

Vauxhall Christian Trust

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Dear Friends,

November 2020

As I write this year's newsletter, it will be shorter, and so different to our normal letter about what has happened at camp. Covid-19 meant that there have been no camps this year, which is sad, especially as we had more children booked to come than ever before.

We have been able to carry out some much needed maintenance to the campsite. The paving slabs in front of the older cabins have been repointed in between the joints, and we have painted the outside of the kitchen, games room and dining room. This job entailed sanding down all the wood surfaces and then painting two coats of barn paint in pine coloured paint. Before work started we had to repair some of the rotten wood. Brian Chenery replaced wooden beading around some of the windows and Jamie Wyncoll stripped back and rebuilt one corner of the kitchen and replaced a window sill, with Andrew preparing the wooden profiles for this. Many thanks also to Barry Hughes who worked hard to get the painting done before he went into hospital for an operation on his foot. I was able to help him, staying in the static caravan for two to three days a week. When you visit the campsite, you will see the difference this has made.

We also had new panel heaters fitted to all 15 cabins so that we now have heating in the new ones too. This will be more comfortable for groups early and late season particularly. The external lights around the dining room have also been replaced, with new LED ones.

We discovered we had a leak in the swimming pool and we were losing quite a lot of water. Andrew dug down near the pump house exposing the piping so that we could then call in the experts to find where the leak was. They found the water was escaping from the return pipes and we have been able to have the pipes blanked off and pipework rerouted. So far it seems to have been a job well done. Before the pool was refilled Andrew and Mary gave the bottom and walls of the pool a good clean. We thank them for making the pool look lovely again. We also had a new fence put up to protect the enclosure from high winds.

Thank you to all the groups and individuals who gave us gifts this year in what was an unusual and uncertain time. Without these we would not have been able to do all we have and to further enhance the campsite for when we are next able to have groups stay. We still have some important projects to undertake before the 2021 season and we know that God will provide the resources we need.

Deposits that groups paid for their 2020 bookings will be carried forward to bookings next year. We appreciate the situation with Covid-19 is still uncertain. Many groups have already confirmed provisional dates with Andrew but if you have not done this he would be pleased to hear from you.

We give thanks to God for our Government who gave us a grant of £10,000 to help us through this difficult period, and we do not have to pay any Commercial Rates for this year. This saved us a further £500. With this money it has helped us pay for our significant fixed costs, like insurance, cutting of the grass, electricity and maintenance. During this very difficult year it has been an advantage that we do not currently have any salaried staff, we are very thankful for all our team who work on a voluntary basis.

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Company Registration 7749714 Registered in England | Registered Charity Number 1144090

We look forward to 2021 with renewed hope that we shall have campers running around our campsite once more. The news of a vaccine becoming available soon is a big encouragement. Please pray with us, that this will be God's will for us.

Yours in Our Lord Jesus,

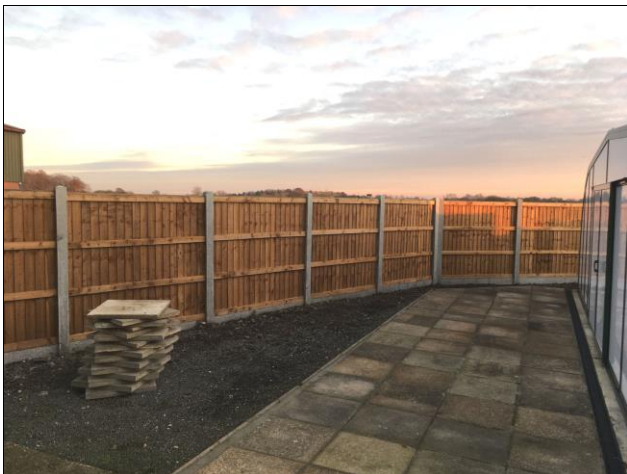
David F Jack



New heaters



Swimming pool



New fence



Kitchen corner repaired and painted

