

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24 and APPEAL 2025



www.sendachildtohucklow.org.uk

Holidays

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of our many supporters and grant-making bodies, we provided holidays for over 300 children in 15 groups in the year October 2023 to September 2024 - fewer than last year, but through no lack of willingness or effort on the part of the Trustees. Schools are under pressure and cannot always staff holidays when invited, or availability at the Nightingale Centre does not fit well with curriculum demands or the testing regime. Despite the constraints, children from eleven schools enjoyed fun-filled days at Great Hucklow – from Chesterfield (2), Colne (2), Hull, Liverpool (2), Mansfield (2), Nottingham and Salford. One appreciative teacher wrote:

“This residential really allows our children to go and explore the wonderful countryside which is almost on our doorstep. Despite it not being that far away from Mansfield, very few have ever set foot in Derbyshire before. Even the coach journeys expose them to sights they have never seen.”

Youth and community groups have constraints too, providing holiday leaders while maintaining programmes back at base and avoiding dates that interfere with return-to-school activities such as shopping for uniforms. There were four such groups this year – two from Liverpool, one from Southend and a group of Scouts from Hull. A group leader from Liverpool wrote of the children:

All the people at Hucklow were really kind and they smiled at me and always asked if I was having a good time.

I walked eight and a half miles. I never walked that far before.



“Being in the countryside, they appreciated the difference to the city landscape, the beauty and the calmness. [They loved] the early morning run to watch the sunrise at the glider centre, kick-starting a fitness craze!”



As usual, the children came from diverse backgrounds and often challenging circumstances which, according to one community group leader, may include being young carers, having witnessed domestic violence or being from low income households. A head teacher described her group as “all vulnerable children. All [receive] free school meals and most are either under Social Care or have been under Social Care.” The common objective is to give children a break from their everyday lives, to discover themselves, have fun and just be children for a few precious days.

And what did the children say? They enjoyed activities organised by their group leaders, the chance to play together in a beautiful setting and connect with nature. They loved the food, the “very posh” bedrooms where they had a bed to themselves and teddies to take home, provided now by several Unitarian congregations via Hucklow Old Chapel. They appreciated the intangible aspects: “All the people at Hucklow were really kind and they smiled at me and always asked if I was having a good time.” Aside from wishing for more playground equipment at the Centre, the only negatives were bedtime and not being able to stay longer.

Leaders echo the children’s sentiments about the kindness of the staff at the Nightingale Centre, and the Trustees are deeply appreciative of the superb service they provide. As they are of Andrew’s Coaches, who continued to provide efficient transport services from start to finish of each holiday, enabling the children to make the most of the beautiful Peak District and its many attractions.

I hope I can go back to Hucklow. I liked everything, and it was a good holiday.

Our supporters

We are very grateful to all those individuals, congregations, societies and other charitable organisations whose generosity helped to cover the cost of the holidays – some by one-off activities, others by regular giving. We benefited from Christmas and Easter collections, Spring Fairs, raffles, concerts, open house coffee mornings and donations in lieu of gifts. Personal recommendations to external grant-making bodies, such as the Mercers' Charitable Foundation and The Commander Ethelston Charity Cup, resulted in new grants while Masonic Lodges continued to be steadfast supporters.

The conclusion of a councillor's year as civic leader of Derbyshire Dales District Council brought further donations, making a total of £7,100 over two financial years.

The value of the holidays is well summed up in this letter of appreciation from the deputy head of one of the schools:

“On behalf of the children, staff and governors, I would like to say a huge heartfelt thank you for another wonderful holiday our children have experienced at The Nightingale Centre. For many of our children, it was the first experience of being away from home, and your charity takes care of every little detail to make the week as fun and jam-packed as possible. Without your generosity, many of our children would not ever experience a holiday. Everything from start to finish always runs smoothly and you make booking to travelling stress-free! The children talk about this holiday for weeks and months afterwards as they have made memories which certainly last them a lifetime.”



The children loved visiting new places each day with a good balance of time spent exploring, playing or relaxing together.

We could not do this without our supporters, and we thank them all.

We are grateful too for donations in kind, and we express our appreciation once more to Jason Godfrey, of Godfrey Design, who gives his time and talent to produce our attractive Annual Report & Appeal.

Finances

We had a very successful year. We received over £86,000 in donations, and we are grateful to our Donations Treasurer, Ruth Taylor, who handles most of them. In addition, we received £50,000 following the closure and sale of Bank St Chapel in Bolton. Our total income for the year, including that from investments, tax reclaimed and online giving was £156,300. This more than covered the £110,000 total cost of the 15 holidays, leaving a surplus of £41,300. And the value of our investments increased by over £34,000. We also received gifts *in memoriam* totalling £2,335.

I liked how much it felt like home and how nice everyone was.

Being in the countryside, they appreciated the difference to the city landscape, the beauty and the calmness.



There were some increases in expenditure during the year. The Nightingale Centre increased the cost of accommodation by 10% (compared to 14% for other groups), though Andrew's Coaches held their prices once again. Administration costs (covering broker's charges, bank and online giving charges) were only around 3.5% of total expenditure.

A breakdown of income and expenditure for the year is to be found on page 8. Gifts *in memoriam* and donations from grant-making bodies and Masonic groups are listed on page 9. We are grateful to all our donors.

Once more, we thank Mike Georgiou, who kindly reviews our accounts each year.

