

WOODLARKS Camp Site



Camping Holidays for all Abilities

2022 - 2023

What Woodlarks is and does

Charity number 306148

At Woodlarks, people with disabilities enjoy the unique experience of camping in a beautiful place, enabled to join in stimulating activities such as games, craft, BBQs, cookouts, swimming, aerial runway, party nights and even chores!

Who Comes

Normally more than 400 persons with disabilities camp at Woodlarks over the summer months, their stay varying from a day to a week. Usually, a total of 1000 people camp here during the year. Schools and organisations book some weeks, while many weeks are open to anyone according to age, gender, and interest. These weeks are run by teams of volunteers, who provide whatever level of care and help anyone may require. The Trust supplies everything needed for accessible camping including indoor accommodation and welfare facilities.

More volunteers are always needed and welcomed. Woodlarks offers fun and friendship.



Patron Lady Tindle

President Kenneth Luckett

Trustees Lynne Cooper MBE | Catherine Crawford | David Dawson | Grahame Done

Dave Gill | Malcolm Jarrett | Nigel Southon

Secretary Sarah Lane | **Hon Treasurer** David Gill

Hon Warden Nick Richards | **Group Secretary** Julia Cooley

Management Committee: Angus Berry | Tim Dicker | Philip Drew | Alison Colville-Foley

Sarah Lane | Adam Meyers | Amy Meyers | Trish Nice | Nick Richards

Volunteers: Over 600 a year

Thank you to our Donors who contribute so much

Honorary Treasurer's Report

2022 saw Woodlarks Camp Site open for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic and hundreds of campers and helpers returned to enjoy holidays in beautiful surroundings in the Surrey countryside. Numbers were slightly down in comparison with the 2019 pre-pandemic season, as there was understandably a desire to prevent overcrowding in buildings and for fewer persons sleeping in bunkhouse tents.

Camp Fees

2022 also saw the first increase in camp fees for many years, which are now based on the budget for essential running costs of the site and are gradually increasing in increments until 2025 when they will pay for 50% of essential running costs. This small rise in fees meant that income from camp fees remained at approximately £36,000, despite the slight reduction in numbers attending.

These essential costs for 2022-2023 will be £135,000 and do NOT include funds for projects or development work undertaken by the Trust (for example, the new pantry). Non-essential costs, such as projects, are funded through donations, successful grant applications (hopefully) and the occasional legacy. Trustees will strive to subsidise essential costs affecting camp fees by 50% from 2025 onwards.

So, during the 2023 and 2024 camping seasons, the Trust will subsidise camp fees by 59% and 54% respectively, reaching a 50% subsidy in 2025. Therefore, the following fees will apply for 2023 season:

2023 Camping Fees for 7 nights (whole week) per person per week	£95.00
2023 Day Visitor Fees (not staying overnight) per person per day	£8.00
2023 Day Visitor Fees (staying overnight) per person per night	£14

One-Off/Monthly/Annual Support for Woodlarks

Should anyone wish to make a one-off donation to our funds, or set up a regular monthly/annual payment via their bank account, please use the Trust's bank account details, as follows:

Bank	Lloyds Bank PLC
Account Name:	Woodlarks Camp Site Trust
Sort Code:	40 52 40
Account No.	00008827
Reference:	[your name]

Any donations will be very gratefully received and make a huge difference. If your donation is towards the Pantry Project, please include the word "PANTRY" in the reference box.

Dave Gill - Hon Treasurer and Trustee

Financial Year - October 2021 to September 2022

Unrestricted Income:	£272,521
Unrestricted Expenditure:	£203,637
Net Gains (losses) on Investments:	(£39,756)
Net Unrestricted Income:	£29,529
Restricted Income:	£53,200
Restricted Expenditure:	£29,962
Net increase in Restricted Funds:	£23,238

Unrestricted Income includes all donations made to the General Fund for the day-to-day running of Woodlarks.

