



# roots & shoots

MISSION POSSIBLE

*"Together we really can make the world  
a better place for all living things"*

Dr Jane Goodall

newsletter

## Dear Roots & Shoots Members,

**At the end of last year we had a huge uplift in the number of new schools joining Roots & Shoots.**

We have grown from 74 to over 270 schools taking part in the programme – an amazing result in such a short period of time! This is very exciting and you can see our UK representation of schools on the adjacent map.

This year our focus is going to be on involvement, that is supporting and visiting schools already taking part in the programme and encouraging them with their projects. It is one thing for schools to register with us but our mission is to encourage on-going projects and community involvement and eventually make Roots & Shoots a way of living for all our members.

The important thing to remember is that you don't have to be some great politician or in a position of power to make a difference in the world. Charity begins at home! So start in your own house, with your household pets for example or being good to your neighbours. My own neighbours are involved in lots of local charitable work and help out in a home for sheltered animals and their local Oxfam.

Our awards event is set for December 14th, which gives you plenty of time to plan and undertake projects. The event will take place at the headquarters of the Zoological Society of London in Regents Park.

We will try to visit as many schools as possible over time but if you particularly feel we need to visit your school then get in touch and tell us why!

We look forward to hearing from you.

Tara Golshan,  
Executive Director,  
Education



## Meet our groups across the UK...

We now have an amazing 270 schools involved in the programme and our numbers continue to grow. The map below shows where our Roots & Shoots groups are located across the UK.

To find a school near you, see details of those schools who have registered or to remind your teacher to register visit:  
**[www.rootsnshoots.org.uk](http://www.rootsnshoots.org.uk)**



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## Fundraising -what you can do!

Just because our official fundraising months normally take place in the Autumn does not mean we cannot fundraise throughout the year. Just small amounts of money can go a long way at Tchimpounga.

It costs about £2,726 per year to look after a chimp which means £52 a week. Smaller items needed in the sanctuary also include:

**Energy light bulbs - £10**

**Pig Nibbles - £11**

**Digital Watches - £11**

**Rechargeable batteries - £14**

**Flashlights - £18**

**Back Packs for keepers - £27**

**Water proof cases GPS - £27**

### Some fundraising ideas to get you started:

**A Mufty day at school - make a donation for wearing your own clothes**

**A Cake making day or stall as part of a school Fete**

**Collect donations for face painting - try painting African animals**

**A sponsored walk, swim, run or even silence**

**A spelling competition**

**A School Sports Day**

**Making environmental products i.e. Reusable Bags**

**A Book sale**

**A Raffle**

# ACS Hillingdon International School raises 1000 pounds for Tchimpounga in Eco-Friendly week

Anne-Marie Pesonen, Humanities teacher, tells us how...

Recently the middle school students at ACS Hillingdon International School took part in an event called Eco-friendly Week. The purpose of this week was to raise money for Roots & Shoots. We also wanted to raise awareness of environmental issues.

In order to prepare for the event, the Student Council brainstormed ideas for fundraising, and Rayan Asfari (Student Council Environmental Advisor) gave a brief presentation about Roots & Shoots. During the week, we had many charitable events including a raffle where we sold tickets for three gift baskets. In each basket we had a number of eco-friendly, organic and fair trade products.

We also had a used book and DVD sale.

In addition, students got sponsors and dressed up as eco-friendly characters. Finally, a group of students worked on creating a design for re-useable bags.

ACS Hillingdon International School raised £1001.48 in total for Roots & Shoots.

We are confident that our school will continue to keep in mind 'eco-friendly' practices. We also brainstormed other ways in which we can become more sustainable. Like Margaret Mead once said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."



Eco-friendly activities at Hillingdon International School

# Mission Reports...

## Rebecca Lambert, who has been involved with the Roots & Shoots programme for many years, shares her experiences

I am French and I have been living in Cornwall for about 11 years.

I have always had a passion for wildlife and although I didn't choose a scientific path for my studies, I always knew that one day I would help protect the environment and the animal kingdom. This dream became stronger when I became a mother to my gorgeous little girl now 9 years old. I decided it was time for me to help salvage what was left of the natural world so my child could grow up in a world worth living in.

About five years ago, I had the amazing opportunity to meet Dr Jane Goodall through one of her relatives. When I heard about what she had done and all the things she had achieved in her lifetime, my mind was blown away and I instantly became more focused. This was it. My goal became very clear and I knew how I could help.

