



# WOODLARKS Camp Site



Camping Holidays for all Abilities

2019 - 2020

# 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, discos, swimming and even chores!

## Who Came

More than 400 disabled adults and children camped at Woodlarks over the summer of 2019. Their stay varied from a day visit to the inside of a week, while the majority spent a full week at the Camp Site. A total of over 1000 people camped here during the year.

Schools and organisations book some weeks, while 9 weeks (listed on the back cover) are open to anyone according to age and interest. These weeks are run and staffed by teams of volunteers, who provide whatever level of care and help anyone may require.

More volunteers are always needed and welcomed. Woodlarks offers fun and friendship. The trust supplies everything needed for accessible camping including indoor accommodation and welfare facilities.



**Patron** Lady Tindle **President** Kenneth Lockett

**Trustees** Lynn Cooper | David Dawson | Mark Greenwood  
Christian Stover | Alexine Crawford | Grahame Done  
Malcom Jarret | Catherine Crawford | Dave Gill | Nigel Southon

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

**Hon Warden** Nick Richards | **Friends of Woodlarks** Trish Nice

**Woodlarks Group Secretary** Julia Cooley

**Management Committee:** Angus Berry | Tim Dicker | Philip Drew | Alison Coleville-Foley  
Sarah Lane | Adam Meyers | Amy Meyers | Trish Nice | Nick Richards

**Volunteers:** Over 600 a year

## COVID-19

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus situation, Woodlarks Camp is closed. We have sadly had to cancel all Summer Camps and fundraising activities at Fetes and Shows. This includes the Swimathon.

# Woodlarks new Chairman



We are delighted to announce that Grahame Done has taken on as Chairman of Woodlarks Camp Site Trust for this year, to be reviewed in a year's time. Grahame has been a close neighbour and supporter of Woodlarks for 10 years, and a little over 18 months ago became a Trustee. He runs a healthcare software and services business and has held senior positions for international companies over the last 25 years. He is married with two teenage children. Enjoys watching them play sports, walking their dog and is a keen football supporter in his spare time.

Alexine Crawford, who chaired the Trust for the last 20 years, has stood down, while remaining a Trustee and continuing her fundraising role.

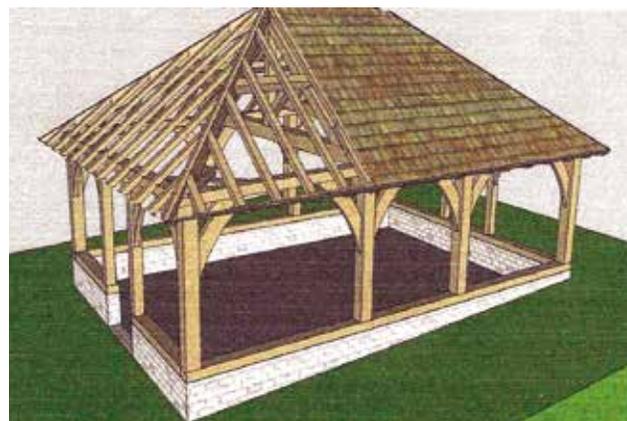
## Grahame writes

*It is a great pleasure to take over as Chair at Woodlarks, I would like to thank Alexine for her tremendous leadership. Alexine continues to make a huge contribution and is focus of inspiration for us all.*

*It is a very exciting time to be part of the team as we raise money and plan to revamp our swimming pool. Open air swimming at Woodlarks is one of the highlights for many of our campers and we intend to make it even more enjoyable.*

## Timber Tent

This new oak-framed 'tent' will be a welcome addition to the Camp Site in 2020. Constructed in place of the earliest bunkhouse tent, it is near to the dormitory but further back.



With a solid floor and built-in overhead hoist, its walls are to be green PVC which can be rolled up out of the way as occupants wish, combining easy care and convenience with the feeling of being in a tent.

Anyone resting in bed can look up and enjoy the craftsmanship of the oak beamed roof.

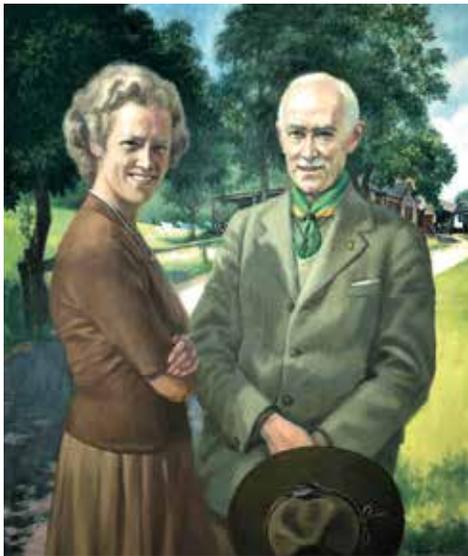
## A little bit of History:

Nearly 90 years ago, Martyn and Dorothea Strover set up Woodlarks Camp Site where people with disabilities could enjoy camping in rural surroundings. Their children Alexine and Christian, in their teens and early twenties joined the volunteer helpers in various weeks' camps as well as taking part in the physical work involved in developing the site, Christian mainly with the swimming pool, Alexine feeding the couple of pigs which, kept during the summer in an enclosure, ate the swill from left over camp food (legal those days!).

