

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CHARITABLE GIVING

A REVIEW OF 2021

Military children enjoying #forcesplayday



As the country entered its second year of life under COVID-19 restrictions, Annington's charity partners continued to respond to the needs of their communities.

The Annington Challenge, our partnership with The Outward Bound Trust, returned in 2021. Numbers may have been restricted due to COVID-19 but 41 military youngsters still managed to have the time of their lives – turn to page 2 for details.

In response to unprecedented demand, **Scotty's Little Soldiers**, the charity that supports bereaved military children, made some changes to their SUPPORT programme. Turn to page 3 to read how the charity is helping children and families deal with the emotional impact of the pandemic.

The summer saw Annington launch a new initiative, designed to benefit the huge numbers of military children living across the MQE. We partnered with Playing Out, a social change organisation that promotes the benefits of outdoor play, to establish the first ever **#forcesplayday** on 4th August. An offshoot of the annual PlayDay national awareness day, the campaign aimed to promote the benefits of outdoor play for Forces youngsters and saw c8,500 take part from more than 70 Army, Navy and RAF bases nationwide.

Our funding of £16,000 enabled every participating military base to purchase traditional toys and games plus additional equipment. Our donation also provided training from Playing Out to Service personnel and volunteers tasked with delivering the outdoor play sessions, as well as covering the cost of producing special 'Road Closed' signs – manufactured for the event by 'Britain's Bravest Manufacturing Company', RBLI's social enterprise and employer of disabled veterans – to enable safe outdoor play.

2021 DONATIONS

ANNINGTON CORPORATE DONATIONS:

£527,000

ANNINGTON TRUST:

£83,000



MILITARY CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH



LONELINESS AMONGST THE ELDERLY




This year's Annington Challenge – Annington's project for military youngsters run in partnership with the Outward Bound Trust - once again proved to be the highlight of the summer for a brave and deserving few.

The Annington Challenge provides military youngsters from all over the UK with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience an Outward Bound course. The Challenge is aimed very much at those who would benefit from an experience proven to improve self-confidence and self-belief, team working skills and resilience. Recommended by their teachers, the 2021 cohort of military youngsters aged 13-17 spent between 5-19 days experiencing the very best of the Outward Bound's Summer Adventure programme at two of the Trust's fantastic centres – Aberdovey in North Wales and Ullswater in Cumbria.

Many of the 2021 participants had secured a place in 2020 but had seen their hopes dashed as the Outward Bound closed their centres as the full impact of the Pandemic began to be felt. Reopening for 2021 required a restriction on numbers, smaller groups and no dormitory sharing – but fun levels were just as high as in previous years! In total, 41 military youngsters from 15 regions and 31 different schools took part and brought the total number of military children who have benefitted to date from this incredible experience to 382.

The youngsters enjoyed a whole host of outdoor activities – everything from sailing, abseiling and rock climbing through to wild camping, canoeing and gorge walking. The courses were overseen by the Outward Bound's team of hugely experienced and qualified outdoor instructors - many of whom who have worked with previous Annington Challenge participants. They encouraged our youngsters as they tackled activities designed to take them outside their comfort zones – and beyond.

Royal Navy youngster
Aaron Collins



**DONATED
£50,000**

**41 CHILDREN
BENEFITED***

AARON'S STORY...

Fourteen year old Aaron Collins was one of ten Royal Navy youngsters to tackle the 2021 Annington Challenge. Based in Weymouth, Aaron attends Wey Valley Academy. His father is based at RNAS Yeovilton with 815 Squadron but it was his mother who spotted an article about The Challenge – but at that point Aaron wouldn't consider it!

Fast forward to 2021 and Aaron felt ready – a friend completed the Challenge in 2019 and encouraged by her and with the support of his tutor and SEN Manager, he bravely took the plunge, explaining in his application "I want to live life to the full and face new challenges".

Aaron was born weighing just 4lb 7oz with a very rare congenital disorder – craniosynostosis - and underwent a major operation to un-fuse his skull at just 5 months old. A subsequent diagnosis of life-restricting Loeys-Dietz syndrome in September 2020 galvanised Aaron to grasp the opportunity presented by the Annington Challenge with both hands.

We caught up with Aaron just a few days after returning from his five day adventure at the Outward Bound's Centre in Aberdovey, North Wales.

