

Impact Report

Easter Term 2023



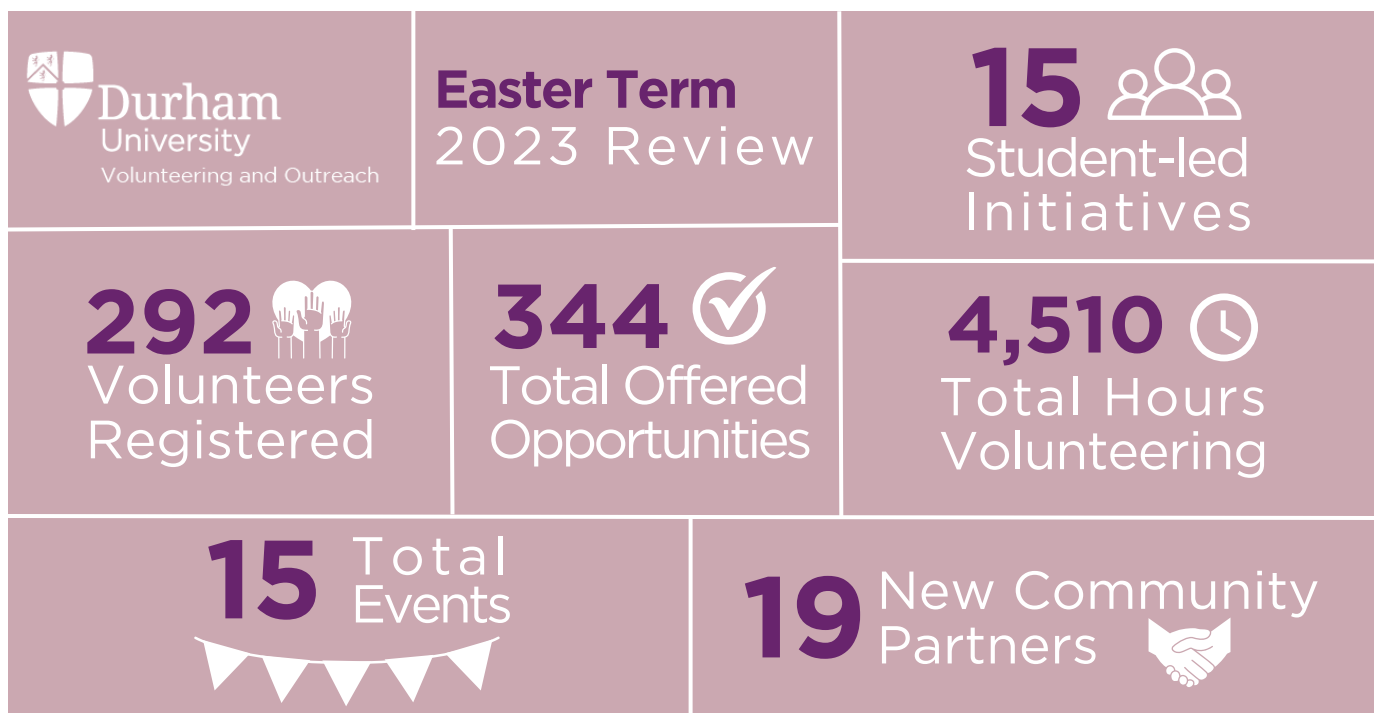
Summary

Welcome to the Easter Term Impact Report from the Volunteering and Community Outreach team. This is the second edition to showcase what Durham University has been up to in relation to all things volunteering in the community.

This term is a busy one for students and staff, and despite this we still had plenty of volunteering and community collaboration going on throughout. The months have seen some fantastic events take place, including the Zambia Fun Run, National Volunteering Week, The Big Help Out as part of the Coronation, and Durham Pride. Easter Term also brought the opportunity for us to recognise the amazing work of our volunteers with the annual Volunteering Awards.

We have continued networking and embedding ourselves within the wider community and have happily welcomed even more new community partners, charities and organisations into the fold to begin new and exciting projects and opportunities.

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.



International CSR Gold Award for Volunteering



In June 2023, The Volunteering and Outreach Team were awarded the prestigious International Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Excellence Gold Award for Volunteering. Achieving a Gold Award for Volunteering at this level, highlights the success of the DUVO programme and the University's commitment towards volunteering and community outreach.

This accolade marks another addition to our collection of awards we have received in recent years, including the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2020.

The International CSR Excellence Awards aims to support and motivate companies to actively participate in social responsibility practices, and to highlight positive implementation of such practices. The CSR award acts as an international accreditation in the areas of social responsibility, economic and social initiatives, relying on a set of accurate international standards and indicators to determine and evaluate institutions dedication to excellence in these areas.

