

# CPAS Falcon Camps



Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



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# cpas Falcon camps

## locations



Falcon Camps, CPAS, Athena Drive,  
Tachbrook Park, WARWICK CV34 6NG

**T** 01926 458456

**E** [jstephenson@cpas.org.uk](mailto:jstephenson@cpas.org.uk)

**W** [www.cpas.org.uk](http://www.cpas.org.uk)

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In this latest Falcon Update we hear from a wide range of people: leaders who have completed many years of service; some who are new to leadership; and, perhaps most importantly, some of the young people from this summer's camps.

My own faith has been inspired by what God has done through the work of our leaders, and I hope yours is too. The manager at one of the sites we use said: 'Seeing your team in action makes me thank God. That's what a team SHOULD be about ... fantastic!'

For many children and young people it has been eye-opening to realise that God is their loving father and wants to have a relationship with them ('How cool is that!' as one child said) and some have decided to take up that life-changing offer.

I hope you'll be inspired by these stories to take up the challenge of joining us as a leader on a Falcon Camp next year, where you too could help transform the lives of children and young people. It could be life-changing for you as well as quite possibly the best week of 2012.

You never know what you might be doing on a Falcon Camp. Some of the firsts this summer were group trumpet lessons, military camouflage training and tortilla-tearing Pictionary – leaders' imaginations know no bounds!

Please do also pray for the children and young people as they think back to everything they heard on Falcon Camps this year, as well as for the leaders as they plan next year's holidays.

And of course we always need your financial support too, so please consider if you can make a donation. If you are one of our regular donors thank you on behalf of all the young people who heard about Jesus on a camp this summer. We couldn't have done it without you.

Thanks!

Jane Stephenson,  
Falcon Camps  
Development Manager



Kev and Joy Johnson report on a challenging – but ultimately hugely rewarding – time at Halls Green 2 this summer.

# Young lives transformed

This year we had a small group of children who regularly attend an adventure playground run by youth leaders. These children did not have any church background and we recognised that a Christian environment would be a totally new experience for them.

We quickly discovered that the two boys from this group, Matthew and Callum\*, displayed particularly challenging and aggressive behaviour towards one another. As they knew each other before camp, they also knew exactly what to say to wind each other up and to provoke a fight! The beginning of the week therefore consisted of many physical interventions by leaders to prevent violence and the incident book filled up fast, always in reference to Matthew and Callum.

As a team, we prayed regularly for wisdom, particularly in relation to ensuring that we were firm, fair, clear and consistent with these boys about the consequences of their behaviour. We learnt that both have family members in prison and that they come from cultures where violence is accepted, and sometimes expected. We also sent out daily prayer requests to supporters whose prayers were invaluable in dealing with this situation.

Gradually, we began to see marked improvements in Callum's attitude and behaviour.

On Tuesday, we moved Matthew into a different group. On Wednesday, we had to call his mum. By Thursday morning, we had recorded thirteen incidents involving Matthew and were considering whether we should send him home. Then Matthew had a great day at Knockhatch Adventure

Park and was openly praised for his good behaviour.

By Friday, there were no incidents to record regarding Matthew or Callum and the difference in them was so clear that they were both awarded the much coveted Star of the Day! Callum commented to one leader that although he was not a Christian, he had learnt a lot about Jesus and would like to come back again next year.

We were so encouraged to see God at work in the lives of these two troubled and angry boys and to see them dancing and singing together in the last evening meeting was a real joy to behold. Although we had all struggled with them, and our patience had been severely tested, God reminded us through Matthew and Callum what Falcon Camps are all about – showing his love to children who really need it.

We look forward to seeing both Matthew and Callum back at Halls Green 2 in 2012!

*\* Names have been changed to protect the children's identities.*



James Ambrose reflects on his time with the Saffron Walden team as he hangs up his Falcon boots for the last time this autumn.

# Reflecting on leadership



Leaders and helpers on Falcon Camps experience a unique mix of nail-biting moments and the most hilarious times together. Thank God for organisational skills and creativity, music and art, sport and exercise, patience, frustration, odd ideas, God thoughts and a special desire to do it all – simply because we believe Jesus is great and his rescuing us is the greatest experience in the world.

For those who come on the camps I have watched the impossible become possible, children grow in confidence in the space of a few days, some coming to see that there are other ways to share life together beyond the smash and grab. One or two come back as helpers years later. One or two realise there and then that there is a Lord of Life.

I said I would retire this year after thirteen years of Falcon Camps with Alistair Langton and many more of youth camps. However, I'm only retiring from actually attending camps – now it's time for some background work through prayer and money.

It's been fun, tears, prayers and thrills all the way. God is very good through it all. Here's to the Falcon teams past, present and future; and of course the children ... in the hands of God.

## Thank you!

James is just one of many people who have given tremendous service to Falcon Camps over a number of years. Whether you're new to Falcon or have been involved in several camps, thank you for your tremendous dedication and effort to making a positive impact on the lives of young people.

The work of all our leaders is equally valued, but special mention must go to Gary Piper, who is also 'retiring' after an incredible 30 years serving on Falcon Camps. Quite an innings!



# Starting out as a Falcon leader

Ellie Riding joined the team at Chepstow this summer, following her friend Kitty's enthusiastic report after being involved last year.

**Q. How did you feel before your first camp?**

**A.** It was very different to helping with children's groups at New Wine, which was the nearest thing to this I had done before. I was slightly nervous whether I would get on with the young people because in such a relatively small group everyone gets to know everyone else.

**Q. How did you get on?**

**A.** It was an inspiring week that exceeded my expectations. It was great to give some of the young people the chance of a holiday that might not otherwise have one, and because I am 18 and still quite close to them in age it was easy to chat to members and get on their wavelength.