"The first night at the centre was the toughest part. COVID restrictions meant we had a room to ourselves rather than sharing a dormitory and I found that quite difficult. But I was so tired I soon fell asleep!"

"I was really excited to have a go at climbing and it was great. When we did abseiling I was scared but I really enjoyed it – you get a real buzz facing your fear. However, the best bit was the overnight camping in the wild near Bearded Lake. There were five of us in the group plus our instructor Chris – it was really cool."

Aaron can see a real change in himself. "I've always been cautious and wary about trying new things and thanks to the Annington Challenge, I'm more adventurous now. The experience is going to really help me at school. It's given me more confidence to push myself – before I didn't really do that."

*Given restriction on numbers, the balance of Annington's 2021 donation was derestricted. These derestricted funds were allocated to the Outward Bound Trust's school's provision introduced during the pandemic. In total Annington's de-restricted funding helped deliver courses to c700 young people through the 'In-School Adventures' programme.

Charlie and Mark -
Scotty's Little Soldiers



In 2019, we agreed a three year funding partnership with Scotty's Little Soldiers, the charity which supports bereaved children of British Service personnel. Our funding enabled the charity to establish a much needed new role – Head of Support.

The funding proved to be timely. The increased discussions around death and dying in the media caused a ripple effect of fear amongst some of Scotty's families. It became clear that the charity needed to provide further support in regards to emotional health and wellbeing, rather than simply refer families to external bereavement specialists.

As a result, in 2021 the charity undertook a complete review of the SUPPORT programme and shifted its focus slightly towards providing guidance to adults to enable them to support their child through bereavement as well as providing specialist 1:1 bereavement support directly to their children. Two new members of staff were recruited; one to focus exclusively on supporting the parent/carer and the other to focus on supporting the young person.

REVIEW

Mark and Charlie joined Scotty's in May. With his extensive experience of mentoring young people and his work with a child bereavement charity, Mark joined as Bereavement Support Worker to lead on supporting Scotty's members. Charlie took up the position as Family Support Worker to provide support and guidance to the parents and carers of Scotty's members and to help them navigate how best to support their child with their bereavement.

The SUPPORT function is now much more focused on the impact of bereavement and the team has implemented a range of different assessment methods which help determine the best way to support a family.

During 2021, Scotty's as a whole supported 502 bereaved forces children and young people. We were keen to ensure that Scotty's were able to continue their work and confirmed that our support of the charity will continue for 2022/23.

"The Support Programme has gone from strength to strength, and evolved enormously since you helped us to get it off the ground from scratch. We have gone from just understanding there was a need for more emotional bereavement support, to actually delivering one-to-one, military specific, bereavement support directly to young people – it's more than we could have imagined 3 years ago!"
Stuart Robinson, CEO

CASE STUDY

In 2021 a nine-year old boy who at the age of four had lost his father to suicide experienced another significant bereavement when his mother's new partner died suddenly of a heart attack. The child refused to sleep in his own bed and started to become increasingly upset on his arrival at school, feeling unable to leave his mother for fear of something happening to her. Following an assessment, it was clear that the child was suffering from separation anxiety.

Scotty's implemented a series of 1:1 sessions with the boy and after the first session sent some fabric hearts to the family as a tool to use to aid anxiety.

The fabric hearts pack consists of two identical hearts – one of which is kept by the child and the other which is held by the adult. When the boy felt anxious he was able to take reassurance from the knowledge that his mother held the other.

This simple and effective tool really helped the boy, as the mother reported "We tried the heart pillows last night and he managed to sleep alone in his bedroom for the first time." As a result of feeling more confident, the child was happy to end the 1:1 support sessions and is attending school without any problem.

Importantly he has been able to talk about his dad and mum's partner, and now understands his feelings around their death.



Alison Baverstock spreads the word at Aldershot Garrison

**DONATED
£50,000**
700 MILITARY CHILDREN
RECEIVED BOOKS, 1,500
ADDITIONAL FAMILIES
IMPACTED

One military parent explains how Reading Force has helped her children deal with separation from their father:

'The book was perfect for both the children who adored it! Getting a new book in the post reminded us to take some time out and sit and read together as a family – not just at bedtime. Robyn loved sharing the book with Daddy over facetime and after the colour mixing activity she used the colours to paint a picture to put in the post as a surprise for Daddy.'