As I had started work as a project coordinator for the science department of Camborne Science and Community College in Cornwall, I decided to integrate Roots & Shoots wherever I could. I talked about it in assemblies. I set up a few groups in several primary schools (including one in my daughter's school). I focused my primary science sessions on environmental issues and I did all I could to raise awareness on all the things that can be done to help protect our world via displays and events.

It didn't always work but I never felt alone. Tara Golshan was always on the other end of the phone to support and give me some advice. Her outstanding dedication motivated me even more.

One of the highlights of my work



**Rebecca and Stumpy her rescued bearded dragon**

*"...children can do amazing things and I am proud of every single one of their positive actions."*

was to give the year 5 and 6 pupils of Rosemellin Primary school the opportunity to get involved in the design and development of a woodland area on their school grounds. They all worked very hard at creating resources for their school to use. They were absolutely over the moon when a delegation of four was sent to London to present their work and meet Dr Jane in person at the first ever Roots & Shoots Award ceremony. The pupils and their teacher had a fantastic time in London and I know that they will remember it for as long as they live.

This is when I realised how amazing a programme Roots & Shoots is. It empowers children to make a difference however small and gives them the recognition they deserve. Our troubled youth

today craves approval from a harsh society that emphasises negativity and idealises bad behaviour through the media. Given the right role models and the opportunity to shine, children can do amazing things and I am proud of every single one of their positive actions.

Of course it isn't always simple; I find that getting support from teachers can be difficult as they are genuinely overwhelmed by work. They probably feel that running a Roots & Shoots group would only add to their already full working day. To them I would say: look at what your school is already doing and use this to empower your pupils. Are they raising money for a worthwhile charity? Are they recycling their school resources? Do they create displays on animals? If they do, then you are already half way there. Tell them about Dr Jane and Roots & Shoots in assemblies; have a look at all the resources available on the website; submit all their positive actions to the Jane Goodall Institute and let them know how proud you are of everything they do by sharing it with your community through a newsletter or dedicated display boards.

As for me, I feel more positive than ever and my work has only just begun. I am a single mum. I now work part time because I started a full time Foundation Degree course in Wildlife Education and Media at Cornwall College in Newquay. It is a bit of a juggling act but it seems like the right path to take to develop my career and my dreams. I am working for my child's future. I am full of new ideas and what better place to carry on my Roots & Shoots mission than a College dedicated to Applied Zoology?

# Next Mission Brief

## Simple tips for active involvement

In the Dustbowl Mission Chrono-bot R00T5 travels to a future where crops have failed leading to dust storms, and Kent is a strange, almost lunar landscape, with little or nothing growing. Conservation of pollinating insects today can prevent future crop failure and the resulting catastrophic dust storms.

## What can YOU do to help?

Here are some ideas to get you started:



Spring is here so one way you can help is by taking part in Springwatch! Over the coming season all sorts of animal and plant life will become more active in your local area - check out the Springwatch Activity in the Dustbowl section of the Roots & Shoots website at [www.rootsnshoots.org.uk](http://www.rootsnshoots.org.uk) to get started and record the first signs of spring.



The new season means a big increase in insect activity. You can become more aware of your local insect life by taking part in a bug life survey: Check out [www.buglife.org.uk/getinvolved/surveys/](http://www.buglife.org.uk/getinvolved/surveys/)



With the weather improving now is the perfect time for outdoor activities such as creating a wildlife garden or building a home for bees! Find out how in our [Plan and Plant a Wildlife Garden Activity](#) in the Dustbowl section of the website.

You can find information on these and more Dustbowl activities by looking in the Resources section of the website and choosing Dustbowl Activities. Don't forget to post a story on the website to keep us updated on how you are getting on!

**Check out**  
[www.rootsnshoots.org.uk](http://www.rootsnshoots.org.uk)  
**today!**



## Dr Jane speaks at the Oxford Union

On the 25th February Dr Jane Goodall spoke to a packed audience of over 300 students and members of the public at the prestigious Oxford Union.



The evening began for a number of lucky members of the Roots & Shoots committee who were selected to meet Dr Jane and enjoy the privilege of dining with her prior to the lecture.

Students were enthralled by her story of how she became the world's most famous primatologist, her studies at Gombe, her knowledge of man's closest living relative and her reasons for hope for the future.

The lecture was followed by a book signing in the Union library that lasted for over two hours and resulted in many more students eagerly signing up to join the Oxford Roots & Shoots committee and getting involved in our overseas projects and events in Africa and the Far East.