Restricted Income includes donations and grants made for a specific purpose (e.g., for the Swimming Pool). If there are insufficient funds for the purpose, then funding from elsewhere would be required, e.g., approved unrestricted expenditure or further fundraising to make up the shortfall.

Restricted Fund Projects during 2021/22 included the Timber-Framed Tent, Solar Panel Installation and building the New Swimming Pool



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Where the Money Came from in 2021/2022

In Memorium and Legacies	52%
General Donations	17%
Donations Restricted Funds	16%
Camp Fees, Charges and Souvenirs	12%
Investment Income	2%
HMRC Gift Aid	1%

Where the Money Went in 2021/2022

Restricted Funds Projects	42%
Building and Refurb Projects	20%
Salary Costs	7%
Heat, Light & Water	7%
Ground Maintenance	5%
Building & Equipment Maintenance	4%
Hoist Maintenance Contract	3%
Insurance & Council Tax	3%
Swimming Pool	2%
Cleaning Costs	2%
Clerical & Admin	2%
Tool, Fitting & Equipment	1%
Waste Disposal	1%
Santa's Grotto	1%
Fundraising & Publicity	0%



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In Memorium

Sadly we have lost a few of our long standing campers, helpers and a trustee, since the end of last season.

There are too many to mention but our thoughts are with their families and friends at this sad time.

We make special mention of Clive as he had been coming to camp for 50 years.

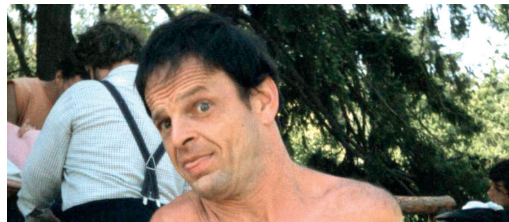
Clive Bailey **25/03/1951 - 29/11/2022**

I have been going to Woodlarks since 1972. I have known many camp leaders come and go, I have seen quite a few buildings altered and added, all in the name of progress and accessibility. These were to accommodate and facilitate the needs of campers but there is one aspect of the campsite that has never changed, the surrounding trees, the clear starlit night sky and the active energy of the campers and helpers.

We all share with each other and care for each other. I will never stop going to Woodlarks. It is where I can live. Woodlarks is a unique place where companionships are made. There is no other place like it.

Mark Greenwood **18/10/1955 – 28/12/2022**

Mark joined Woodlarks as a trustee on the 8th March 2014. His main area of responsibility was for Health and Safety. He sadly passed away in December 2022. Thank you for all your work over the years, you will be sadly missed.



Woodlarks Never Sleeps

Ever wondered what happens outside the camping season? Many of you know Woodlarks is a unique place and is very special to those who attend, whatever time of year.

The camping season runs from May through to the end of September. We also run an annual Grotto in December for some of the schools who visit in the summer as well as local schools for children with disabilities. Several volunteers helping to set up and derig through November into January. The rest of the off-season time we are very privileged and lucky to have dedicated volunteers come on site for 'working parties' and engineering week. (When everything is serviced, PAT tested etc) Woodlarks is proud to say that there is only 1 person employed and we rely on the invaluable volunteers that attend both in and out of the camping season.

During working parties several groups attend, mainly over the weekends, working to a job list - no job too small or big depending on the skills of volunteers attending - all vital to the upkeep of camp. Here are just a few examples.

- Continuous clearing of leaves and grounds maintenance around site
- Painting and carpentry
- Maintenance of buildings, electrics, equipment, and plumbing,
- Tree, pool, and tent maintenance
- Washing of all blankets, cleaning pots and pans, and deep cleaning, ensuring site is ready for opening
- Ongoing applications for funding of grants, fund raising, updating policies

When the camping season starts the site is hired out to different groups each week, many 'open' camps, schools and hospices. They are independently run and self-sufficient. Camp leaders have the responsibility of fundraising, catering, planning activities and getting their own volunteers to help during the week ensuring all that attend can have a fun filled week.