One of our longest standing partners is Reading Force, the tri-service shared reading charity founded by army wife, Dr Alison Baverstock. Reading Force was inspired by Alison's own family's experience of the impact of separation on Service children and the charity provides free books and scrapbooks to aid family cohesion through the power of shared reading. It has proven to be hugely effective at helping families feel connected, despite the absence of the serving parent.

Our annual donation of £50K in 2021 continued to fund the role of the charity's Scottish Ambassador, Fiona Maxwell. Despite the challenges of not being able to visit schools and organisations in person, Fiona maintained contact with them wherever possible, including attending the online pre-deployment briefing for 3 Scots (based in Inverness) who were soon to deploy to Afghanistan.

The event enabled the Unit Welfare Team to offer resources to families not only based in Inverness, but also in

other parts of the country who they were unable to visit. Working in conjunction with an Army Welfare Service student, Fiona provided 60 books and scrapbooks for 0-12 year-olds for her to include in resource packs which the Welfare Team distributed to families in Inverness.

Throughout the year, Fiona worked closely with Scotland's Armed Forces Children's Charity the Royal Caledonian Education Trust's (RCET) Family Support Team providing books and scrapbooks for inclusion in Wellbeing Packs which were sent to families who had been referred to them for support during challenging times. To date Reading Force has provided resources for 56 families, and will continue to support the RCET's valuable work.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The year marked a huge milestone for the charity – its 10th Birthday. An online 'party' saw contributions from Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Nick Carter, Lord David Blunkett, author Sir Michael Morpurgo and Annington's CR Manager Jane Harsham.

Founder and Director of Reading Force, Professor Alison Baverstock commented: 'We are always so grateful for the way

in which Annington support us, not just with their much needed financial contribution but also with their interest, encouragement and contact. Their funding of our Ambassador in Scotland and North England has been really powerful, as she came under particular pressure during Covid lockdowns, when Forces families sought support, and we were consequently able to deliver. In short, we are consistently empowered by Annington, both financially and personally.'

The huge explosion in the numbers of families taking part in Reading Force triggered by the Pandemic continued. In 12 months, the charity's small team distributed over 5,000 books, 15,000 scrapbooks and engaged 8,500 more military families.

**Waterloo Uncovered
Finds Programme 2021**


**DONATED
£50,000
IN 2021**



WATERLOO UNCOVERED

Our support of Waterloo Uncovered, the mental health charity that supports veterans through the power of archaeology continued in 2021 with a donation of £50,000. The funding benefited over 60 veterans but sadly because of the continuing uncertainty and potential risks posed by the ongoing Pandemic, the two week Dig at the Battlefield of Waterloo was cancelled. The charity once again ran its Virtual Archaeology programme and also introduced three other new courses for 2021.

WU Virtual Archaeology Programme

- a 12-month programme, where participants learn about the Battle of Waterloo, military history, and archaeology while developing a toolkit of coping strategies. This programme helps reduce social isolation as well as create real skills and opportunities. The programme's centrepiece is a six-week educational package (featuring lectures, seminars, and other group and interactive activities). The programme is supported by, amongst others, the British Museum and Glasgow University.

WU Finds programme - a 12-month programme that focuses on archaeological finds. Supported by the National Army Museum, this programme is ideal for those who like history and museums and want to meet and work with similar individuals. The programme focuses on finds from WU excavations at Waterloo and building a collection to be used for broader educational purposes including schools, veterans and the general public.

All of the above courses included the regular WU wrap-around wellbeing care and support.

WU Creative Arts Programme

- a 12-month programme that explores the Battle of Waterloo through creative arts. Led by artists and creative writers, the programme offers veterans an opportunity to explore their creative side. This programme is for veterans with some, none, or a lot of artistic experience and comprises a series of workshops and one-on-one sessions with the artists. The course culminates in a residential weekend and some of the artistic outputs will go on display in the National Army Museum.

Battlefields Uncovered - a 6-month online programme specially designed to deal with mental health and loneliness. This programme runs over the darker months when veterans are more vulnerable - not least around the time of Remembrance Day. The programme runs in conjunction with Utrecht University and participants gain an academic qualification. This course allows WU to reach and support a wider audience and is available for limited civilian participation.

