

Student Volunteer Interview with Samantha Bayle

SAMANTHA BAYLEY **YEAR 12, RUYTON**

What has been the most enjoyable part of volunteering here at Kew Gardens?

Volunteering at Kew Gardens has been such a positive experience! I have made some very special memories whilst spending time with the residents. I have found simply talking to the residents most enjoyable. I have loved hearing about their amazing lives and even having the opportunity to look through beautiful photos that the residents so kindly explained and chatted with me about.

Did you develop any special friendships whilst visiting the residents?

Yes, I have formed special friendships with many of the residents I visited. However, the friendship I have developed with Bev Tempany through our often long, weekly chats is something very special. I have absolutely loved getting to know Bev and hearing all about her life experiences, she never fails to entertain me with her stories.

What have you learnt about looking after the elderly?

I have learnt that caring for the elderly requires the ability to empathise with others and to always show respect. As well as this I have also realised how much we can learn from the elderly, but I have also learnt that this is mutual and that although the residents have far more life experience than myself, I too can hopefully share something new.

What activities did you enjoy most?

I have enjoyed all the activities I have been involved in, I have mainly spent my time speaking to the residents and this has been very enjoyable. Hearing about their amazing lives is truly fascinating. But I also really enjoyed the games of scrabble I have been involved in with the residents and the wheelchair walks through the beautiful Alexandra Gardens.

Would you consider a career in Aged Care?

After volunteering at Kew Gardens I would be more likely now consider a career in aged care. All the staff at Kew Gardens that I have come across appear to really enjoy the work they do, which suggests that Aged Care is a very rewarding field of work.

Do you think all students should do volunteering and why?

Yes, definitely! Volunteering is such a rewarding and fulfilling experience, not only are you helping bring a little bit of sunshine to someone else's day, volunteering is also very enjoyable. Through volunteering you meet new people and create some really lovely memories. You can learn so much through volunteering, during my time at Kew Gardens the residents have taught me many things, even how to play scrabble properly!

Lastly, a brief summary of your time spent here at Kew Gardens.

During my time as a volunteer at Kew Gardens I have spent my time primarily visiting Bev Tempany; through our always interesting conversations, I have gained insight into her life. I have also been involved in wheelchair walks, games of scrabble with Margaret, occasionally reading to Keith and speaking to other residents.

