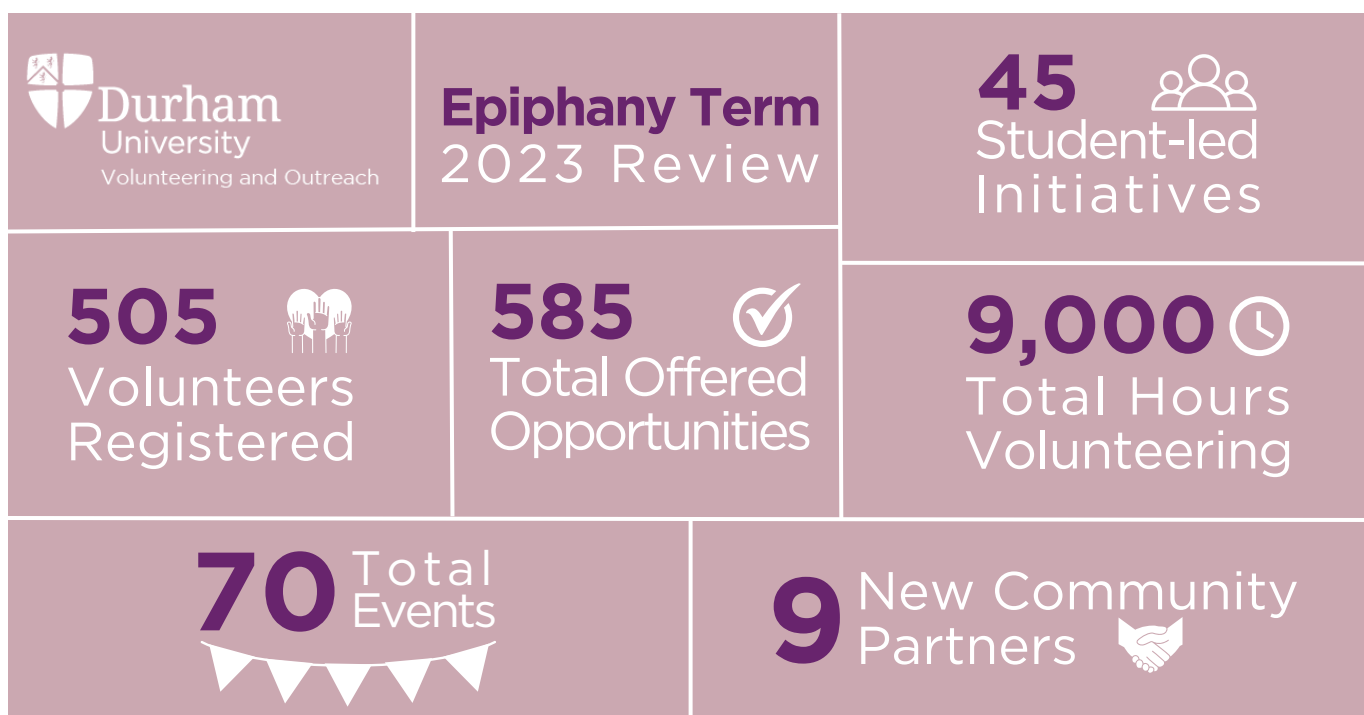
Summary

Welcome to the Epiphany Term Impact Report from the Volunteering and Community Outreach team. This is the first of what we hope will be a termly edition to keep fellows up to speed with what Durham University has been up to in relation to all things Volunteering in the Community.

This term is always full of fun-filled events such as Lunar New Year, National Student Volunteering Week and World Heritage Day, however we have also been involved with the exciting new additions of Global week, bringing the marvel that was World Fest and the promise that it will become an annual event which we hope will become a key feature in the volunteering calendar. This term has also seen the long awaited return to some of our more historic college volunteering programmes after Covid-19 left them on pause for a long time.

We have been busy networking and embedding ourselves within the wider community and have happily welcomed a broad range of new community partners, charities and organisations into the fold commencing some new and exciting projects and opportunities as a result.

It is our great honour to share with you the highlights and efforts of Durham University's departments, projects, societies and volunteers, all in the name of volunteering.



