

Mosaic Legacy Materials

Case Study 4: Leia Hoggarth, Young Champion, Lake District National Park



Leia Hoggarth (left) with Beth Helm, Rusland Valley, Cumbria

Leia Hoggarth, 18, is from Barrow in Furness, Cumbria. She attends Furness College and helps care for her disabled mum and younger brother at home. She got involved with Mosaic in March 2015 when her friend Beth Helm texted her after attending a Full Cycle¹ taster day. Beth was persuasive and Leia thought it sounded like something she might enjoy and came along to the following Full Cycle session in Border Moss Woods in the Lake District. They spent the day learning how to coppice - chopping hazel branches low to the ground

That first day had a big impact on Leia. She couldn't believe how good it was and how nice everyone was to her. She became a core member of the Full Cycle group of volunteers; meeting monthly to take part in a cycle of woodland activities such as charcoal making, wood turning, camping and even forging her own tools. She has also attended a local woodwork weekend, two of the Mosaic annual events in the Yorkshire Dales and Exmoor National Parks and has challenged herself by taking part in delivering presentations about Full Cycle to staff and members of the Lake District National Park Authority. Another challenge was being part of a group and meeting new people, but she has gained loads of confidence over the year and now is a lot more comfortable making friends and being part of a group. She says

"Mosaic has introduced me to different experiences I hadn't heard of and would not have tried otherwise. It's given me a new range of skills, opened up what's around me and shown me career opportunities I would never have thought about. This has helped me build my confidence and self esteem as well as meeting awesome people."

Leia's latest achievement is getting a job at nearby Dalton Zoo. She went to the interview and the woman interviewing said "I see you've been volunteering and you are going to carry on...Well that's the sort of people we want. You've got the job". In the future Leia hopes to start a career working in the outdoors by getting onto a ranger apprenticeship in the Lake District. Something she wouldn't have known about had she not taken part in Mosaic.

Leia says *"I've nothing bad to say about Mosaic. It's just been brilliant and I've enjoyed every minute of it."*

Clare Dyson, Mosaic Project Officer. March 2016

The Campaign for National Parks ran the Mosaic youth project from 2013-2016 in partnership with the YHA and five National Park Authorities (Exmoor, Lake District, New Forest, Northumberland and Yorkshire Dales). The project aimed to make positive changes in young people's lives through engaging with National Parks. www.cnp.org.uk.

¹ The Full Cycle project was run by Lake District National Park, CNP and Woodmatters. It was a pilot and introduced young people from Barrow-in-Furness to woodland skills at a site in the Rusland Valley.