

### **Sarah Hodgson, Director**

Sarah Hodgson is originally from Bradford, West Yorkshire. She attended Queensbury High School and Sixth form and was made Head girl in 2005/6. In 2005 she first visited South Africa, and returned for a 4 month stay to volunteer in Hillcrest, during a gap year after school. She went on to study International Relations and History at the University of Leicester, graduating in 2010 with a first class BA Hons Degree.

After university, Sarah spent 16 months travelling through Africa, Asia and Australia. Some of this time was spent volunteering for LETCEE, in KZN, South Africa. In 2012 she was offered a job at LETCEE and so returned for a 2 year position as Monitoring & Evaluation Co-ordinator. She spent the two years living and working in Greytown and learnt much about South Africa, life for a child in SA, and also about NGOs, project management, M & E and about the needs of people in rural communities in the area. She returned to the UK at the end of 2014 and spent a few months living and working back home in Yorkshire. She was offered the position of Director at GAGA, and moved to Stratford upon Avon in March 2015.

### **Debbie Young, South African Project Liaison**

Debbie Young is working for GAGA as a liaison with the organisations supported in South Africa. Her role includes ensuring that the funds these organisations receive from GAGA have the most meaningful impact on the lives we hope to change. Debbie has worked in the non-profit sector for 10+ years, after leaving a corporate background in communications and sports marketing management.

She was employed by an NGO where she managed the Early Education Programme and co-ordinated the Youth Development Programme, as well as worked to support the Outreach Programme and the children living in the Care Centre. She has gained valuable experience in Strategic Planning, Facilitation and Monitoring and Evaluation, skills which enable her to support organisations in planning and implementing projects that will make sustainable changes to their communities. Debbie has established a non-profit organisation call Okwethu for our Children, with a diverse group of board members, whose background experiences and dynamic ideas contribute to supporting the project. This also guarantees complete accountability to funders.

### **Charlie Homer, GAGA Director 2010-2015**

Charlie Homer was Director of GAGA from 2010 to 2015. He oversaw a lot of change, including an expansion of our Constitution which made us able to help a larger number of people, on a variety of projects. Charlie is still very much involved in the work of GAGA, and will continue to have an interest in our work, and a passion for South Africa and her people.

Charlie lives in Evesham and has lived in this area all his life. He attended Evesham High School and Sixth Form of which he was elected Head boy in 2003/04. He went on to study International Politics and Political Studies at Aberystwyth University 2004-2007, where he gained a 2:1 Bsc Econ Hons Degree.

He then went to South Africa at the beginning of 2008 where he volunteered and ran an outreach programme. As the project co-ordinator he managed the needs of 2500 orphanised and vulnerable children in 5

separate valleys and ran a monthly food drop for these children as well as caring for their other needs, from education to medical assistance. He coordinated a team of 4 staff and upon his return in late 2009, Charlie worked for his father a for a consultancy in Stratford, before being offered the opportunity to help with the running and expansion of GAGA. Charlie took the post of Director in March 2010. Charlie is also a member of Evesham Rotary Club, a keen rugby player for Evesham and a local Town and District Councillor.