IMPRESSED

The work of the charity and its innovative approach in helping veterans deal with the mental health challenges they face has impressed many, including General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith KCB CBE, Chief of the General Staff, British Army:

"The advent of Covid 19 impacted on the work of Waterloo Uncovered as it did with us all. Whilst it prevented them from returning to excavate the battlefield, it more than ever confirmed the need and value of their work to support veterans and serving men and women with their recovery and wellbeing. In this most challenging year, they found new ways of building a community of support for their beneficiaries, giving them the opportunity to learn, to develop new skills, and helping them overcome some of the impacts of social isolation. The work of Waterloo Uncovered will continue and grow over the years to come, both through real archaeology on the battlefield and through the virtual skills developed in the last year. I commend the work of this small charity. I strongly support its work."

One of the 60 veterans who benefitted from our funding was Nicola* "I have gained so much knowledge from my fellow students, particularly from the Veteran community. The timing of this course could not have been better as it alleviated a lot of the feelings of isolation throughout the lockdown period. The team's support throughout this course has been wonderful and I cannot thank them enough."

* name changed



CWGC
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The CWGC honours the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth Forces who died in the two World Wars and ensures they will never be forgotten.

The Commission operates in more than 150 countries and territories, usually on former battlefields. But few people realise that hundreds of thousands of men and women who died for their countries never made it home, and were buried here. Unlike the beautifully maintained war cemeteries overseas, these graves are not very easily looked after. The CWGC has teams across the UK, but the scale is too great to be able to provide the level of care the CWGC likes to provide. With over 12,000 sites around the UK, it is almost impossible for the Commission's teams to make regular checks on all the war graves for which the organisation is responsible.

It was this issue that led the Commission to establishing the 'Eyes On, Hands On' project and to Annington agreeing to support the project for four years with funding totalling £440,400. Our donation has been used specifically

to recruit a team of Regional Volunteer Coordinators who have been responsible for recruiting, managing and training the army of 2,000 volunteers the Commission estimated it would need to run the project.

As well as the obvious impact the project has had on the Commission's ability to maintain these scattered graves, the project has also given hundreds of individuals interested in the work of the Commission an opportunity to get involved at local level. The CWGC has not only measured the success of the programme by the number of headstones inspected, remedial works undertaken or volunteers recruited but also by the retention rate of volunteers. Nationally 33% of volunteers leave programmes in the first year, but the Eyes On Hands On project's retention rate is an incredible 96%.

"The Eyes On Hands On project has changed the face of the way we operate at the Commission in the UK. It's given people a chance to get involved in a programme with real meaning during what has been a difficult time for the country and them personally. Mental health has been improved, communities have been formed and we have discovered a world of amazing supporters from Orkney to Cornwall" says James King, CWGC Area Director, UK and Northern Area. "Our volunteers are supporting the work of our skilled

operational workforce right across the country and helping us to ensure the graves of the fallen are looked after in the best way possible. I can't thank Annington enough for the legacy they have supported us in creating. They have helped us achieve something very special and unique!"

Annington's fourth and final year of support began with volunteer numbers growing from 1,090 at the start of the year to 1,855 by the end of March 2021. The number of sites allocated to volunteers grew from 32% to over 80% of the total number, with volunteers having inspected a total of 94,320 headstones during the project's lifetime.

"We have been privileged to support the CWGC in establishing the 'Eyes On, Hands On' project and the number of volunteers recruited to assist the Commission in maintaining these scattered graves is wonderful to see. Over four years, we have heard numerous moving stories behind these graves and are very proud to have been able to help restore the dignity in death of so many. We wish the Commission every success with the project for the future." Baroness Helen Liddell, Chair of Annington.

Volunteers from the East Region at Nottingham Church Cemetery



The ABF Frontline Walk 2021



**DONATED
£40,000
IN 2021**

**THE
FRONTLINE
WALK**



In 2021, Annington once again agreed to become headline sponsor of the ABF’s Frontline Walks – two challenging walks each covering 100KM that takes walkers on a journey either across the Western Front or the beaches of Normandy.

The 2021 events were the first overseas events for the charity post COVID-19 and raised £262,081.33. Over 80 people took part – including Amy Birch, Annington’s Assistant Project Manager who tackled the Normandy Beaches Walk and raised £2,416 in the process. After a year of working from home, Amy knew getting fit enough to stay the distance was going to be a huge challenge.

“Choosing to take part in the Frontline Walk wasn’t a difficult decision in itself - I was honoured to take part on behalf of Annington. The difficulty lay in how I was going to get fit enough to walk 100 km – a huge distance by anyone’s standards.

