

## Youth Training & Volunteers



The ASHA Centre is a major provider of youth training, delivering a range of tailor-made courses sponsored by the European Union in partnership with the British Council. These residential, week-long courses are free of charge for those who attend.

Topics include:

- Peace Education
- Interfaith Understanding
- Sustainable Development
- Transformational Leadership
- Community Theatre
- Inter-cultural story-telling
- Conflict Management
- Human Rights
- Life-coaching

- Entrepreneurship
- Outdoor Education
- Active Volunteering

Volunteers from around the world come to ASHA for between one month and a year. They live together in ASHA's beautiful, nearby volunteers' house and take part in the Centre's activities of gardening, hosting groups and organising cultural events.

These volunteer placements are part of the EU's 'European Voluntary Service' programme. ASHA also sends young people from the UK to placements abroad.



## The ASHA Centre



The ASHA Centre is located in the beautiful Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, England and is an elegant Georgian home with magnificent gardens. The Centre is the vision of its founder, Zerbanoo Gifford.

At ASHA young people experience the joys and challenges of working on the land, living in community and engaging in personal development training. The ethos at ASHA is that everyone has special gifts that need to be nurtured to enrich their world. Through combining elements of the performing arts, sustainable living and intercultural dialogue, ASHA offers a richly varied programme of activities designed to meet the challenges of the times.

In addition ASHA's resident 'Tongues of Fire' Youth Theatre produces plays with young people from Gloucestershire and around the world.

*'ASHA is a Centre of excellence where pioneering ideas are put into practice and where service is not just a motto but a reality. At ASHA hope becomes action. It is a magical place, where everyone feels at home and leaves transformed.'*

BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON  
PRESIDENT OF THE ASHA CENTRE

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 The ASHA Centre



The ASHA Centre is a UK charity working for the empowerment of young people, sustainable development and peace & reconciliation worldwide.

It is a hub of intercultural activities, hosting a range of educational, performing arts and environment based programmes throughout the year.



## Sustainable living



With its Biodynamic gardens, Biomass boiler and Bio-bubble sewage system, the ASHA Centre saves on fossil fuels and precious water, significantly reducing its carbon footprint.

Courses on Sustainable Living are offered throughout the year to groups interested in respecting our environment and leading a more holistic and healthy life-style.

Visitors to ASHA enjoy nourishing food which is grown and cooked with love and attention to every detail.

The Centre is also a place for the local community, used regularly by nature lovers studying wildlife and artists inspired by the scenery and stream that flows from St Anthony's well.



## Theatre for Peace

Tongues of Fire is the resident Youth Theatre at the ASHA Centre. Through drama exercises, voice training and performance young people gain self-confidence and are allowed a creative space to express their vitality and individuality.

At ASHA, theatre is also used as a means to peace and social cohesion. Plays are produced with young people across cultural, religious and racial divides. These are performed in Britain as well as internationally.



Orphans from Eastern Europe and the Caucasus region, together with young people from Britain, created a poignant coming-of-age mime production as the culmination of their summer programme at the ASHA Centre.



Young South Africans from the townships of Johannesburg devised plays at ASHA which toured Britain. One of these, on the history of their nation, was performed for Nelson Mandela at his home.

Young Arab and Jewish Israelis created plays together at ASHA which they took back to their homeland in an effort to bring together their divided communities. The Israeli media have called this one of the most significant contributions to the peace process.



## Interfaith Action



At ASHA young people from all over the world, including places torn apart by conflict and war, come to experience each other's cultures and celebrate their shared humanity.

ASHA is a meeting space that crosses political, religious and community divides. It is a place of safety and inspiring beauty, where all faiths and cultures are honoured.

At ASHA people of different nationalities and religions live and work side by side. Here people are invited to be open



to life and understand each others' spiritual beliefs.

The ASHA Centre also hosts festivals and celebrations with the local community. It has been chosen by Spiritual Leaders and Interfaith Ministers as a base for their training and retreats.