Jackie Lowes, Volunteering and Community Partner Assistant Manager, attended the Awards held at St Paul's Cathedral in London with colleague Stacy Porter to accept the Award on behalf of the University. Jackie said "To be counted amongst an extensive list of international businesses and recognised for the hard work of the staff in our department, our students, and staff volunteers, was a very humbling experience".



College Volunteering

COLLEGE VOLUNTEERING HEADLINES

11 ONE-OFF OPPORTUNITIES **27** COMMUNITY PARTNERS

5 NEW PROJECTS

14 Total PROJECTS

ENVIRONMENT **1** PROJECT EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS **7**

SOCIAL INCLUSION PROJECTS **6**

Eleven of our colleges engaged with volunteering this term. Established volunteering projects including Eco Club (St John's and St Chad's Colleges), Primary School Project (College of St Hild and St Bede), Intergenerational Project (Josephine Butler College, John Snow College and Stephenson College) and Mildert for Refugees (Van Mildert College), have continued to run during Easter Term.

A number of one off volunteering opportunities were also held, primarily post exams. This included volunteering at DASH (St Aidan's College), invigilating an Art Exhibition (Josephine Butler), a beach clean (John Snow) and a 'Power to Inspire' sports event (Hatfield College).

This term also saw the establishment of a few new volunteering projects including, a Theatre Outreach project at St Cuthbert's Primary School (College of St Hild and St Bede), and volunteer readers and lunchtime club supervisors at Langley Moor Primary School (St Mary's College).

Term Spotlight

On 12 June, St Mary's College held their very first 'Volunteering Day'. Over 90 students and staff from St Mary's took part in one of six volunteering opportunities throughout the day. The activities included a beach clean at Crimdon Dene with Seascapes, painting and decorating at DASH, wellness rock painting with RT Projects, donation sorting with Stray Aid, gardening and maintenance with Stockton Road Cemetery and a Balsam Bash.

The day was a huge success and we look forward to seeing many more 'college volunteering days' over the next academic year.



DUSVO (Durham University Student Volunteering and Outreach)

Easter term is a busy period for students academically, nonetheless DUSVO has seen over 1,300 students engage in volunteering over 2,600 different sessions. This is an outstanding effort in a term that tends to see a decline in volunteering activity on our student-led projects.

DUSVO Projects and their leaders were well represented at the annual Volunteering Awards held in June. A total of 13 Projects or Project Managers were shortlisted, or won, across 10 applicable categories.

Project winners include:

- Best Educational Effort -Tutor for Ukraine
- Best Environmental Effort - Gardening Project
- Best Cultural Effort - Durham Global Schools.

Project Manager and Volunteer winners include:

- Longstanding Volunteer - Olivia Gaynard from Durham Minds
- Volunteer Leader of the Year – Ross Plowman from Durham for Refugee Kids Club and Under One Sky.



Project Spotlight - Code Club

Code club has been one of the most successful DUSVO projects throughout the academic year and continued to deliver regular provision throughout the busy Easter term. The project goes into local schools to deliver coding sessions, operating courses on Scratch, Python and web design for children aged 8 and above. The project currently has 33 volunteers registered, accumulating over 100 volunteering hours. Jose Stewart the Project Manager has been a credit to the project, volunteering on the sessions himself and co-ordinating to the highest standard, leading him to be shortlisted for Volunteer Leader of the Year at the 2023 Volunteering Awards.

New Project - Move Mates

Move Mates is a walking buddy project that pair people who struggle to get out on their own, with one of our wonderful volunteers, for a regular walk for 1-2 hours a week. Move Mates is for adults of all ages and can help people with short-term goals such as building confidence to get to new places, or with longer-term support to improve physical, mental, and emotional health. Since the introduction of the Project at the beginning of term we already have 32 registered volunteers and 30 logged hours, with 100% of the session slots being filled. DUSVO are excited to see this project continue to flourish in the next academic year.



Staff Volunteering

This term the Staff Volunteering team have carried out 42 team challenges, including:

- The Auckland Project: Creating fabric flowers for their tower project, and clearing their garden space.
- RT Projects: Painting the fence and creating 'Never Give Up' rocks.
- Foodbank: Sorting donations and putting together food parcels.
- Beach cleans: Litter pick along County Durham beaches.
- Stray Aid: Animal shelter and donation warehouse.
- Trimdon Community Gardens: Resurrecting their community garden area.
- Wear Rivers Trust: Balsam bashing and tree planting.
- Old Durham Gardens: Tidying the lower gardens.
- Daisy Chain: Gardening, painting, and sorting donations.