Although I am usually fit and I like to keep active the past couple of years had taken their toll. Rather than climbing mountains and hiking I had taken to watching Netflix and eating biscuits, like many people I’m sure! But having this huge goal on my calendar spurred me to step up my fitness regime and my training focused on attending 3-4 Cross

Fit classes a week. It was difficult, especially getting up early to attend classes before I headed off to work. But my fitness improved dramatically and I rapidly saw the difference in my abilities.

On top of this, I tried to fit in at least two long walks at the weekends, enlisting the help of friends and family for motivation. During the walk itself, it was the knowledge that we were all tackling the Frontline Walk to raise money to support today’s veterans and soldiers that kept me going and gave me the motivation to push myself.”

Amy was joined by an army of fundraisers off all ages from all parts of the UK – and beyond. The Frontline Walks continue to grow in popularity with those interested in military history and the important work of the ABF The Soldiers’ Charity.

As one participant said “Walking in the footsteps of the fallen on the Western Front is one of the most humbling and privileged experiences of your life.

You will never fully appreciate the losses and sacrifices of all faiths, cultures and countries until you have walked the steps of the Western Front.

If you want to take just one challenge in your life, this is the one.”



In 2018, we committed to a three-year partnership with The Silver Line worth £300,000 and in 2021, we made our final donation.

The Silver Line Helpline is the only free 24 hour, confidential helpline for older people seeking friendship or reassurance any time of the day or night.

People can call The Silver Line Helpline just for a chat, to say ‘good night’ or ‘good morning’ to someone or to simply chat about their day. Others call to share a worry or concern when they have no one else to turn to. As well as being a

friendly voice, The Silverline Helpline staff and volunteers signpost callers to longer-term practical support available through other Age UK services.

With our support The Silver Line Helpline was able to answer more calls, offering comfort and a listening ear to thousands of isolated and lonely older people when they needed it the most.

During the past three years, our staff have also fundraised for the charity and a number have also supported The Silver Line Helpline’s partner charity Age UK by volunteering for Age UK’s Telephone Friendship Service. Based on their common interests, our Telephone Friendship volunteers have been matched to a lonely older person and have put time aside for a 30 minute weekly call to have a chat, give older people some company and brighten their week.

“We’d like to thank Annington from the bottom of our hearts for its continued support of The Silver Line Helpline. This has been another difficult year for older people who continue to be amongst those hardest hit by the long-term impact of the Covid19 pandemic. Many older people are telling us they are feeling more anxious than ever before and are struggling with depression and feelings of chronic loneliness. The Silver Line Helpline is here with friendship and reassurance at any time of the day or night. Annington’s support has enabled us to answer more calls to our Helpline this year, offering a friendly voice and a listening ear to older people when they need it the most.” **Hannorah Lee, Director of Partnerships and Philanthropy at Age UK and The Silver Line Helpline.**

Thousands of older people depend on The Silver Line for friendship



 ANNINGTON TRUST

FORCES FAMILIES JOBS

Other significant donations included a final payment of **£15,000** to the Army Families Federation for the Forces Families Jobs portal. The Trust has supported this project with a total of £45,000 since 2019 and has been instrumental in the development of the training and employment web portal for military spouses and those transitioning into civilian life.

AGGIE'S STORYBOOK WAVES

The Trust supported a significant project for naval families with its donation of **£6,294** to Aggie Storybook Waves. The donation was used by the charity to develop a Deployment Journal for naval children to compile during separation from their serving parent. The journal is full of pages to write in, includes an emoji scale for the child to use to describe how they are feeling, things to do including postcards for the children to remove, colour and send out to their parent.

Nicki Torrance
of Aggie's said:

"Aggie's are extremely grateful to the Annington Trust for providing this funding. It continues to help the families of those deployed or weekendening to build community cohesion, to feel less isolated and to establish or strengthen their support networks."

AND FINALLY...

The Trust also made another donation to RNAS Yeovilton for their King's Camps activity week programme. The donation of **£6,000** subsidized places for Army youngsters on the four King's Camps held at RNAS Yeovilton during the summer and provided much needed childcare for military parents.

Whale Island Nursery which provides childcare on HMS Excellent in Portsmouth received **£15,000** for play equipment for the nursery's newly refurbished garden, Chetwynd Barracks received funding for their Community Garden Project, RAF Wittering received funding for their Families Day and Brompton Barracks received **£700** for coach hire for a Families day out.

