

History of Raleigh International

Raleigh International has its origins in 'Operation Drake' which was launched in 1978 by HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales and Colonel John Blashford-Snell, with the purpose of running youth projects from ships circumnavigating the globe. The aim was to develop self-confidence and leadership in young people, through their participation in adventure, scientific exploration and community service, accompanied by some of the world's foremost explorers, scientists and geographers. During the two-year project, 414 people participated in the round the world voyage on the 'Eye of the Wind', following Sir Francis Drake's epic route and worked on land-based projects in 16 different countries.)



Operation Drake was so successful that the Prince of Wales and John Blashford-Snell created the much larger and more ambitious 'Operation Raleigh'. This was initially a four year project running from 1984 - 1988, involving 4,000 volunteers and almost 1,600 staff. The two ships involved were the 'Sir Walter Raleigh' renovated by young people from Hull and 'Zebu', a tall-ship. With the support of

Kingston upon Hull City Council, Raleigh was launched from Hull in 1984.

As the initiative went from strength to strength, it was decided that Operation Raleigh should continue on a permanent basis, with the emphasis on land based expedition programmes.

Operation Raleigh becomes Raleigh International

To reflect the increasing number of volunteers from all over the world, Operation Raleigh changed its name to Raleigh International in 1992. The charity's focus was to build and improve on its position as a unique youth development organisation by widening the diversity of the participants, by ensuring the relevance and quality

of its overseas programmes and by raising the issues of global awareness.

Over the past few years we have striven to increase the number of young people that we work with from different backgrounds and nationalities. As a charity we rely on funding to encourage participation in the overseas programme of young people from the host countries as well as young people from "at risk" backgrounds in the UK.

We now run two successful core programmes which provide a powerful learning environment for young people. The overseas programme in various countries which takes its origins from Operation Drake in 1978 and the groundbreaking and highly successful Youth Development Programme in the UK called Motive8. Launched in 2000 Motive8 aims to develop the skills and prospects of disadvantaged and socially excluded young people in the UK through a year-long programme that culminates in an overseas programme.

As reflected in our new mission statement Raleigh International works with young people from all backgrounds and nationalities to enable them to make a positive contribution and achieve personal and social development.

Our two core programmes coupled with other initiatives involving a host of youth development partners has meant that Raleigh International is firmly at the forefront of international youth development.