Fundraising target for 2025

One deputy head, taking a group for the first time, wrote: "The ethos of the charity is phenomenal and inspiring. Our children have had a remarkable experience." Another said that the children "absolutely thrived".

We wish to continue providing remarkable experiences to enable as many children as possible to thrive. We hope others will join us in this endeavour as we seek to raise £82,500, to cover the cost of accommodation at the Nightingale Centre for the 18 groups we have invited.

We had a big room that we could play in, like chess and Frustration. We watched a film, and we played party games and we made things. Before we went to bed we always had hot chocolate and a biscuit.





Projected 2024-25 Holidays

Chesterfield, Spire Junior
Chesterfield, Wm Rhodes Primary
Colne, Park Primary
Colne, Primet Primary
Crewe, Edleston Primary
Hull, Wellington-St Matthew's Scouts
Liverpool, Edge Hill Youth Club
Liverpool, Lawrence Primary
Liverpool, St Sebastian's Primary

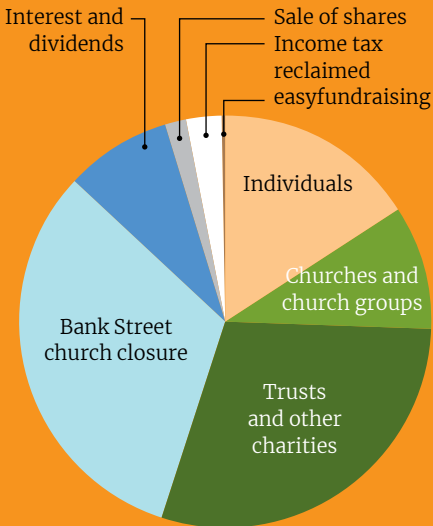
Liverpool, Unity Youth Club
Liverpool, Wavertree Primary
Mansfield, Asquith Primary
Mansfield, Brookfield Primary
Mansfield, Oak Tree Primary
Nottingham, Rosehill
Salford, Beech Street Primary
Southend, Turning Tides
Wednesbury, Priory Primary

**Income & expenditure for the year ended
30 September 2024**

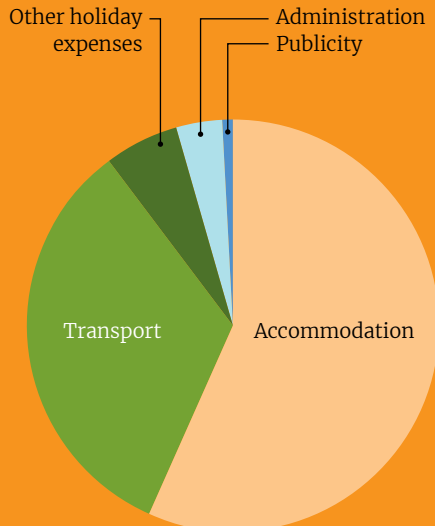
Income	£
Individuals	25,072.75
Churches and church groups	15,236.49
Trusts and other charities	45,940.90
Bank Street church closure	50,000.00
Interest and dividends	13,061.55
Sale of shares	2,600.10
Income tax reclaimed	4,179.60
easyfundraising	207.70
Total income	156,299.09
Expenditure	
Accommodation	65,442.00
Transport	38,250.00
Other holiday expenses	6,620.00
Administration	4,063.52
Publicity	881.00
Total expenditure	115,256.52

Thank you so much. The children had an amazing week. The generosity of SACH is truly amazing.

Income



Expenditure



Donate



Donation routes

a. Directly into our CAF bank account

Account name: Send a Child to Hucklow Fund

Sort code: 40-52-40

Account number: 00060131

b. Donate online using a credit or debit card

Charities Aid Foundation

PayPal

JustGiving

Give as you Live

c. Donate by cheque using the form on page 11

d. When shopping online, register with the following and search for 'Hucklow'

easyfundraising

Give as you Live

e. In memoriam

Memory Giving

Much Loved

Website: www.sendachildtohucklow.org.uk

The Send a Child to Hucklow Fund

provides and arranges holidays at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow for disadvantaged children, having no regard to religious, political, racial or other connections. Registered as a charitable incorporated organisation - number 1189260

Please send this form to the Donations Treasurer:
Mrs Ruth Taylor
1 Beech Close
Hanwood
Shrewsbury, SY5 8RA
Email: donations_treasurer@sendachildtohucklow.org.uk

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ as a personal donation to The Send a Child to Hucklow Fund.

Please treat:

- (a) the enclosed donation
- (b) all donations which I make on or after 1 October 2020

as Gift Aid Donation(s) and reclaim the tax*

* I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

(Delete (a) and/or (b) if not applicable, if you do not pay tax or are not an individual or do not wish us to reclaim the tax.)

From

Full name (CAPITALS)	
Address	
Postcode	
Email:	
Signed	Date

If you require a receipt, please tick this box.

**A charitable incorporated organisation,
registration number 1189260**



Our purpose

The Send a Child to Hucklow Fund provides and arranges holidays at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow for disadvantaged children, having no regard to religious, political, racial or other connections.

Trustees

Mrs Sarah Benfield
Mrs Sue Cooper
Ms Emma France
Rev Peter Godfrey

Ms Christine Hayhurst
Rev Peter Hewis
Mr David Ogden
Ms Jo O'Sullivan

Mr Colin Partington
Dr Judith Short
Mrs Pauline Smith
Mrs Ruth Taylor

Officers

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