Even during the season maintenance of the site is ongoing - Pool maintenance, ground maintenance, and many other jobs.



Camps 2022

Pathfinders

How wonderful that Pathfinders Camp was able to take place in person again in 2022 after the two-year break caused by the pandemic... And how fantastic to see all of the improvements and maintenance to Woodlarks Campsite that had gone on behind the scenes during that enforced break.

Our big news is that we have been granted Approved Activity Provider status by the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, so we are finally able to advertise again on the DofE website for folk wanting to do their Residential Placement for the Gold Award. We have, of course, welcomed DofE candidates over many years, but it is great to have that accreditation.



Trekkers

Trekkers Camp returned last year with a Grease themed week of mayhem, fun and friendships renewed. We enjoyed Anthony Welham's efforts all week as 'Zoltar' reading peoples' futures which usually ended up with them getting soaked. There was a Drum Workshop, Balloon Sculptures, Racing the Grease cars across the top field, a brilliant tabletop Magician, School Sports Day, a Bouncy Castle, Beauty School, Disco and a



fantastic Elvis Tribute Party Night to name just some of the activities enjoyed. We also took time out to fondly remember our great friend and supporter Alexine Crawford and others lost over the past few years at a Memorial in the Chapel with beautiful Harp music and songs.



Odysians

For many it was the first time walking up the Woodlarks drive for over 3 years, for some it was the first time ever. Odysians camp, with many old friends and lots of new helpers and campers, returned to more intimate post-pandemic vibe. Fifty-five of us enjoyed drumming, treasure hunting, crafting, petting zoo, outdoor games, lots of socialising and dancing, and of course amazing food - in a week that our regal patrols (Plantagenets, Stuarts, Normans, Tudors, and Windsors) marked the royal jubilee. It was a great week, and a chance to celebrate our special collective friendship.





Santa's Grotto

After a 3-year break we are happy to say that the Woodlarks Grotto went ahead the week of the 5th December 2022. During that week we welcomed 11 schools, 2 hospices, 2 other organisations as well as staff of Squires Garden Centre Frensham. They have supported Woodlarks for the past 2 years and made us their Charity of the Year. Our volunteers fundraise throughout the year and each child receives a gift of their choice. In total about 200 children saw Santa.

We think it's fair to say it was magical and a great success, with the volunteers being pleased to be back. We set up every weekend in November and our amazing volunteers then went on to stay onsite for the week we ran, dressing up as elves, snow people



and this year Santa's Granny visited too! It takes up a lot of people's time, but it is so worth it. It was at times very moving as the children got caught up in the wonder of Christmas, as did the school staff, and our volunteers! Of course, what goes up must come down and for 2 weekends in the New Year, our volunteers returned to put everything away.

Unfortunately, due to planned building works on site in the closed season, the Grotto may not be able to run this year, but we will ensure, as we did through shutdowns, that the children still receive their gift from Santa.

Our volunteers made it such a success, some coming from as far as the north of England. Without their hard work, commitment, and love of Grotto, it just wouldn't run. The reason we started the Grotto was because it was apparent that many of our children with special needs simply cannot access a grotto on the high street due to practicalities or the nature of their disabilities. At Woodlarks they are in an environment that takes their needs into account, we have facilities that mean they receive care with dignity, and they are entertained by people who understand their challenges and just plain love Christmas. We are very proud of everyone's enthusiasm. Here's to the next Grotto!

Sarah and Nick

Working Parties

Sheffield working party

Our group of friends have been attending working parties since the early 90's when we came along with the Sheffield Venture Scout group. Since then, the Scouting link has faded but the biannual working weekend has remained with friends, partners and children all coming together for a weekend of socialising whilst getting all sorts of jobs done to fix, build or maintain all manner of things around the site.

Nick always produces a fantastic list of jobs which suit a range of skills and ages so that we can all get involved. We often get to grips with a large project that is the focus of the weekend whilst also tackling the other jobs as well.