In the 1950s Alexine became full time Secretary for both the Camp Site and the newly started residential home which is now called The Woodlarks Centre (sharing the long-standing name but entirely separate from the Camp Site Trust). In 1956 she found herself leading a new week for women with disabilities known as Pathfinders Camp. A few years later she moved away when she married Warren Crawford, but that week still continues, organised by a series of inspiring leaders with up to 100 participants, disabled and their volunteer helpers.

Skip to 1981 when Alexine came to care for her mother in the last years of her life, soon joined by her family who have remained in the family home opposite Woodlarks. She saw the need for a camp for disabled girls under 18, to complement the boys' week already established. So Explorers Camp was born, while a few years later she linked with a man whose disabilities had brought him to Woodlarks from childhood, and together they set up Odysseys, a week for adults both male and female. Each week has acquired its own individual character and still continues summer by summer.

Portrait of the Founders



1950s Summer Camp



Christian, Alexine, and her daughter Catherine Crawford who took part in many Explorers weeks, are among the Trust's Trustees.

Christian takes responsibility for the swimming pool and managed the rebuild of the changing rooms, while Catherine remains involved despite living and working in West Africa.

Alexine was appointed Chairman in 1990. During the next 20 years development plans were formulated, Bradbury Croft and the changing rooms were built, and Woodlarks was awarded the Queen's Award for Volunteers. Alexine plans to continue in her fundraising role, considering it a privilege to have been part of the Woodlarks team.

1986 Explorers' picnic at Bird World



Evening supper at Alamo



Bradbury Croft Opened in 2009



Construction of the changing rooms



# Activities at Camp

Activities vary from camp to camp. This year two groups included a climbing tower in the adventures on offer. Pathfinders hired a tower which came with expert attendants, while Trekkers used both outdoor and indoor climbing towers at Runways End in Farnborough. There is always fun. Most weeks include a cook-out at the various BBQ sites, games, a disco, zip wire across the valley, and swimming.

Working Parties, during winter week-ends, keep Woodlarks maintenance up to scratch and prepare for incoming camps. It is a delight to see several generations of some families sharing enthusiasm for the Camp Site and all that it stands for. Some participants offer basic labour, while others have skills which they readily offer and use. What is achieved in any single week-end of work, weather notwithstanding, is remarkable.

**Work Experience:** small groups of students from the school for children with additional needs where Nick is employed, continue to come during term time to carry out work under his supervision. While the work they do makes a positive impact on the Site, they also learn skills both social and practical, and gain self worth.

## Nori wrote:

*Pathfinders is my favourite place, where I've made some of my happiest memories and closest friends. There is nothing like it. Come prepared to have fun, get stuck in, think creative, try something new, be a friend, and laugh until everything hurts. You'll go home tired, mucky, happy, with a bag of memories and new friends and with no regrets.*



Pathfinders' cook team prepare the vegetables

A six-man job to install the range



Relaxing outside their tent



Wet sponges in the pillory



Bubbles



A camper enjoying photography

Pathfinders' climbing tower



# Hon. Treasurer's Report – David Gill

This report covers the financial year from 1st October 2018 to 30th September 2019.

**Income and Expenditure** - On a cash and receipts basis, total income for 2018/19 from donations, grants and legacies was £204.5k, which is down by 7.5% when compared with 2017/18. Of all income received, 27% was donated for specific purposes and placed in restricted funds, whilst 73% of income was for general funds to pay for core costs, such as gas, electricity, water, insurance, maintenance and equipment, etc.

On a cash and receipts basis, total expenditure for 2018/19 was £217k, which is an increase of 23% in comparison with 2017/18 expenditure. Of this expenditure, 31% was from restricted funds and 69% was from general funds.

Excluding restricted funds, general fund income was £149,203 and expenditure was £149,733, resulting in a deficit of just £530.00, so income and expenditure on core running costs roughly broke even.

The full accounts can be viewed on the Charity Commission website. Click on 'find charity', enter 306148, then 'View accounts' and then 2018-19

The modest camp site fees of £51 per head per week continue to be heavily subsidised from the general fund and in 2018/19 generated an income of £35.6k. So camp fees contributed just 23.7% of the core costs of running the camp site for the year.

