

Vauxhall Christian Trust

Chairman of Trust: Andrew Horrex
1 Elm Lane, Capel St Mary, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP9 2HS
Email: andrew@vauxhallchristiantrust.com

Bookings and Enquiries: Mary Clarkson
Email: mary@vauxhallchristiantrust.com

Dear Friends,

December 2025

I am writing to you with encouraging news of another busy season on our campsite in Great Wenham. The season started in March with improvements to the buildings and equipment in the kitchen. Many groups this year have appreciated the improvements we have been able to make.

Improvements for the 2025 season included:

- two new commercial ovens and dishwasher in the kitchen.
- more stainless-steel units and shelving in the kitchen and more equipment.
- dining room wooden floor was completely removed and replaced with new wood and non-slip flooring.
- walls of games room and sports hall corridor were repainted.
- cabins 6-15 were completely repainted on the outside.
- many lights changed to more efficient LED units.



The number of visitors to site last year was exceptionally high, with almost 3,000 people. This year we have seen a more manageable 2,200 which is still an increase on previous years but not quite so busy for our team to cope with. Some were day visitors but most of those stayed between one and seven nights onsite. We have continued to have groups who have been coming for many years now and also new groups who have come for the first time.

We pray that groups will experience God at work in their lives and although we don't expect to hear about them all, we have been privileged during another season to hear of at least nine young people who have become Christians during their time at camp. We have also seen some groups having baptisms whilst they are on site.

We have continued to see the work of CYM (Christian Youth Ministries Ipswich) grow too and see a good number of schools residentials being run during school term time. The VCT and CYM charities continue to work well together. CYM have also run residential retreats for Youth and Children's workers and are working with groups of home-schooled children as well as schools. For more details about CYM please visit their website www.c-y-m.org.uk.

Vauxhall Christian Trust. Vauxhall Farm, Great Wenham, Colchester, Essex, CO7 6QQ. UK

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CYM have also run activities for groups booking directly with us at VCT. These activities include zip wire, low ropes, archery, laser tag and more. You can book activities directly with CYM. They may not always be able to do this if their instructors are on holiday or have been busy with school groups during the week, but do make contact with them as early as possible to find out more information if you are interested in them running these activities for you.

I am really thankful to our Friday team of volunteers who undertake so many necessary maintenance, cleaning and gardening jobs. There is a lot of variety in what we do on a Friday and it really does help to keep our costs to a minimum and in doing so it keeps campsite fees to a minimum too. With more groups and increased numbers using the site it is inevitable that more things need fixing and replacing. Friday is often the changeover day so as a team we try to get as much as possible done after one group leaves at midday and before the next one gets settled in. If you would like to help or find out more details, please do drop me an email (andrew@vauxhallchristiantrust.com). Most weeks we are very busy on a Friday but we have a friendly team who have fun working together.

We already have lots of provisional bookings for 2026, so it looks to be another very busy season. Please can groups planning to come in 2026 contact Mary Clarkson, our campsite manager as soon as she sends you booking forms in January? Mary doesn't work for us full time so please be patient; she will reply as quickly as she can. Mary's email address is mary@vauxhallchristiantrust.com If you have not yet contacted us it's not too late to try to accommodate your group.

Thank you to those who have given us gifts in the past year, whether monetary, items of equipment or time and expertise. These really do help us to develop the site further and keep our running costs to a minimum.

I conclude this letter by thanking my fellow trustees, our campsite manager Mary Clarkson and all of our volunteers. Our volunteers include our site coordinators who are there to help groups during their stay. This year they were: Ben & Mary, Dean & Karen, Andrew & Carol, Chris & Maggie, Lois and Cesar & Lindsey. We thank Penny Edgar for independently inspecting our accounts once again. I am also very grateful for our Friday volunteer team Brian, Gerald, Andrew, Carol, Sue, Lois, Peter, John, Jon and Phil.

Yours in Our Lord Jesus,

Andrew Horrex

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