Staff Volunteering Celebration Event

This term the staff volunteering celebration event in the Business School where staff were recognised (over cake and coffee) for all the amazing work they have done within the community over the last few years. Staff who had completed their 35 hours of volunteer leave were awarded with a certificate of volunteer celebration.

National Volunteers Week

Staff members completed numerous team challenges during National Volunteers Week including:

- Three beach cleans.
- Foodbank session.
- Stray Aid tidy up and dog walking session.

Staff Volunteering Statistics Easter Term 2023

- 239 new volunteers registered
- 2,498 hours logged
- 230 opportunities offered
- 61 team challenges



Team Durham Community



Summer Holiday camps

Across the 6 weeks of the school summer holidays over 600 different children attended our sports camps, with our expert team delivering fun, engaging sports activities. Whilst the majority took part in our multi-sport camp, we also hosted football, dance and drama camps. Our 2 weeks of adventure camp saw thirty 12-16 year olds take part in a variety of activities at the wellbeing park and beyond, including paddle-boarding and climbing. The camps offer a unique opportunity for children from a range of backgrounds to get involved in a number of new sports and adventure based activities in a fun, inclusive, and supportive environment. In total, the children attended for over 2400 individual visits.

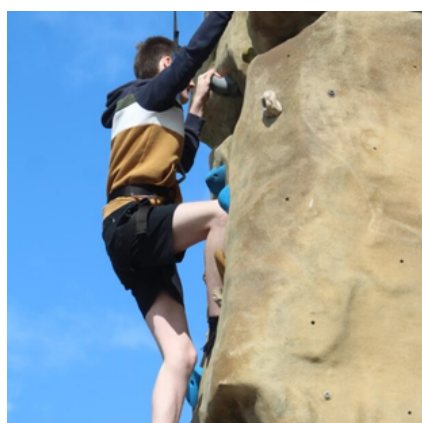
Junior Sports Clubs

During Easter Term, a range of junior sports clubs were run by Team Durham Community with the support of staff and student volunteers from across Durham University, and volunteers from some of our community sport partners. Once again, our largest junior sport club Durham Hockey Juniors operated with the joint support of Durham City Hockey Club (DCHC) and Durham University Hockey Club (DUHC) to deliver weekly hockey sessions to up to 45 children aged 6-16 years old. Easter Term also saw the Junior Hockey Summer league which brought together children and parents from the club in an engaging, fun and competitive format during which the hockey improved week by week.

Our Junior Tennis and Junior Volleyball continued, with session attendance increasing towards the end of term. This was due to the excellent volunteer coaches from Durham University's tennis and volleyball clubs, who have engaged participants and aided their development in their respective sports.

Zambia Fun Run

On the 9th of June, children from 4 schools in County Durham came together to participate in a range of sports activities to raise a total of £758 to support the work of Sport in Action Zambia. This annual event gives the children the opportunity to find out more about the charity and Zambia project, whilst taking part in fun sport and dance activities. Sport in Action Zambia is an NGO that aims to improve quality of life through sport and recreational activities. This year two of our students joined the organisation in Zambia aiding with coaching and coach development in different areas of the country. Below(left) are some of our students who have spent their summer out in Zambia.



Volunteering Events

National Volunteers' Week

To mark National Volunteering week 2023 we had a number of key events, celebrating and promoting all things volunteering in addition to our usual weekly activities such as Code Club and Gardening Project. The week kicked off to a flying start with our annual DU Volunteering Award, this year we received over 300 nominations so the competition was fierce, the event was kindly hosted by Craig Morgan County Durham Area Action Partnership Coordinator and long time friend of Durham University Volunteering and our guest speaker again was the wonderful Lord Lieutenant Sue Snowdon, check out our social media platforms to see a full list of short listers and winners.

The staff volunteering team, who are experiencing a record number of requests for volunteering opportunities by our staff and in the midst of their busiest month of the year, conducted four team challenges during National Volunteering week, enabling 35 staff volunteered across 4 sites supporting two of our charity partners, Stay Aid and SeaScapes.

We held a student training event on the Wednesday attended by 20 student volunteering leaders in collaboration with Leadership Framework team. The event was attended by DUSVO exec, College volunteer coordinators and DUSVO project leaders.

Team Durham Community held their annual Zambia Fun Run at the University Sports and Wellbeing Park on the Friday. Over 300 children from Durham City Primary schools attended the fun packed morning. Fun dance sessions were delivered by Durham University's Dancesport team, football sessions were delivered by the excellent sports leaders from Durham Johnston and the actual run itself was expertly supervised by our student volunteers and partners from the Durham and Chester-le-Street School Sport Partnership. Great feedback was received from both the children and teachers in attendance and all the schools collectively helped to raise £749 for Sport in Action and will be used to enhance the lives of children in Zambia through sport and physical activity.