**Reserves Fund** - The Trust has a reserves policy, reviewed annually, which allows the trustees to designate a sum equivalent to between two and three

years core running costs as a Reserves Fund. This provides the Trust with a level of financial security. During the 2018/19 financial year, unrestricted expenditure on charitable activities was £236k, therefore the reserves level is set between £472k and £700k. At 2018/19 year-end, the amount held in the reserves fund was £578k.

**Large Projects** - a large project undertaken this year was the total refurbishment of the defective heating and plumbing system in Bradbury Croft, the welfare building constructed in 2009. During 2018/19, we spent approximately £7.9k on the plant. We are immensely grateful to a team of skilled volunteers who put in many hours of work at no charge, eliminating labour costs.

The swimming pool continues to be a problem with an elusive leak which adversely affected expenditure on water, heating and chemicals. Work to bring this wonderful facility into good order will demand considerable fundraising, which has already begun.

**Other areas of large expenditure** - for the Trust continue to be ground maintenance, buildings maintenance, pool running costs and utilities, including gas, electricity and water. We were fortunate in receiving a substantial donation from a fundraiser last year, which will support the pool running costs for the next 2-3 years.

**Santa's Grotto** - The annual Woodlarks Santa's Grotto took place in December of

the 2018/19 financial year, wholly funded by donations specifically for this purpose.

The Trust really appreciates every single donation it receives, no matter how big or small.

Every single penny helps to keep camp running and allows so many people to enjoy the camp site and its beautiful surroundings.

Our subsidised Camp Fees keep camping affordable for all, but only contribute a small fraction towards the total costs.

Every penny you raise through fundraising helps to make up the rest. Please contact:

[fundraising@woodlarks.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@woodlarks.org.uk) for advice or a fundraising pack.

A big **THANK YOU** for all your efforts! We really couldn't do it without your help!

## Income 2018 - 2019

General Donations	£99,235.36
Camp Fee, Charges & Souvenirs	£41,390.95
RD Santa's Grotto	£21,474.04
RD Woodland Perimeter Paths	£19,081.00
RD Miscellaneous	£14,144.37
Investment Income	£8,685.32
RD Pool Pump-house Roof	£2,281.48
In Memoriam and Legacies	£2,175.72
RD Swimming Pool Renewal	£1,981.90
RD Tent Bases	£934.03
RD Pool Running Costs	£147.75
<b>RD = Restricted Donations and RF = Restricted Funds. These refer to funds donated or held for specific purposes.</b>	

## Expenditure 2018 - 2019

RF Expenditure	£31,918.39
Tools, Fittings & Equipment	£28,680.60
Heat Light & Water	£27,638.72
Salary Costs	£24,328.25
Santa's Grotto	£19,312.50
General Maintenance	£15,980.76
Insurance & Council Tax	£11,815.84
Cleaning & Laundry Costs	£7,507.00
Waste Disposal	£6,051.47
Publicity & Fundraising	£6,004.89
Ground Maintenance	£5,754.23
Swimming Pool	£5,004.11
Telephony & Broadband	£2,572.67
Clerical & Admin	£1,072.34

## Thank you to our Corporate Donors who contribute so much

Badshot Lea Wives Club \* Bridor Trust \* Effortmark Ltd \* Equiniti Holdings  
 Farnham Round Table \* Hampton Sponsored Ride \* JL Charitable Foundation  
 Lexis Nexis Risk \* Mackintosh Foundation \* Riverfort Global Capital  
 Rotary Club of Farnham \* Sandhurst Academy Bal \* Sir Victor Banks Charitable  
 Trust South East Berkshire Gang Show \* The Billmeir Charitable Trust  
 The Wisley Foundation \* UK Investor Show \* Walter Hines Page Chapter NSDAR

# Santa's Grotto Week

200 disabled and life-limited children come in succession in early December for a truly magical experience; the sparkling woodland, grazing reindeer, decorated Christmas trees galore, and finally, the visit to Santa's Grotto.

They glimpsed Santa flying through the woodland with his reindeer and sleigh and went on to meet snowmen, one in a wheelchair!

Mother Christmas then read them a story in her Secret Hut and they rounded the corner to find a Christmas Nativity Scene complete with sheep and manger.

Santa cheered them on as they made their way to the Grotto. a wooden hut with a glowing fire surrounded by decorated Christmas trees. Here they met Santa who gave each child a present.



## Thank you

To our volunteers who prepared and our donors, who funded the Grotto.