In October we started the deconstruction of the retaining wall on the path which



leads up behind the pool to the woodland shelter. The timber was rotting badly so with mini-digger and dumper truck in action we got the task underway. I hope that when camps start in a few months' time, the path will be complete, and the easier gradient will make accessing the woods much easier for everyone.

Lots of other jobs were also tackled – cleaning out the drains was one that was more rewarding than it sounds! We also checked how some of the younger trees were doing in the woodland making sure the guards on them were still secure to prevent the deer from eating them for lunch! Inevitably wheelbarrows come into use at some point during the weekend. Taking a ride is always a favourite with our younger crew especially if it means dodging an uphill walk!



Pantry Plans

Over the years Woodlarks has seen some redevelopments, Bradbury Croft, the pool changing rooms, the timber framed tent, and latterly refurbishing the swimming pool last year.

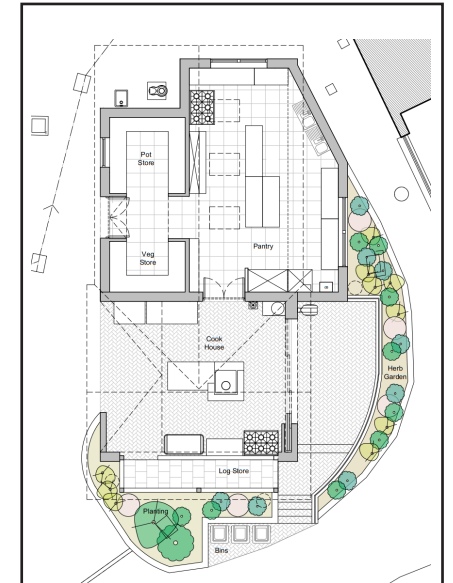
Due to several issues with the pantry, areas of the building are failing, and it has been decided to redevelop this, at the same time enlarging the current footprint and making



level access into the pantry for wheelchair accessibility. Of course, the trench oven is being kept!

Following consultation with several cooks, camp leaders, discussions within a small working group, and the architect we now have a design that is being taken forward.

The current plan is to start the rebuild at the end of the 2023 camping season and hopefully being ready for the 2024 season. The projected costing is in the region of £350,000. With thanks to a legacy of £200,000 left by the late Christian Stover we have a head start on funding but are in full swing to raise the remainder to make the whole project viable. If anyone can support this project, we welcome your help.

