

Report for the Nineveh Charitable Trust – 1st April 2020

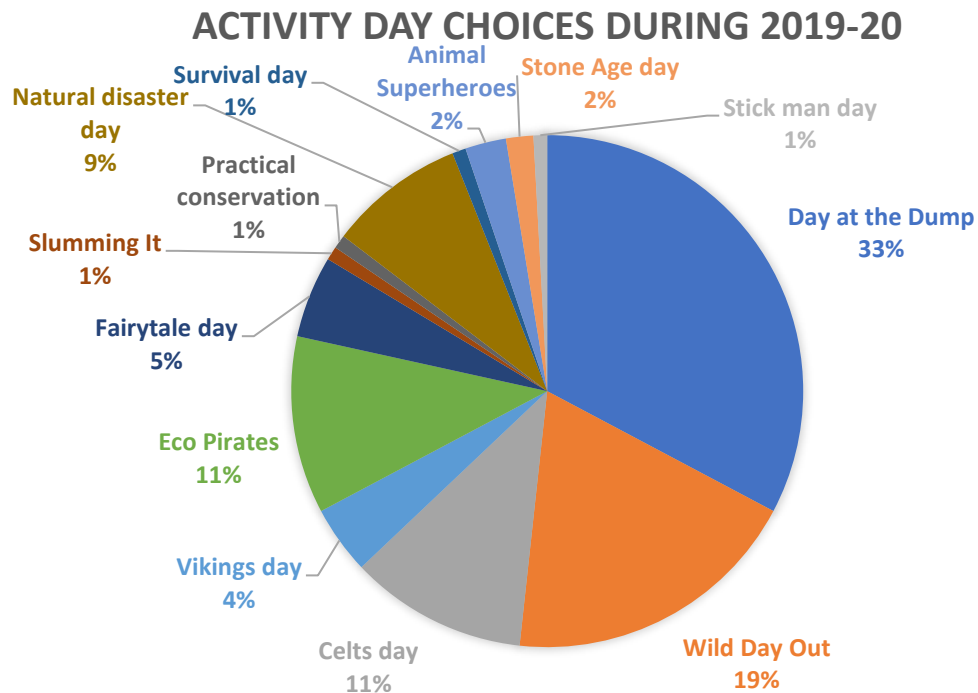
We are writing to update the Nineveh Charitable Trust on our activities at Carymoor, following your kind donation of £4000 to help support the salary costs of our Education Manager in 2019-20. Your donation made a real difference to us and enabled us to keep the cost of our education lower than it would otherwise have been, making our services more accessible. Thank you for supporting us.

2019-20 has been Carymoor's most successful year with more visitors and activities than ever before. Our education programme has offered inspiring hands-on activities across our core themes of sustainability and wildlife. During the year:

- Our services were more in demand than ever. 4306 children and students visited (135 groups) which was up 26% on the 3402 visitors in 2018-19.
- 114 schools took part in our Waste Free Lunch challenge to reduce waste in the packed lunches they bring to Carymoor. 6 schools managed to generate no landfill waste at all.
- 1326 children took part in our Wild Days Out programme, giving them a first-hand experience of wildlife on our unique nature reserve. Activities included sensory walks, willow crafts, plant-themed days and our CSI Carymoor day where children have to work out the predator in a wildlife crime scene.
- Carymoor has worked closely with the Somerset Waste Partnership to deliver their 'Schools Against Waste' outreach education programme to improve recycling rates across the county. The team carried out over 90 visits to Somerset primary schools, reaching over 13,000 children during the year. As well as inspiring the children with an assembly and workshops themed on the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' message, we have been able to provide recycling containers and rolls of compostable liners to enable parents to recycle more of their food waste.
- Mountjoy School brought a group of children to us each Friday throughout the academic year. 81 children with an additional need each visited Carymoor 6 times, taking part in an outdoor education programme to boost health and wellbeing.
- 6 students with an additional need from Farleigh College and Newbury Manor School undertook a placement at Carymoor, learning a range of conservation skills to boost confidence and to improve their volunteering and employment opportunities.



- We have continued to develop new resources and learning spaces for our visitors to enhance their experience at Carymoor. This has included a new cobb oven funded by the Co-Op local fund and a story circle in our willow plantation funded by Hauser and Wirth.
- Our education team launched a range of new activity days including a Stone Age Day and we also obtained permission from Julia Donaldson to run a day themed on her celebrated 'Stick Man' book. The activity day choices are shown below.



Wildlife at Carymoor

In addition to our education work, we have continued to manage our 100-acre nature reserve which has been created on a capped landfill site. This provides a vital home for wildlife and a base for our education programme.

- Carymoor retained The Wildlife Trusts Biodiversity Benchmark in December 2019, recognising the quality and diversity of our nature reserve. The auditor acknowledged the hard work of all volunteers, staff and supporters. The process has helped Dimmer to become a thriving nature reserve and home to priority species including slow worm, grass snake and harvest mouse.
- Carymoor's dedicated volunteer team have given over 3000 hours of time, helping to improve their health and wellbeing and to boost wildlife on our nature reserve.
- We have run traditional conservation courses for adult learners on hedge laying, scything, and coppicing, passing on new skills to adult learners. 55 learners have attended courses as of the end of March. We also ran a Green Workout course over 5 weeks for adult learners who wanted to improve their health and wellbeing whilst learning new skills.

Testimonials

'Both adults and children had a brilliant day, the adults felt the activities were perfect for the age group and we cannot say thank you enough to you both for being such fantastic leaders. Your smiley faces, enthusiasm and energy are something to be very proud of!'

Dilton Marsh Primary, June 2019

'You were amazing with the children and all of the activities were very well organised. The children loved the whole day! As I said to you before, it was the best school trip I have ever been involved in - it was stress free and very enjoyable! Thank you very much to you and your team at Carymoor!'

Catcott Primary School, November 2019

'My class were so engaged in everything; it was lovely to see. Harri does not usually communicate with adults that he does not know but he was up the front with you the whole time! I felt that it was a really good balance of being outside (I think the mud actually added to the experience for them!), walking and listening. Hand on my heart I couldn't have asked for a better organised or more appropriate trip for my class.'

Mendip SEN School, January 2020

'I thought that you may like to know that our student who worked with you last year has decided to pursue a career in a land-based setting. He originally had no idea what path his future would take but working with you has motivated him to find employment.'

Farleigh College, August 2019

'It's been really purposeful, thought provoking for the children and adults, and such a great free service for schools like ours which are small and lack in budget. It enabled the children to have this fantastic experience which builds on their cultural capital.'

Otterhampton Primary, Schools Against Waste visit, October 2019

'The children are coming up with suggestions as to how they would like to make a change now at school and I have already heard reports from parents about how their children are questioning what they throw away and which items could actually be recycled or reused!'

Haselbury Plucknett First School, Schools Against Waste visit, January 2020

Thank you.