

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

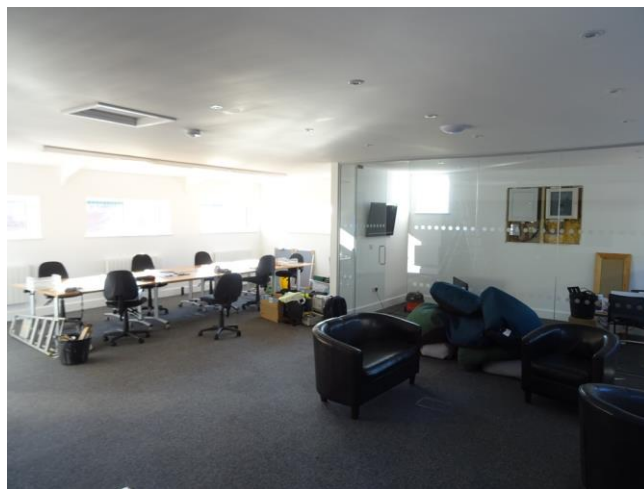
Dear Friends,

December 2023

As we look back over the last 12 months, so much has happened and we are so thankful to God for His faithfulness and provision. Many of our volunteers and trustees have been very busy since our last newsletter. As always, we have prayed 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 to hear during another season of lives being changed.

As soon as the 2022 camping season ended, we were planning to have major building work on the campsite. We were granted planning approval for an office conversion project and converting part of another building so we could move our games room to make space for an office for CYM (Ipswich Christian Youth Ministries) to use. We had a similar number of visitors to the campsite as we saw last season. Over 1900 people visited this year, most of those stayed between one and seven nights and some were day visitors.

In November 2021 we were excited to have signed an agreement with CYM for them to hire the campsite for their school term time residential programmes and also to book the campsite for other residential weekends for specific events. In April 2023 we signed a 10-year lease with CYM for them to use our newly converted office space. The previous games room building was truly transformed into a modern impressive space for CYM to work in.



We are thankful to Gavin Hughes for all his work estimating and tracking costs for the building works and also for coordinating the two teams of builders, who did an excellent job. Despite having a few unexpected extra costs, including a new roof, the project came in very close to budget. We are also thankful to Mike Woods for all his work on the planning application and architect drawings.

We have been really encouraged to hear of school groups using the site. Most importantly they have heard something of how Jesus can transform their lives and see this demonstrated by the CYM team of staff and volunteers. We were really pleased to see CYM run a weekend for youth and children's workers to encourage them and to provide time for them to relax.

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

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CYM received funding to have a low ropes course built on the campsite and a zip wire installed across the lake. These have been enjoyed by school groups and also some of our other groups visiting the campsite who have been able to book CYM instructors to run these activities. For insurance and safety reasons these can only be used with CYM instructors and groups wishing to make use of these should contact CYM directly (www.c-y-m.org.uk).

We are very grateful to our volunteers who work hard to keep the site in good condition which also helps to keep our running costs down. This allows us to charge as little as possible to groups who use the campsite at Vauxhall. With the current cost of living crisis this seems even more important. We count ourselves privileged to see and hear of children, young people and adults transformed by hearing the Gospel and making a commitment to follow Jesus. We pray for groups using the site each year and we thank all of you who also remember us in your prayers, we know it makes a difference.

We continue to have our regular groups using the campsite at weekends and in school holidays but we have also seen interest from new groups who have not been to the campsite before. Please do contact Mary Clarkson (mary@vauxhallchristiantrust.com) as soon as possible if you are interested in bringing a group in 2024. It looks to be another busy year with dates in high demand. If you are bringing a group please do try to send Mary the booking details in plenty of time as this really helps us to plan for your stay with us and to ensure that it's as smooth as possible.

We are very thankful to all the groups and individuals who gave 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. We do have a few projects such as kitchen renovations, decorating and sports hall netting, some of which we would like to undertake before March 2024 or during the season and we trust God to provide the funds for these as and when required.

I conclude this letter by thanking 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: Mary & Ben, Carol & Andrew, Chris & Maggie, Lois & Gavin and Dean & Karen. We thank Andrew Vellacott for helping in so many practical ways and Penny Edgar for independently inspecting our accounts once again. I am also very grateful for our Friday volunteer team (Brian, Gerald, Phil, John, Jon, Sue, Andrew and Carol) who often give us a few hours on a Friday afternoon to help with maintenance and cleaning jobs between the school group leaving and the weekend group arriving. This helps so much and it is good fun working alongside others. If either you or someone you know might like to get involved then please do contact me to find out more. We can always find you a job to do.

Yours in Our Lord Jesus,

Andrew Horrex

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