College Volunteering

Eleven of our colleges have run their volunteering programmes this term. This has ranged from one off opportunities including spring crafts (St Mary's College) and beach cleans (Stephenson College and John Snow College), as well as projects including volunteering within primary schools (College of St Hild and St Bede, St Chad's College and St John's College), with young carers (Collingwood College), with the elderly (Josephine Butler College) and with refugees (Van Mildert College).

Highlights within college volunteering this term include the establishment of some new projects such as running an Eco Club in a local Primary School (St John's and St Chad's); one off opportunities with local charity DASH to decorate houses for homeless women (Collingwood College); and the running of residential educational programmes for disadvantaged pupils from the North East (Van Mildert College).

Term Spotlights

Mildert for Refugees

Since January, a group of students from Van Mildert College have been regularly volunteering at Waddington Street Church on Saturday's, to provide a Kids Club for local Ukrainian refugees. The Kids Club enables the children to socialise, play games and learn new sports, as well as providing a space for the parents to relax and meet other refugee families.

Snow Angels Project

In March 2023, during the cold weather snap, The Snow Angels Project at The College of St Hild and St Bede braved early starts and the wintery weather to clear footpaths in elderly residential areas in Gilesgate. The team received praise from the locals for their efforts, and even a box of chocolates from a resident who thanked the team, as if it had not been for them she wouldn't have been able to get her disabled partner out of the house.



DUSVO (Durham University Student Volunteering and Outreach)

This term, DUSVO has successfully delivered a wide range of volunteering opportunities. Projects sitting within our five overarching areas of education, social inclusion, the environment, sport and physical activity and culture, have offered various different sessions for volunteers to get involved with including tutoring, code club, dog walking, gardening, refugee kids club and cultural school sessions.

Epiphany term has been one of our most successful terms yet, with over 40 student led opportunities advertised across the different projects, and one-off opportunities, as well as establishing 9 new partnerships with charities and organisations.

Some of our projects have been actively fundraising for DUSVO or their community partners, by running bake sales and participating in charity walks, raising over £500.

Term Spotlights

CATSS (Children Achieving Through Student Support)

CATSS ran 4 daytrips this term for 15 primary school and 8 secondary school, County Durham based children from socially challenging backgrounds. Both CATSS primary and secondary volunteers, planned and ran a joint one night residential for 20 children, packed with activities such as archery, shelter building, group games and crate stacking, at Moor House Adventure Centre in Durham.



Gardening Project

This term, Gardening Project have run their usual regular gardening sessions at Stockton Road Cemetery and Old Durham Gardens. They have also taken part in several one-off opportunities, including collaborating with the Climate Society at The College of St Hild and St Bede, refreshing the planters under the viaduct, as well as helping at St Margaret's Church.

This term Gardening Project started a new branch of the project called 'Helping Hands'. This entails volunteers helping local residents to look after their gardens and complete tasks they need help with. In doing so, they have forged connections with 3 new local community residents associations and have already helped 4 local residents spruce up their gardens.



"These people are truly fantastic and what they do for children is amazing. My son had an amazing time with them and my wife and I are so grateful, they give up their own time to make kids happy".

Parental Feedback



Staff Volunteering

This term the Staff Volunteering team have carried out 26 team challenges (up 9 from the same period last year), including:

- Foodbank; sorting donations and packing food parcels
- Old Durham Gardens; pruning and de-wintering of the gardens.
- Beach cleans; litter pick along a number of County Durham beaches
- Durham Action for Single Housing; painting flats ready for their residents
- Stray Aid; dog walking and socialisation
- Wear Rivers Trust; tree planting
- Litter picks
- Bowburn History Rooms; Sorting and cataloguing books / maps / scrap books and general sorting, rearranging and tidying of the room.
- Spring Crafts; making bunny bait and bunny-pops
- Trimdon Community Gardens; sorting and clearing of the gardens

Term Spotlight

Spring Crafts

In April 2023, staff and student volunteers made over 500 Spring craft items (Bunny bait and bunny-pops) for 5 community partners to either sell at events to fundraise or to give to their service users as a little treat.