Finally we ended National volunteering week with the act of continuing the promotion of all things volunteering by joining the Durham Community Action Volunteer Fair at Durham City Marketplace where the team spent the afternoon sharing the love of all things volunteering and meeting new community partners.



King's Coronation



The Big Help Out took part on Monday 8th May as part of the King's coronation weekend. The objective is to raise awareness of volunteering, and provide opportunities for people to experience volunteering and make a difference in their communities. We hosted a 'Pledge to Volunteer' stand in Durham City Marketplace and promoted a range of volunteering opportunities and organisations from across the country. We coordinated a city wide litter pick, supported by Durham City Air Cadets (234 Squadron ATC), Neville's Cross residents and Durham City Parish Council, resulting in over 100 people collecting nearly 50 bags of rubbish. One of our partner organisations, the Wear River Trust, also led an 'Invasive Species Walk' along the river banks of Durham. For the coronation itself, university staff and student volunteers welcomed 300 members of the local community who watched the King's Coronation in a marquee and enjoyed a day of family fun.

Durham Pride 2023

DU Volunteers supported Pride by volunteering at the Sunday march through Durham City which took place to highlight the continuous need for more LGBT+ inclusiveness, equality, and diversity. 10 of our registered volunteers helped Pride staff, marshalled the parade, and supported the general running of the event.

Stray Aid Annual Dog Show

Held at Durham University's Sports and Wellbeing Park, Stray Aid's annual Dog Show was supported by university staff volunteers. Stray Aid have an active and positive relationship with staff and students who attend regular volunteering sessions in Coxhoe and Dragonville.

Volunteers and attendees had the opportunity to meet former stray dogs who are now thriving in loving homes. The event was a fantastic way to demonstrate and celebrate the positive impact of Stray Aid workers, as well as our student and staff members who volunteer with them.



Volunteering Awards 2023

The 2023 Durham University Volunteering Awards were held on Tuesday 6th June at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Durham. The awards celebrated the outstanding efforts of both staff and students across the university and recognised the impact these efforts had on individuals and the community. Over 300 nominations were received for this year's awards.

This year we were delighted to have County Durham's Lord Lieutenant Mrs Sue Snowdon in attendance, as well as community partners.

https://duvolunteering.webspace.durham.ac.uk/?page_id=757

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/news-events/latest-news/2023/06/celebrating-our-volunteer-award-winners/>

Outstanding Newcomer

An award for a new member of Durham University, who has shown inspiring levels of commitment and dedication to volunteering.

- Flynn Edwards (Student Winner)
- Jack Dunn (Staff Winner)
- Charlotte Polomsky
- Lilly Whipp
- Jane Fullard



Best New Volunteering Project

An award for a new volunteering project that has positively impacted the community.

- Mildert for Refugees - Van Mildert College (Student Winner)
- The Government Support Services Staff (Staff Winner)
- Under One Sky
- Tutor for Ukraine



Best Cultural Effort

An award for a volunteering effort that has widened access and participation to arts and cultural activities.

- Durham Global Schools (Student Winner)
- Lunar New Year Schools Project - Stephenson College
- Megan Smith
- Music Outreach - Collingwood College



Best Social Inclusion Effort

An award for a volunteering effort that has enriched the lives of people who are from traditionally isolated groups. For example, the elderly, the homeless, people living with disabilities and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

- Collingwood College Amateur Football Club (Student Winner)
- Jane Dove (Staff Winner)
- Young Person's Project - Van Mildert College
- Durham for Refugees Kids Club
- Judith King
- Business and Management Charity Gala



Best Environmental Effort

An award for a volunteering effort that has made a positive impact and / or raised awareness for environmental and / or sustainability issues.

- Gardening Project (Student Winner)
- Linda Bosveld and Helen Drinkall (Staff Winner)
- Eco Club - St John's and St Chad's Colleges
- Environmental Action with Durham Indoor Markets
- Geography Department Beach Cleaning Team
- Jane Fullard



Best Educational Effort

An award for a volunteering effort that has enriched the lives of people who are from traditionally isolated groups. For example, the elderly, the homeless, people living with disabilities and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

- Tutor for Ukraine (Student Winner)
- Katie Allen (Staff Winner)
- Ben Cawood
- Primary School Project - Van Mildert College



Longstanding Volunteer

An award for a volunteer who has shown inspiring levels of commitment and dedication to volunteering.

