

PRESS RELEASE

WINDSOR HILL WOOD – A PLACE OF REFUGE

A local organisation which offers a unique place of refuge to people having a hard time is hoping to buy its site and so continue its work for decades to come. During this time of pandemic and lockdowns, its services are needed more than ever.

Windsor Hill Wood is a family-based community, set in a woodland small-holding on the outskirts of Shepton Mallet in Somerset, offering Christian hospitality to many, regardless of race, religion or absence of religion, gender or sexual orientation. It aims to create a supportive environment for people going through tough or uncertain times, offering them the chance to rediscover peace, silence and acceptance amidst the beauty and simplicity of the woods.

The charity's vision is to offer hospitality to all by providing accommodation, three meals a day and a rhythm of life which includes times of work, rest, optional prayer and play. Between three and five guests are usually in residence, some staying several months and others just a few days. Guests come for a variety of reasons – some because of an explicit personal crisis or as part of an addiction recovery and others because they are finding life difficult in their home environment. Some have been homeless, or in prison, whilst others are home or business owners.

Windsor Hill Wood offers the opportunity for time in a peaceful, outdoor setting and supports guests in addressing any underlying issues or problems which might have led them to seek a place of refuge. It is a place where people can begin to rebuild their lives.

Windsor Hill Wood also have many visitors and volunteers who come to visit the site and help with the day-to-day tasks. For them, it is a place of quiet connection with nature and an opportunity to recharge their batteries away from any daily challenges they may be facing.

Windsor Hill Wood is now at a strategic point in its development. The need has arisen to buy the property and so ensure that this project can continue for many years to come. Most of the £650,000 funds needed for this have been raised through loans and donations, but the last £100,000 is needed. Anyone interested in making a donation to the appeal can find the Windsor Hill Wood charity page at Virgin Money Giving - <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1020442> or through the website www.windsorhillwood.co.uk

For more information, including the Annual Report, and to see the piece which “The One Show” produced last year – please go to the Windsor Hill Wood website, ‘About Us’ page.

To request a copy of the Annual Report, email contact@windsorhillwood.co.uk

Press and digital media: Further information can be provided. Contact the Deputy Warden, Katharine Thompson on 07305 217159