**Q. And what were your highlights?**

The highlights included ice-skating early in the week when everyone really bonded well together, with those who could skate helping those who couldn't. And playing 'Hunt the Spy' when Kitty and I dressed up as bunches of grapes!

**Q. Were there any challenges?**

**A.** The most challenging time was on the last night when one of boys really kicked off, got angry and over-reacted, scaring one of the girls – but gladly there were other experienced leaders there who dealt with it.

**Q. Any other positives?**

**A.** Being so busy and occupied helped us not to worry too much about our A-Level results, which we went to collect one morning during camp. All the members were really pleased for us when we came back with good results.

**Q. Do you think Falcon Camps are a good idea?**

**A.** 110%! It's great to take young people out of tricky situations into a different environment and give them a chance to have fun, do childish things and forget about the serious stuff at home. One girl, who had moved schools because of bullying and was struggling to make friends at her new school, wrote a letter to the leaders thanking them for all the fun and saying she really hopes she can come back next year. Several of the members said they were interested in knowing more about Jesus.

**Q. Would you like to do it again?**

**A.** Definitely, I loved it and I learnt to play football! It was the best week of my summer by far.

**And what about Kitty's second year at Chepstow?**

We had such a great time this year. The new site worked really well for us and the kids particularly enjoyed the swimming pool and the astroturf!

A real highlight was that many of the kids responded positively to the talks throughout the week, with a number committing their lives to Jesus towards the end. It is such an answer to prayer that many of them came away with a positive attitude to Christianity and the role that Jesus can play in their lives.

# Awe and wonder

One of the great things about Falcon Camps is the opportunity to experience beautiful scenery which is radically different to the towns and cities that most of the young people come from – glimpsing the majesty and creativity of God's creation.

Four boys at Treginnis – which takes place on the Pembrokeshire coast and enjoys a stunning setting on a National Trust headland – were so affected by the beauty of their surroundings that together they wrote a poem:

## Our Story of Bear Grylls School of Survival (an extract)

The birds were tweeting,  
The water was flowing,  
The sun is breaking through,  
Football is no-where to be seen.

The air is full of the smell of the outdoors,  
The trees are whispering,  
The wind is whistling,  
Nature is all around.

The fire crickle crackles, on the rusty sticks.  
The flames are the colour of the brightest oranges.

The fire burning out of a pyramid shape,  
Red, amber, burning bright,  
Like a rocket from mars,  
Or the sun sinking at night.

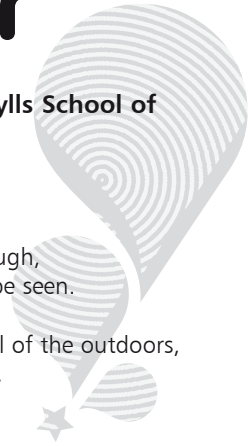
We can see green plants growing every day.  
We can see nature turning brown and rotten  
on the forest floor.

We can see the river rushing past, as fast as  
speed at oakwood theme park.  
Meanwhile, we are eating marshmallows,  
Listening to the tweeting birds.

The brown sticks soon become hot and white,  
The ashes blow away as light as a feather.  
Sadly we have to go....

We clear our tracks and quietly leave.  
We wave goodbye to the beauty of nature.  
Soon we will be back for more.

By Lucas Tomlinson,  
Jack Hines,  
Barney Moore,  
Kieran Francis,  
(Treginnis,  
July 2011)



# Who said children won't eat vegetables?



Brothers Neil and Adrian Foster are the overall leaders at Perrott Hill. Over the year along with their team they work towards the planning and setting up of their Falcon Camp. But this time they took that to new lengths.

In 2010 the leaders were each given a packet of seeds and challenged to grow one crop, however Adrian and Neil took on the personal challenge to supply all the vegetables needed for this year's camp. Alongside their own gardens Neil took the opportunity to utilise a field owned by his church to work with men from Andrew House (a stage-two drug rehabilitation centre) and young people from his local YMCA.

Together they prepared the ground, planted, watered and fed the crops. This community approach benefited so many – the gardeners, the Falcon Camp children and the church members who have supported Perrott Hill for 10 years. The challenge was met – only five bags of peas and one bag of potatoes had to be bought.

The caterer, Lyn Pickup, was adept at using up all that was provided even though she didn't know until camp began what was going to be on the menu! So the children had all sorts of things that would normally be sniffed at and probably rejected. In fact turnips, cabbage with caraway seeds and much more were all eaten up. And the children's report? 'Delicious!'



Having helped on Falcon Camps for the last three years I love to see the way that children from very diverse backgrounds, and consequently with very different 'life experiences', accept each other's differences and quickly make new friends.

It is a special blessing to see the way that particularly troubled youngsters begin to show more trust in leaders/ other members after just a few days as they appreciate the loving, caring (and perhaps more stable/ structured) environment that they find on camp. It is always a wrench to see them leave

## Blessed almost beyond belief!

on the last day, knowing that some are going back to very difficult conditions and disrupted family situations.

However it is great that, by putting together such a mixed group of leaders and kids for a week, God is able to do some great things that, I pray, will help the children in the months and years to come. As a leader, Falcon Camps are a challenging but very rewarding time, and make you very aware of just how much God can bless you when you rely on him.

Alan Prosser, leader on Chepstow

# Supporting Falcon Camps

Your support could help us offer more places to children and young people facing disadvantage and to share with them the good news of Jesus Christ.

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Valid from:     Expiry Date:

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In order for the scheme to apply, you must ensure that you pay a total amount of Income and/or Capital Gains Tax equal to that which we reclaim – currently 25p in every £1 you give.

Please tell me how my church could support Falcon Camps.

Please send me some information on helping on a Falcon Camp in the future.

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