

## Thank You to All Our Volunteers

Thanks so much to a wonderful team of dedicated volunteers, eleven who have supported families directly and seventeen indirectly by maintaining and upgrading the premises, gardening, cooking, fund raising and donating items, cleaning, leading art/craft times and volunteering a raft of skills. Longmead would not be possible with you all. Thanks.

Special thanks are given to Peter Jack who has chaired the trustees since it became a registered charity in 2009 as well as being chief decorator and this year apprentice builder. He has now stepped down as Chair but is as involved as ever.

## Do you want to help us to work with even more families next year?

### Ways you can help:

- ⇒ Volunteer your time and skills either with families or doing general work on the small holding/ buildings/gardens/fundraising. Family work is generally at the weekend and each Monday a group of volunteers are busy doing everything behind the scenes to keep Longmead running and progressing.
- ⇒ Make a donation to help us to support families through our work. Donations can be made to Longmead Community Farm, Sort code: 08-92-99, Account no: 65494350

### Contact Us

Contact Denise Abrahall, the project manager, for more information  
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Longmead Community Farm

# Longmead Community Farm

*Strengthening and Supporting Families*

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Charity no. 1130061

www.longmead.org



Wishing all our supporters a very Happy New Year (designed by a child visiting Longmead on the family programme)

*“Thank you so much. You have no idea what a difference it makes to our family spending time at the farm with you...”*

*- from a single mum with three teenage children one of whom has difficulty managing his anger*



Longmead Community Farm

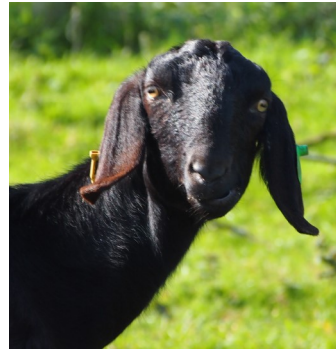
## Work with families

Over the past year Longmead has had nineteen different families come to visit and stay at the farm as part of the family programme. Seven of these families have visited the farm three or more times whilst the others have just come for one or two visits to enjoy time at the farm. Of the forty seven family visits that took place twenty one were referred by social services. Several additional visits were planned but postponed or cancelled—this is expected when working with disadvantaged families in crisis.

### The families

Each of our families come with a different story but they share the fact that they are disadvantaged or going through a time of crisis. At Longmead we are privileged to stand (and work and play!!!) alongside them as they try to overcome their challenges or are simply there to help them enjoy some time away from their everyday stresses.

Situations faced by the families include family breakdown, poor mental or physical health, children being taken into care, lack of employment, disability, domestic violence, poverty, criminal records and previous custodial sentences and poor school attendance. We don't offer solutions or therapy to the families but we enjoy time with them working together on the farm, getting creative, playing and of course cooking and eating. Through healthy non-judgemental relationships, role modelling, purposeful activity, the peaceful nature filled environment and caring for animals we try to bring hope and new insights into their situations so that they can instigate positive change in them.



### Celebrating with families:

- ◆ 5 children returning to school after a long period of absence
- ◆ A mum gaining custody of her daughter
- ◆ A dad starting to enjoy playing with his children
- ◆ Parents introducing family mealtimes at home
- ◆ A mum getting a part-time job
- ◆ 2 mums coming off of medications for depression and anxiety

**Thank you to all our many financial supporters who generously give to make our work possible. As you can see from the previous page there has been much generosity.**



Money raised for the new accessible bathroom

Thanks to those individuals who have given one off gifts or regularly through the 365 scheme or Just Giving. Special mentions to:

Peter and Margaret Jack who have made the new kitchen possible; and to Carolyn Telford, April Whalley and Louise Whalley for their fundraising efforts— birthday party, cycling and head shaving!

Thanks to the many Trusts and Grant funders and Organisations who have helped us:

Alice Cooper Dean Trust; Austin & Hope Pilkington Trust; CoOp Bank; Howdens; Safer Dorset Trust; The Salisbury PG Lodge; The SMB Trust; Souter Trust; Waitrose; Woodroffe Foundation; Woodward Trust.

Also special thanks to The Terebinth foundation— for all your financial support and sharing of experience with us over the years.

Thanks to all the Churches and Community Groups who have supported Longmead:

Bradpole Housewives; Buckland Newton PCC; Cerne Abbas PCC; Churches Together Bridport; Godmanston; Orthona Community; St Georges; St Johns; and Warmwell PCC.

We thank God for the financial provision of all that has been needed provided through all of you.

# Funds

The table below show our income and expenditure for 2015.

Income:	Year total:	Expenditure:	Year total:
	<b>113,700</b>		<b>74,130.69</b>
Individual and Church donations	16,840	Staffing, personnel	26,262.11
Grants and Trusts	51,950 (15,000 for salaries 06.15-06.16, 25,000 for salaries 06.16-06.18)	Running costs of premises, house, smallholding	18,971
Loan (towards building work on kitchen)	20,000	Administration	4362.72
Earned money from Family Work	8,497	Activities	1030.61
Earned money from lettings/groups	4,613	Vehicle	1698.09
Earned money from solar panels and biomass system	8,787	Food	2780.53
Other	3,009	Loan repayments	1000
		Building projects– bathrooms and kitchen	18,025.63

*“Thank you to the whole team for having us today, was really nice for my eldest to get involved and have fun, rather than him getting stressed at his brothers! ...”*

*- from a single mum with three children one of whom is much older than the other two*



Learning together how to plait garlic we'd grown in our garden

## Groups coming to Longmead

As well as the family work we have had twelve groups come to visit and stay. With such a fantastic resource it is great to be able to bless different charities and organisations working with vulnerable people through our facilities. Some of these groups do their own thing and with others we plan a programme with them. This year these groups have included: Liberty, based in Bournemouth– with groups of people who have been trafficked; Smile, based in Poole– with single parent families; Bus Stop Club, based in Ferndown– with families they support; Home school families from the Poole area; Toby's, based in Shaftsbury– with vulnerable teenagers; Acorn Project, with hostels across Dorset– with young people who have been homeless; and Breakthru, sheltering families from different regions– with families affected by domestic violence.



A couple of new places to sit



*“Where can I start to tell you just what an amazing experience this has been for our clients...because of the environment and how relaxed everyone felt , the ladies were able to talk openly about their experiences with the police both in the UK and in their home countries ...the whole experience has been incredible and so therapeutic for the families we took down there .... the smiles and laughter that I witnessed during our stay will go along way to helping these women move on with their lives and enjoy living again”*

*-from the leader of the Liberty Project working with trafficked people*

## Other causes for celebration this year:

- Upgraded bathroom facilities - we have gone from one shower, a bath and 4 toilets to 3 showers, a bath, 4 toilets and an additional wheelchair accessible shower and toilet.
- All of the barn windows have been replaced or repaired.
- New gates and other upgrades around the farm area.
- A great crop of garlic and other veggies in the garden and fully laden apple trees in the orchard.
- A new kitchen extension which is nearing completion.
- Money raised by volunteers through sponsored activities.
- Country Visit Accreditation gained by the managers Ken and Denise



Enjoying making music in the garden