



# Act 4 in Action

## Change

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This has been one of the most exciting and most challenging starts to an Act 4 year ever. I am delighted that in this newsletter you are going to meet some new members of the team, but we are also saying goodbye to Luisa, our administrator who has been such an integral part of our work for many years.

At the beginning of July I was gearing up for the next stage of our business plan, a new Time to Act team. Working with funding gained by our friends in the URC Thames North Synod, our aim was to duplicate the success of the project in Potters Bar. At the end of that month, we still had the same aim, but there was a problem, I was not going to be there. In a moment of opportunity, I had found myself and my family being offered a chance for a 'sabbatical' as a Visiting Professor at Kings University College, part of University of Western Ontario, Canada! This was a big deal. On the one hand a great opportunity to learn and gain experience on another it would mean leaving Act 4 at a crucial time. There were probably 2 or 3 people that could have taken on a role in Potters Bar, at short notice, that would have made this opportunity possible and what an answer to prayer it was when Nikki then Sullivan (now Edwards) a previous volunteer and a person with tremendous school and youth work experience, accepted a role as our new Time to Act Manager. Nikki was able to welcome in September some tremendously talented volunteers and despite a slight fall start, with the new project, we are looking forward to welcoming a further two volunteers in January.

We wish our administrator Luisa all the best as she heads off to take on new challenges. Luisa has left us in brilliant shape to continue developing these exciting projects both locally and further afield.

Sam Frankel  
Director

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## New Act 4 Team

### **Who we are:**

We, Elise (19) and Johann (18) are both from Germany, although Elise is from the north-east of Germany and Johann from central Germany.

We have both finished school this summer but wanted to take a gap year between school and university.

**To find out more about what we have been doing this term, look at our blogs on [www.act4.org.uk](http://www.act4.org.uk)!**

### **Elise:**

#### **What have I done so far?**

Rehearsed, rehearsed, rehearsed and by now performed two of the six assemblies. Made and used props, started my work with the Brookmans Parks Rainbows and Brownies (I love them!), started planning different events, been part of the Sunday service, done office work, travelled to London and got to know a lot of wonderful people.

#### **Highlight(s)?**

The Rainbows and the Brownies in Brookmans Park, painting a background for the assemblies and the possibility of going into London within 30 minutes.

#### **The weirdest thing about the English culture I learned so far?**

Pouring cream on pudding. And that every dessert is called pudding.

#### **Biggest achievement so far?**

I actually manage to look to the right side when I am about to cross the road, instead of the left side. For me (and I guess everyone, who is used to drive on the right side of the street) that is a very big achievement.

#### **→ BIGGEST project, that I have taken on so far?**

Definitely the “Weekend away” in early November, where I got the chance to prepare and lead children sessions for the St. John’s Church Weekend Away in Shropshire. Together with the 13 children there, I looked at all the different aspects of “I have a dream”, which included making kites with the children and teaching them about different stories from the bible. The feedback I received from the children and the adults was amazing!

*“Thank you for your wonderful work with our children this weekend. They loved working with you, and we all really appreciated your preparation, and the way you related to them. Thank you so much for all that you have given to us.”* - John Preston (St. John’s, Shropshire)

### **Johann:**

#### **What have I done so far and what have I been doing in my spare time ?**

Rehearsed and performed the assemblies and worked in youth clubs and the Toddlers Group. I also had my first Time For God Conference. On the weekends I’ve met with some friends in London and we have explored all of the tourist attractions. I’m very glad to have a favourite pub in London now. Every Saturday evening we go to “The Euston Flyer” next to Kings Cross Station and have a drink there.

I’m really sorry, but I like the German beer much more, than the English beer! But maybe one day I’ll find THE beer and then all my prejudices about English beer will be deleted.

#### **Thought about the work with Act 4?**

It was sometimes hard to say the same sentence 1000 times in rehearsals, but I also find performing a drama in another language very exciting. I’m very happy to get the chance to work with Act4 !

#### **→ How have I made a DIFFERENCE?**

Since I am the silly one in the Assemblies, I get to wear a lot of funny costumes. The children laugh at my costumes, but I think it really makes the point, that we all can be free and that we don’t need to judge one another, and that we all can be equal, no one is better or worse. And I must say - when I see how happy the children become, how much they laugh and enjoy themselves, then that makes me happy too and thankful, that I am in a position to make a child smile.



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## Farewell Luisa!