- Barclays Bank \* Castle Lodge
- Durlston School \* Groundwork UK
- HSBC \* Jason Granite \* Riverfort Global Capital
- \* The Bourne Show \* TTA Turner

# Fundraising

## How you can help

Woodlarks subsidises everyone who comes to camp to making camping here affordable for all. The fees they pay to the trust meet less than half the cost of running the Camp Site.

So donations large or small are much needed for maintenance. A regular gift, however little, keeps the balance healthy.

Legacies come as wonderful surprises, and make a real difference to Woodlarks' finances, as do Memoriam gifts.

The enclosed sheet gives information on Bankers Orders, Gift Aid and Legacies.

## Database Permission

We are legally required to seek your permission to retain your details on the Woodlarks database.

If you would like to continue to receive our Year Book, please contact the Secretary Sarah Lane.

[secretary@woodlarks.org.uk](mailto:secretary@woodlarks.org.uk)

Or post the enclosed permission slip to her at:

**Kathleen Marshall House,  
Tilford Road  
Farnham  
GU10 3RN**

## Due to Covid-19 our fundraising activities have been cancelled Fundraising Events Scheduled for 2020

Saturday 28 March	Investors Show where we will have a stand.	Queen Elizabeth Hall Westminster
Saturday 2 May	Farnham Duck Race – we'll have a stall	Farnham
Week of 13 June	Move for Woodlarks Week	Move whatever way you want – walk, run, gym, jog, palates, swim and get sponsored for whatever activity you undertake.
Saturday 13 June	24 hour Swimathon in the pool – swim for however long you like, sponsored per length or by time	Woodlarks
Saturday 4 July	Bourne Show - we will have a fun stall there.	Lower Bourne Green ½ a mile from Woodlarks

# Camp Dates for 2020

The camps listed below welcome disabled campers and volunteer helpers. Genders and ages refer to disabled campers. Helpers may be any age over 16.

The weeks not listed are booked for schools and organisations with their own disabled campers and helpers.

*Apply to the relevant addresses for policies and application forms.*

23rd May to 30th May	<b>Trekkers</b> - Adults over 30 Glenn Cooper, 243 Broadway Lane, Bournemouth BH8 0AE <a href="mailto:glenn@trekkerscamp.org.uk">glenn@trekkerscamp.org.uk</a>
11th July to 18th July	<b>Pioneer 1</b> - Women over 18 Gillian Hayward, 6 Hither Close, Chippenham SN14 0LF <a href="mailto:gillian_pioneer1@hotmail.co.uk">gillian_pioneer1@hotmail.co.uk</a>
18th July to 25th July	<b>Bonhomie</b> - Visually impaired people of all ages including families Heather Taylor 07752 355443 <b>Email Bonhomie</b>
25th July to 1st August	<b>Adventurers</b> - Boys up to 18 Catherine Allen. <a href="mailto:adventurerscampwoodlarks@gmail.com">adventurerscampwoodlarks@gmail.com</a>
1st August to 8th August	<b>Explorers</b> - Girls aged 10 to 19 Janet Rae 33, Farm Lane South, Barton-on-Sea, New Milton, Hants BH25 7BW <a href="mailto:email@mrrae.co.uk">email@mrrae.co.uk</a>
8th August to 15th August	<b>Odyssians</b> - Adults 18 to 35 <a href="mailto:secretary@odyssians.com">secretary@odyssians.com</a> Website
15th August to 22nd August	<b>Pathfinders</b> - Women over 18 Sam Dunn 07401 870474 11 Matson Avenue, Matson, Gloucester GL4 6LE <a href="mailto:sam.dunn.pathfinders@gmail.com">sam.dunn.pathfinders@gmail.com</a>
22August to 29th August	<b>Pioneer 2</b> - Men over 18 Cassandra Simpson, 184 Market Street, Eastleigh SO50 5PT <a href="mailto:pioneer.two@gmail.com">pioneer.two@gmail.com</a> Chloe Scott-Mearns 07789331725
30th August to 4th September	<b>Woodland Music</b> - Open to all <a href="mailto:woodlandmusic@hotmail.co.uk">woodlandmusic@hotmail.co.uk</a>
7th September to 14th September	<b>Seekers</b> - Adults (over 18) with visual impairment. Families welcome Sean Caveille <b>Email Seekers</b> Isobell Phillips 07731 867931

**UNFORTUNATELY DUE TO COVID-19  
ALL CAMPS HAVE HAD TO BE CANCELLED**

For general enquiries contact the Hon Secretary, Woodlarks Camp Site Trust,  
Kathleen Marshall House, Tilford Road, Farnham, Surrey GU10 3RN  
Tel: 01252 716279 | [woodlarks103@btinternet.com](mailto:woodlarks103@btinternet.com) | [www.woodlarks.org.uk](http://www.woodlarks.org.uk)