



ANNUAL REPORT

2005-2006

VOLUME NO 12, WINTER 2006

INTRODUCTION

As I introduce the 12th Annual Report of the Kirstin Royle Trust it seemed like a relatively quiet year however I hope you will see from the report that in fact the trust continues to be very active. This year we have supported a number of different opportunities for disadvantaged and disabled young people from across the country to become involved in outdoor activities.

15 young people joined us at Coniston from the Marches School and Technology College in Oswestry in the first year ever I can remember of truly horrible weather. They were nominated for the weekend by their school because they experience very difficult home situations. The school hoped the opportunity would give all of the young people a common experience, and build some friendships so that they had a network of support from each other when they return to school. Following the weekend the trust received the most fantastic letters of appreciation from the group, comments from which are included in this report and I think for all of us involved is reminder why the Trust continues to be so important.

GRANTS GIVEN

Sports Leader Award - Harbour School

£600 for the Harbour School, Kent a special school for pupils with behaviour and learning needs to support five young people to complete the Sports Leader Award.



“This was the second year we had run a trip to Wales. Both trips were an outstanding success, and were only possible due to the generosity of the Kirstin Royle Trust. Few of the pupils that went to Wales had travelled out of Kent before, so the idea of going to another country was exciting in itself. The combination of the fantastic scenery and challenging activities has the effect of inspiring our pupils to attempt tasks that they would normally shy away from. I know this because I take the pupils for a short visit to a local outdoor education site in preparation for the Wales trip. The pupils consistently achieve more on the rock face of a mountain than they do on the holds of an indoor climbing wall. Pupils who could swim, but would not swim out of their depth found the courage to swim in the middle of a lake.

The experience of spending and surviving a week away from home is a challenge for some, and simply getting through the week meant a lot to some of our pupils. I could go on giving lots of individual examples, which demonstrate the value of this trip. I hope I have given a flavour of what has been achieved. I am not usually an individual who gushes about any topic. That I am writing as I am, shows that I am absolutely confident that this trip has given more to my pupils than a years worth of classroom lessons” – Jeremy Edwards, Year 9 Teacher



Activity week – Holyport manor

£740 to Holyport Manor School, Berkshire towards an outdoor sports activity week. The children at this school all have a variety of special needs including autism, multiple and profound difficulties and behaviour problems.

“Please find enclosed our report on the trip to Fairthorne Manor. This contains photos of the pupils kayaking, canoeing, pond dipping, archery and using the aerial runway and the obstacle course. I hope this report shows how much the children enjoyed the trip” – Claire Wallace



“Paddling in the stream – Martin and Nabil enjoyed paddling and Sam and Shamsa went looking for fish” – Sam and Shamsa



“I did kayaking and it was fun. The water was cold. It felt a little bit wobbly inside. I had to balance. Mike capsized and it was funny, he was clinging onto the boat” – Sean

“We went kayaking, it was hard to get in because the boats are small and wobbly. While I was paddling a long it felt wired. When I was paddling I lost my balance and my boat tipped over and I fell in and it was so funny that Daniel starting laughing and when I fell in the water it felt horrible and cold and I felt disgusting...” – Gagundeeep

“I was looking forward to the aerial runway. I climbed to the top it was very high. I felt scared and I didn’t want to do it. I was a scarey cat (sic). BUT I did it!” – Sabina

“When I got up the tree it took me 5 mins to get down the other side but when I did it I was glad I had done it. I wish I could do it again but I was nervous” – Daniel



Activity week - The Ashley School

£600 to the Ashley School, Suffolk, offering financial support to families unable to afford the pupil contribution for an activity week in Wales. The Ashley School is Special School for children with moderate learning difficulties.



“Many thanks for the grant from the Trust which enabled our Wales trip to develop still further. In May 2006 we took 21 pupils to the Christian Mountain Centre near Harlech in North Wales... 13 pupils took part in a multi-activity week including canoeing, kayaking, climbing and sea level traversing... We received lots of positive feedback from parents and guardians, that the youngsters had matured greatly over the week away” – Lawrence Chapman, Assistant Head.

“My previous school wouldn’t let me go but looking at their photos it wasn’t as good as this week” - pupil



“We just wanted to let you know that he has had a really great time in Wales. He has told us lots about it already and seems to have enjoyed everything he has done. He is very proud of his two awards....” – parent



Activity Trip – Bowergrove School

£270 to Bowergrove School towards the costs of a ‘summer camp’ for vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils with special needs.

“Thank you for the money that you give to Bower Grove School.

We went to monkey world and Beaulieu and we did lots of sports like high ropes and climbing the tower and adventure playground.

We all had a fantastic time, thank you” – Zoe, Carlo, Barney, Mr Dalton, Joshua A, Sam, Samantha, Ben, Matt, Joshua W, Steven, Adam and Luke



I really enjoyed the low ropes, sailing, abseiling, sail boat, the ping pong, spider web, see saw, zip wire and all the activities that we have done. It has helped me get along with other people” – Alex

“Thank you for a great time at the weekend. I liked all the activities you gave us. The centre was good and the dorm was cosy with a lovely view. I would like to come again some time. I am telling all my friends and they wished they were there too” – Zoë

“Dear everyone – I had a very good time, I enjoyed the low ropes course the best and sailing to peel island to find treasure” – Huw

“I really enjoyed my time there; the best part of the weekend was jumping off the jetty in my best clothes when it was raining. The scariest part was when I did a bit of rock climbing on peer (sic) island it was really scary because I really hate heights and I was over the lake, but I really wanted to do it to overcome my fears, the funniest part of it was when we had a water fight outside with water bombs and water bottle (secret)”. – Zara



“Thank you so much for giving my son such a fantastic time – everything seemed to be superbly organised...he has been through an awful time and it is lovely to know that he is going to have a lasting memory of his trip to Lake Coniston and the people involved. Thanks once more” - Parent

FUNDRAISING

Congratulations to Arran Holdsworth and Greg Thompson who completed the 15 3000ft Peaks of Wales in one day. The pair raised over £800 for the Trust.

“We started walking at 4:10am and finished at 11:45pm...quite a long day! From the first peak to the last, it took 16 and 1/2 hours. Greg put in a fantastic effort due to the fact that he did the walk with a torn calf muscle! The weather was awesome all day, with tremendous views of all the mountains...and we were spurred on by some beers chilling in the fridge!”

WITH THANKS

We extend our thanks to everyone who has supported and helped the Trust over the past year. Without the dedicated and enthusiastic support we receive it would be impossible to continue to keep the memory of Kirstin reaching so many people.

TO CONTACT US

The Trust has its own website for use in publicity and to enable individuals and groups to contact us directly and can be seen by logging on to www.kirstinroyletrust.org.uk. The e-mail address for the trust is kirstinroyletrust@bigfoot.com

From the 1st December 2006 the registered address for the Trust will be changing to:

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THE TRUSTEES

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