SSAFA's Short Breaks



After more than 20 years of grant giving, December 2021 saw the winding up of the Annington Trust. The grant making charity was established at the time of the purchase of the Married Quarters Estate from the MoD and has over the years supported hundreds of projects large and small that have directly benefitted military families living on 'the Patch'.

SSAFA SHORT BREAKS

Having supported SSAFA since 2017, 2021 saw the Trust make its final annual donation of **£6,600** for the charity's hugely popular Short Breaks for Military Families with a child with Additional Needs. Due to overwhelming demand, SSAFA provided two breaks in 2021; one in August in the Lake District and a second break in Exmoor in October. The breaks are delivered in partnership with The Calvert Trust which has more than 40 years' experience delivering challenging outdoor adventure holidays for disabled adults and children.

Over the two breaks, 23 families participated in bushcraft, canoeing, biking, rock climbing, abseiling, swimming, archery, a team obstacle course, king swing and zipwire activities.

The grant created an occasion for serving military families, including children living with a disability or additional needs, to leave behind the difficulties of daily life on base. It helped to improve their mental and physical wellbeing by engaging them in new and exciting adventurous pursuits within a safe and supportive environment.

As one military parent said: "It's been an incredible break! My child has had the same opportunities as anyone else which has been amazing! The room and equipment provided was perfect, thank you! We will definitely be back."

Another explained just why a break like this is important to a disabled child, and their family.

"This week is a fabulous opportunity for disabled children to participate not only with peers but also in the company of other mums and dads who understand and know to make allowances and not be judgemental or critical. It's a lovely experience that is well organised, feels safe, well led by SSAFA and is fun! We are all made to feel welcome, individual and treated respectfully."

In a letter to the Annington Trust, Miranda Behrens, SSAFA's Senior Trusts & Statutory Officer said "We are most grateful for your support of our Short Breaks programme as we come to the end of this three-year grant period. As the Annington Trust winds down, all of us at SSAFA are thankful for all the support provided to our beneficiaries by the Trust over the years. The security of your support has been instrumental in helping us expand the programme to meet consistently high demand."

ANNINGTON IN THE COMMUNITY

We donated funds towards a community allotment at the Salisbury and Amesbury division of the **Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club (AFVBC)**. The additional funds meant the club could purchase a walk-in growing cage ahead of seed-sowing in the spring. The Bordon Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club also received a donation which the club used to purchase materials to help to promote its services to veterans in the local area, including flags and banners.

At Carterton where we have developed new homes close to **RAF Brize Norton**, we supported the town's Family Fun Day which formed part of the week long community event 'Carterton Celebrates' held in July. All money raised was donated to 'Save The Children Fund'.

We sponsored a community event specifically for residents at our new development in Carterton – '**The Cressie Ressie**'. The event was the perfect opportunity for new residents to finally meet their new neighbours following the end of lockdown. The event saw 300 residents gather for an afternoon of fun, with a bouncy castle, face painting, live music, entertainment and Hog Roast and BBQ.

We supported the CWGC's first-ever **War Graves Week** which aimed to shine a light on the work of the CWGC in keeping Remembrance of our war dead alive. Children at Carterton Primary School, Oxfordshire and Woodlea Primary School in Whitehill, Hampshire were given native wildflower seeds to plant at home in remembrance of those who died in the First and Second World Wars. The children were invited to share a picture of the wildflowers on Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag **#WarGravesWeek**, with the best photo receiving £200 in local garden centre vouchers.

We gave **Buddy Benches** to children at Derwent Lower School in Henlow, Bedfordshire; Edith Weston Primary Academy in North Luffenham; Ilchester Primary School; Market Drayton Junior School in Ternhill,

Carterton Primary pupils enjoy their Buddy Bench



Shropshire; Moorside Primary School in Ripon; St Nicholas' CE,VA Primary School in Allington, Wiltshire and the before and after school clubs at The Rainbow Centre in Marham, Norfolk. The Buddy Benches are designed to help children to combat loneliness and foster friendships, an important element in helping them re-adjust to school after lockdown. Children who are feeling sad or anxious can sit on the bench to signal to others that they need a friend to speak to. Made from sustainably sourced wood, the Buddy Bench is personalised with a hand-engraved message to remind all pupils of the importance of supporting one another.

The Cressie Ressie



Marham Fun Day

