



Queens Award for Voluntary Service Presentation

On Tuesday 26th October Barton Camp was delighted to welcome over 50 guests to the presentation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to Bristol Children's Help Society (BCHS), the charity responsible for running Barton Camp. Situated in Winscombe, North Somerset, Barton Camp is a residential campus that provides adventure breaks for schools, youth groups and charities in a countryside setting. The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK.

Tom Hood, President of Bristol Children's Help Society, welcomed our special guests; the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Mrs Annie Maw, and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Mr Neil Dowdney. Tom extended the welcome to friends, colleagues, our incredibly dedicated volunteers and some of our long-standing benefactors, whose generosity over the years has enabled us to continue the great work at Barton Camp.

Mrs Annie Maw gave a heart-felt address recounting her previous time in Bristol and how lovely it was for her to finally be in a position to visit Barton Camp after hearing so much about it over the years. Mr Neil Dowdney presented the award to Tom Hood, reading the words from the Certificate 'Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Defender of the Faith, to Bristol Children's Help Society; Providing a residential centre for holidays for young people and community groups in need'.

After the presentation, our guests were invited to take a tour of Barton Camp, to see the accommodation; which sleeps up to 101 people, the facilities; which include two fully equipped kitchens, a heated outdoor pool, an indoor sports hall and an activity room as well as an eco outside learning area and a playground.

Our guests had the opportunity to see children enjoying the facilities and having outdoor adventures during their visit. This group of children had been fully funded by BCHS from charitable donations, which enables young people, whose parents or schools do not have the financial means to support the child's visit to Barton, and who very often come from broken homes, or single parent families, the chance to enjoy a stay at Barton Camp. A week's respite in a safe and friendly environment surrounded by countryside, which Barton is able to offer, is incredibly important for the wellbeing of these disadvantaged and often vulnerable children.

All our guests were invited for afternoon tea after their tour of the residential centre and its facilities, which was kindly provided by Friends of Barton and volunteers. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to support Bristol Children's Help Society receiving this prestigious award.