



Thethi Summer Programme: a summer school offering English teaching, music and environmental education



When?

The Thethi Summer Programme took place July/August 2010.

Who?

Over the course of the 4 weeks approximately 50 students attended from the village and surrounding area. Other activities were also offered for the wider community over the period.

Two classes were led by Albanian teachers and two English classes were led by a minimum of two volunteers in each. There was one classroom interpreter, shared between the two English classes. In later weeks several of the volunteers were able to interpret if required. Other volunteers offered variety to the programme with games and activities as well as classroom support for the teachers.

We had a local coordinator within the village, providing on the spot support wherever needed and a logistics coordinator in Shkoder/Thethi helping to organise the local travel and accommodation for the volunteers.

What?

Students were grouped as follows:

- Group 1: Very young (5 to 8 approx)
- Group 2: Younger (9 to 12 approx)
- Group 3: Older (13 to 18) – English beginners
- Group 4: Older (13 to 18) – English Improvers

In their Albanian classes they learnt a wide range of topics, the older groups covered issues such as protection from fire, first aid, democracy, family planning whilst the younger groups covered environmental topics like water, air, earth, nature and pollution.

In the English lessons each of the four weeks was themed to provide a common thread for all the activities wherever practical, these were:

My valley
My country
My life
My future

Each week students were given certificates to mark their completion of a topic which were kindly provided (along with many other resources) by volunteer Angela Selmani.

Music, songs and games were all part of the curriculum, particularly in the last two weeks when the project was supported by volunteers Ros and Paul Woodin and their sons who had brought a number of musical instruments and had a song or a game for every topic you could think of.

At the end of the 4 weeks a graduation ceremony was held with songs, dances and instrumental pieces. As well as a disco/party for a final celebration together– which was a great success and enjoyed by young and old alike.

“One of my lasting memories of summer 2010 will be listening to the children singing the songs they had learnt as they made their way home from school. I think the success of the graduation ceremony is down to the wonderful array of songs, dances and instrumental pieces that our volunteers introduced. I am indebted to them for making those 2 weeks successful and memorable.”

Judith Walker coordinator for weeks 3 - 4.

Equipment donations:

Teaching equipment was donated or paid for from the funds raised for the project.

We were also able to distribute kind donations of
toothbrushes/toothpaste (along with some dental care advice)
shoes
hair slides
toys
T-shirts

We were also lucky to receive a large amount of toys and T-shirts from a mountain climbing group who came to the celebration.

These things proved very popular when volunteers visited some of the families who live all year in the valley in quite harsh conditions.

Permaculture and craft workshops:

Alongside the summer programme a permaculture course and women’s craft workshop were new initiatives for 2010, these activities helped support participation for the wider community (separate reports are available for these projects.)