- Olivia Gaynard (Student Winner)
- Judith Vincent (Staff Winner)
- Jiayu Liu
- Katie Rogers
- Jasmine Moore
- Carol Bainbridge
- Katie Stobbs
- Marie Thornton



Team of the Year

An award for a team (e.g. sports team, society, department) who have shown continued commitment and dedication to making a positive impact on the community through volunteering.

- Collingwood College Amateur Football Club (Student Winner)
- Geography Department Beach Cleaning Team (Staff Winner)
- Scouts and Guides Group
- Young Person's Project - Van Mildert College
- The Government Support Services Staff
- The Finance and Procurement Team



College of the Year

An award for a college that has shown continued commitment and dedication to making a positive impact on the community through volunteering.

- St John's and St Chad's Colleges (Winner)
- Collingwood College (Highly Commended)
- Van Mildert College



Volunteer Leader of the Year

An award for a volunteer who has successfully lead, developed and progressed a volunteering project or opportunity, to support the community.

- Ross Plowman (Student Winner)
- Kathryn Elwick and Natalie Costello (Staff Winner)
- Jose Stewart
- Grace Clancy
- Paula Willerton
- Jane Dove



Volunteer of the Year

An award for a volunteer who has gone above and beyond in their volunteering role, by supporting the community, developing personally, and inspiring others.

- Alex Vellins (Student Winner)
- Paula Willerton (Staff Winner)
- Summer Revely
- Olivia Gaynard
- Jasmine Moore
- Kathryn Elwick and Natalie Costello
- Linda Bosveld and Helen Drinkall



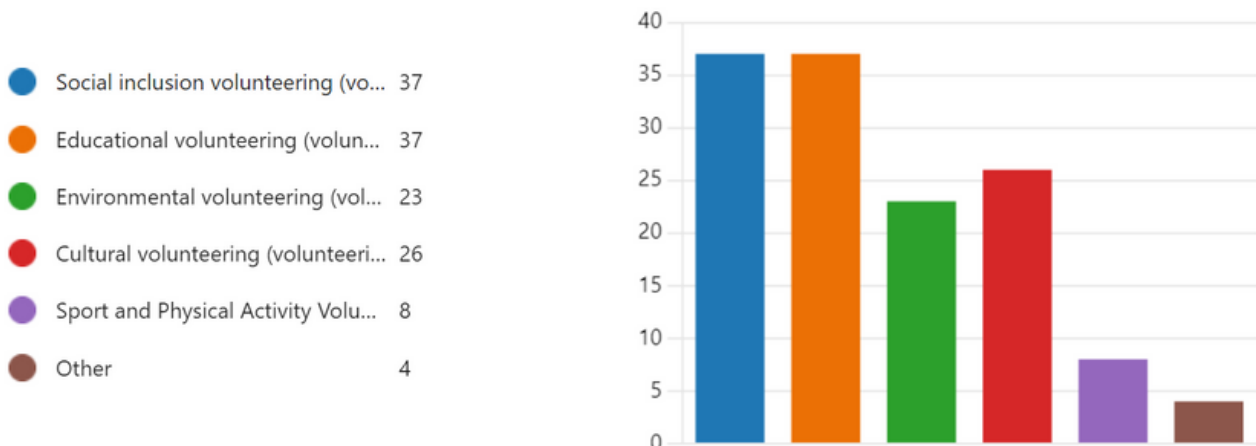
DU Community Volunteering Survey

Throughout April and June DUVO conducted a Community Volunteering Survey. The purpose of the survey being to understand the scope of voluntary activity across staff and students within the wider Durham community, to identify gaps in provision, improve offerings and volunteer training, reduce engagement barriers and better support partner organisations and charities.

Over 180 people responded answering questions about their motivations and barriers of volunteering, as well as rating the services provided by DUVO. The results will be used by the department to help strengthen and better align our volunteering opportunities. A brief overview of the results are included below, highlighting people's most prominent motivation to volunteer as the need to help others.



Which of these areas do you volunteer the most within?





Durham
University

Volunteering and Outreach

Contact

The Sports and Wellbeing Park
Maiden Castle
Stockton Road
DH1 3SE

E: student.volunteering@durham.ac.uk (student volunteering and DUSVO queries)
E: college.volunteering@durham.ac.uk (college volunteering queries)
E: community.engagement@durham.ac.uk (staff volunteering and community partner support)
E: volunteering.support@durham.ac.uk (societies and external events queries)
E: teamdurham.community@durham.ac.uk (Team Durham community queries)

F: Durham University Student Volunteering and Outreach
I: @duvolunteering
I: @du_college_volunteering
F: Durham University Staff Volunteering
I: @SVODurham

durham.ac.uk

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