Staff Volunteering Statistics 2022 / 2023

- 812 volunteers on the platform
- Over 2500 hours logged
- 363 volunteers who have attended a session and/or logged hours
- 52 team challenges



Team Durham Community

Holiday Camps

Team Durham Holiday Camps have delivered a variety of holiday camps to the local public since 2013. In February half term this year, 258 attendees came to either our dance or multisports camp with an average of 52 attendees a day. At Easter we ran an Adventure camp (for 12-16 year olds) and multisports/dance camps (for 5-12 year olds). We had 511 attendees over an 8 day period with an average daily attendance of 64 children.

Junior Sports Clubs

Team Durham Community team have run a multitude of junior sport clubs during Epiphany Term with the help of a amazing support network of volunteers. Our Junior Hockey club, run in collaboration with Durham City Hockey Club (DCHC) and Durham University Hockey Club (DUHC), hosts up to 45 children on a Sunday morning. The sessions, aided by volunteer coaches from both DCHC and DUHC, take kids from the basics of hockey to more advanced skills and give them opportunities to play in organised matches against other junior hockey clubs in the North East. In addition to hockey, we have been running junior tennis and volleyball clubs, both getting up to 15 attendees per session. These clubs are coached by amazing volunteers from Durham University's tennis and volleyball clubs.

Adult Outreach

Across this term we have worked closely to facilitate and deliver sport and physical activity sessions for adults from the local community. Service users from Waddington Street Centre and Lanchester Road hospital attend weekly for a gym and football session, supported by student volunteers, to increase self-confidence and social interaction, whilst boosting mental and physical health. Experienced student volunteers have worked weekly with a group of community rowers with long term illnesses and low visibility issues, helping them to improve their rowing technique, building up to rowing on the river on a regular basis. We also welcome adults recovering from drug and alcohol misuse to a drop-in football session and structured fitness class to boost their well-being.

"Waddington Street Centre as a Durham community mental health resource - and charity - has been very appreciative over the years of the support provided by the Durham University Volunteering and Community Outreach Team. This support predominately comes through the offering of student volunteers to support mental health service users with their physical activity needs and working with them through weekly gym and football exercise programmes. This support enables users to mix and engage with new and different people as part of their wider engagement and understanding of living in a community." Waddington Street Centre Feedback



Volunteering Events

Student Volunteering Week (SVW) (13th - 19th February)

Student Volunteering Week 2023 saw a number of successful events held. Events included:

Beach Clean

11 students went to Crimdon Dene beach and collected 12 bags of rubbish off the beach.

Durham Indoor Markets

5 students started a new project at Durham Indoor Markets during SVW and will be working fortnightly with staff at the markets to undertake an environmental survey, and implementing new strategies to reduce waste.

Park Run

12 students did a volunteer take-over at Durham Park Run, standing in for regular Park Run volunteers, in positions such as running marshals, providing water and recording running times.



World Fest

This new event was created as an opening signature event to Durham Global week. A collaboration between DUSVO and International Students Association birthed the idea which provided a student-led cultural festival, cutting across more than 70 different countries and cultures and providing interactive activities and dance. We also welcomed volunteers from our International Study Centre. The event was attended by 800 guests, including members of the public, staff and students.

Lunar New Year

Working closely with Durham County Council International office our international students have become an integral part to the City-wide celebration of Lunar New Year. In the weeks running up the event 12 of our students visited 5 local primary schools conducting sessions around poetry, Chinese songs, drama and lantern making. During the celebration our students led activities in the town hall and library for members of the community as well as taking part in the parade and providing performances.

One-off Volunteering Events

Global Durham Awards

This year we celebrated the first ever Global Durham week which culminated with the Global Durham Awards Evening where we were delighted to pick up 2 awards. Our Project Leader Alexandra Hart received the Global Volunteering Award for her work establishing the Tutor for Ukraine project. This project has seen 1600 Ukrainian children sign up for tutoring and has been supported by over 100 Durham University students. DUSVO was awarded the Global Student Experience Award which was collected by Jiayu Liu, Cultural chair on our DUSVO executive committee. Global experience is a big focus within volunteering. We have many international students who are passionate about volunteering and our projects reflect that, including the Global schools project, refugees kids club and annual cultural events.