“Luisa has been the engine of the charity and we will miss her incredibly. She has built relationships with our partners that ensures an ongoing programme in schools and without her many thousands of children would not have been able to benefit from our work. Although in the background, Luisa has been at the heart of the charity facilitating our work both locally and further a field, as well as being there for our volunteers and the rest of the team whenever needed. We will miss her loyalty and love.” Act 4 Team

“I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely Thank you all for the tremendous support you have given Act 4 and myself over the last nine years. This support has made my role a pleasure to carry out. Act 4 could not have achieved the amazing results it has without such support.

Over those nine years we have managed to positively interact with over 55,000 children, equipping them to make a difference. Many of these children have now grown up and would be applying the skills and knowledge that in part they have gained from our work.

After nine happy years with Act 4 I have decided to move on from this role and take on new challenges. It has not been an easy decision but I know it's the right one.

Act 4 has now appointed Samantha Smith as my successor. As from 8th December 2014 Samantha will be carrying out my role. I am sure you will continue to give her and Act 4 the same support you have given me over the last nine years.” Luisa Gorry

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## Nikki in at the deep end!

Hello everyone, my name is Nikki Edwards and I am the new Time to Act Project Manager for Act 4. Having started in my role just a week before the 2 new volunteers arrived, I was thrown into the deep end to get everything ready for the start of a brand new year at Act 4!

Some of you may remember me, as 2 years ago I volunteered for Act 4, performing in assemblies and taking part in R Rights and Moving on days. But I have also been volunteering for Act 4 ever since Sam and Moria started running Act 4, and helped out at their first ever summer holiday club!

I am very excited to be back, and to take more of a lead role in the daily running of the charity. Having been involved in a number of ways for so long, I feel like I have slotted into the role well, and have coped with the extensive list of jobs to do.

A part of my role I really value is mentoring the volunteers, helping them to settle in with the culture, work and language. It is lovely to see Elise and Johann blossom and grow in confidence every single day. They are such a talented pair and we are very lucky to have them!

It is also fantastic to be in charge of leading the programmes R Rights and Moving On days in schools and supporting the team with their assemblies. It is great to be able to teach year 6 children such important facts about the rights of children around the world and to support them through a potentially difficult change in their lives. During an R Right programme at Cuffley School this term the children had the chance to experience a day in the life of a slum child, and it was astonishing to see the difference the experience had on the children's outlook of life. One child said, “I feel exhausted, hungry, crowded and tired, but I also feel grateful for what I have.”

I have really enjoyed my first term working for Act 4. Every day is different, with new challenges and new experiences. I am looking forward to managing a brand new team of volunteers in Aylesbury from January 2015, and growing the work that Act 4 does to change children's lives every day.

# What's coming up

## **Act 4 Christmas Event "Follow the star":**

Join us on **Sunday 14th of December 2014, 9.30am - 4.30pm** help us create a play, a puppet show and learn a German Christmas Carol. Performance will be at 4.30 pm as part of the **Christmas Carol Service** at the **URC Potters Bar**, all parents are welcome. Interested? Please contact Nikki at [Nikki@act4.org.uk](mailto:Nikki@act4.org.uk)

## **Potters Bar Town Carols Event:**

Come and sing with Act 4 on stage! On Tuesday 16th of December 2014 at 7.30pm.

Johann and Elise are involved in many weekly events in Potters Bar and Brookmans Park, to find out more get in touch.

## **Darkes Fayre!**

As part of our collaboration with the United Reformed Church, Act 4 ran a stall with children's games and activities at Darkes Fayre. We also organised our very first school choir competition! Three choirs performed some beautiful festive songs, and it was lovely to see their costumes and hear their harmonies. The performances created a real buzz around Darkes Fayre, and we are looking forward to an even bigger competition next year!

Thanks to everyone that was involved in Darkes Fayre and a massive thank you to the schools that sung in our choir competition!

See our blog for more details at: [www.act4.org.uk](http://www.act4.org.uk).

**Our programmes include assemblies, R Rights and Moving On Days. If you would like to make use of any of these programmes, or know of someone who might, then get in touch. We would love to hear from you!**

## Get involved

### **Volunteer Drivers:**

We need drivers to help transport the team to local schools.

### **Become a Trustee:**

Get involved in the strategic direction of the charity.

### **Dine 4 Act 4:**

To put on your own event, please get in touch.

### **Regular Givers:**

We must increase our regular givers, if you can support us in this way, please let us know.

### **Gift in Will:**

To find out more about supporting us in this way please request a brochure.



***equipping  
children to  
make a  
difference***

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### **Website:**

**[www.act4.org.uk](http://www.act4.org.uk)**

*Our website has been updated, take a look!*

**Newsletter Review: help us improve what we share with you! Any thoughts, please let us know!**