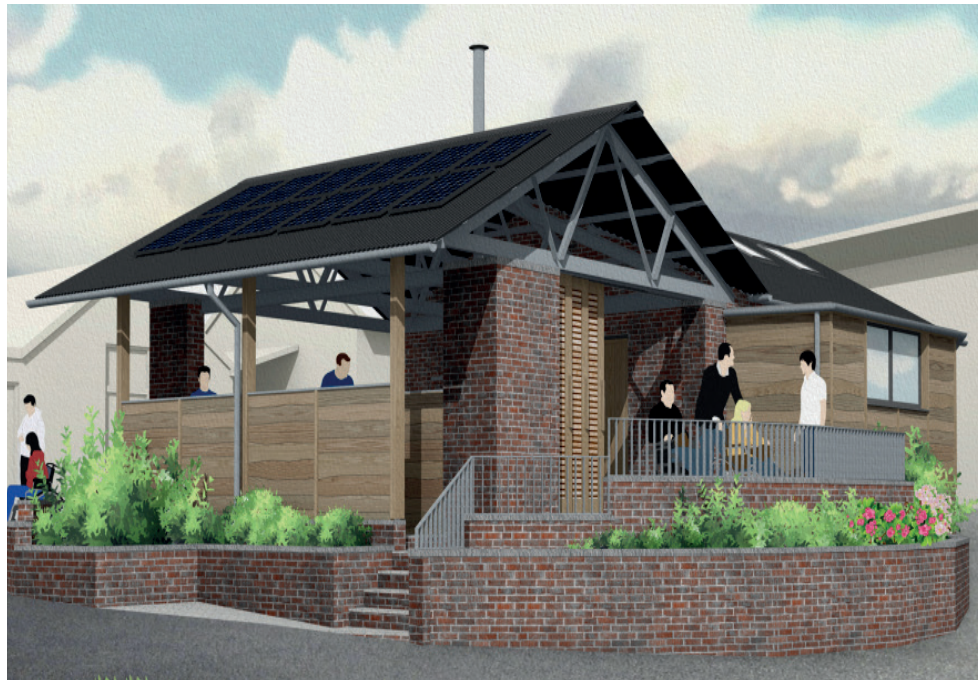


Fundraising

Throughout 2022 we attended events to help fundraise and promote Woodlarks Camp Site Trust.

In May, Amy Meyers, Nick Richards and Dave Gill attended the Investor show at the QEII in London. Woodlarks are very lucky that we have been connected to the show for many years and they continue to invite us back as their chosen charity.

June we were invited to attend the Hampshire Schools conference for 2 days. Helen Blunden nominated Woodlarks to be the charity of the year and we managed to raise just under £1000 hosting a raffle with prize vouchers gifted to us from the conference. Massive thanks to Helen for the nomination.



In July, The Drew family and Catherine Crawford attended The Bourne show in Tilford. They had a fantastic day playing fete games and meeting lots of local people.

November saw Amy, Adam and Eddy Meyers attend the Farnham Christmas lights turn on in Farnham. They were busy spreading the word about Woodlarks and raising some vital funds selling Christmas cards and playing games.

In 2023 we will be attending lots of other events in and around Farnham like the Duck race, the Bourne show, and the Farnham Christmas lights turn on. Thanks also to Squires Garden Centre, Frensham, who have chosen us again as their charity of the year.

We have been really fortunate that we have had campers and helpers run fundraising events for the campsite and this money is gratefully received. If you are able to help with donations, running an event, or want to run your own event; please get in touch with our fundraising team at:

fundraising@woodlarks.org.uk



Woodlarks would like to say a huge thank you to all our fundraisers, sponsors, and grant givers, without whom we would be unable to continue to run.

Camp Dates 2023

The camps listed below welcome disabled campers and volunteer helpers. Genders and ages refer to disabled campers.

Weeks not listed are booked by other organisations with their own campers and helpers. Apply to the relevant addresses for policies and application forms.

27th May - 3rd June	Trekkers - for adults over 30 Glenn Cooper, 243 Broadway Lane, Bournemouth BH8 0AE lcooper@talk21.com www.trekkerscamp.org.uk
3rd June - 10th June	Seekers - for visually impaired adults. Sean 07710 262069 Isobell 07731 867931 https://seekersvip.wordpress.com
15th July - 22nd July	Pioneer One - for men over 18 Gillian Hayward, 6 Hither Close, Chippenham, SN14 0LF Gillan_pioneer1@hotmail.co.uk
22nd July - 29th July	Adventurers - for boys under 18 Catherine Allen Hamish Newport 07840 330930 adventurerscampwoodlarks@gmail.com
29th July - 5th August	Explorers - for girls aged 10 - 19 Janet Rae, 33 Farm Lane South, Barton-on-Sea BH25 7BW email@mr-rae.co.uk www.explorerscamp.com
5th August - 12th August	Odyssians - for adults under 35 Al Pidgen secretary@odyssians.com www.odyssians.com
13th August - 18th August	Pathfinders - for women over 18 Sam Dunn 07401 870474 sam.dunn.pathfinders@gmail.com www.pathfinderscamp.com
19th August - 26th August	Pioneer Two - for men over 18 Cassandra Simpson and Chloe Scott-Mearns 07789 331725 pioneer.two@gmail.com www.pioneertwo.com

For General Enquiries please contact; Hon Secretary, Woodlarks Campsite Trust,
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secretary@woodlarks.org.uk www.woodlarks.org.uk