World Heritage Day

Student volunteer Sreedevi Velidimalla managed a team of fellow volunteers in supporting the delivery of Durham's World Heritage Day on Palace Green on Easter Monday. The event welcomed over 1000 visitors to the historic site, offering a range of activities including Quidditch, live performances, tours and interactive activities. Despite the relentless rain our students persisted to bring enthusiasm and warmth to the event and a great day was had by all.



Volunteering Recognition

Staff Volunteering Award

An award for staff who have completed 35 hours of volunteering over the course of one year.

Alastair Basden
Katie Binks
Linda Bosveld
Audrey Bowron
Jane Dove

Helen Drinkall
Deborah Curry
Rebecca Dunn
Siobhan Kennedy
Matteo Lai

Annie Robinson
Katie Stobbs
Judith Vincent
Paula Willerton
Colin Wintrip

Student Volunteering Certificates

Hall of Fame (200+ volunteering hours cumulative across a students university life)

Alfie Baker
Amelia Enstone

Ben Dickinson
Louise Liu

Matthew Taylor
Molly Scholefield

Olivia Gaynard

Platinum (120 - 199 volunteering hours cumulative across a students university life)

Adam Matthews
Alex Vellins
Beth Taylor

Eleanor Hartley
Emily Walster
Helena Scott

Jemima Millar
Lottie Gravelsons
Natalie Gaunt

Rosa Aziz

Gold (90 - 119 volunteering hours cumulative across a students university life)

Anna McCormack
Cecilia Barnes Gosling
Eleanor Wallace

Ella Maurici
Emma Sullivan
Ezme Till

Heidi Steepe
Katie Rogers
Lydia Kitchen

Rebecca Kennedy
Robert Hawkins
Sun Crabtree

Silver (60 - 89 volunteering hours cumulative across a students university life)

Billie Shearman
Daisie Houlden
Finola Lawton

Flynn Edwards
Hannah Moore
Megan Smith

Mintoa Wang
Molly Gath
Morgan Saunders

Ollie Campbell Lendrum
Yee Lam Hester Poon
Zhihan Liu

Bronze (30 - 59 volunteering hours cumulative across a students university life)

Abi Harvey
Ben Walton
Cai Merak
Catie Mohan
Chun Wang
Clara Lam
Dheepan Singaravel
Eleanor Andrews Corbett
Elena Meier
Ella Bearpark
Emily Jubb

Emma Allison
Fenella Oliver
Honwei Liu
Ingrid Lam
Iona Cowie
Isabel Dungworth
Jessica Bond
Katie Notley
Lilly Whipp
Lottie Keyse
Luna Middleton-Roy

Madeline Parker
Maia Cumming
Millie Stott
Molly Parker
Nalin Pieries
Oliver Mansfield
Rhea Betton
Robyn O'Connor
Ross Plowman
Sana Riaz
Saori Matsumura

Sarah Ellabban
Sarah Bithell
Sophia Barton
Susanna Davies
Syed Zaki Kazimi
Tilly Irvine
Victoria Woodhouse
Xinting Feng
Yoyo Lam
Yuka Atsuchi

Holiday Camp Volunteers

Hall Of Fame (200 + volunteering hours): 4 Volunteers

Platinum (120 -199 volunteering hours): 4 Volunteers

Gold (90 - 119 volunteering hours): 4 Volunteers

Silver (60 - 89 volunteering hours): 5 Volunteers



Roll of Honorary Aldermen

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 3rd June 1991 | James MacIntosh |
| 3rd June 1991 | Ebenezer Shaker |
| 3rd June 2005 | Joseph S Anderson |
| 3rd June 2005 | Colin W Beswick M.B.E |
| 3rd June 2005 | Mrs. Irene Lupton J.P |
| 3rd June 2005 | Michael Howarth |
| 2018 | James W Turnbull |
| 2018 | Eduard Ramsay |
| 2019 | Thomas S Gill |
| 2019 | Raymond Gibbon |
| 2019 | Mr. [Name] |



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Volunteering and Outreach

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