

Site Manager Annual Report 2019

As I leave my third year as Site Manager and enter year four. I sometimes have to remind myself what has actually been achieved. It's very easy to over look all the brilliant changes that have been made and how far we have come. It is a slow process a lot of the time and it can become very easy to think nothing's ever going to get done. However, with all the help and support from my amazing crew and committee and a little reflection. It's actually overwhelming what a small group of volunteers have achieved.

2019 started off with the refurbishment work hitting the ground running. However pace slowed down as the year progressed due to losing our builder and coming across complications. Our leaders lounge and bedroom is half finished and we still hope to have it completed by the end of the year. It could possibly be finished now if we compromised on the skylights. However, I believe in offering my customers the very best and future proofing.

The last remaining three bunkrooms still await their face-lift. However this side is much more complex than the other side as we hope to have a fully accessible wet room installed. So several walls need reshuffling. We hope to have this completed with the main refurbishment now as this will make planning a lot easier and mean minimal impact to our customers. We are currently half way through drawing up plans and hope to have three quotes for the works before the AGM.

Our first big yearly event took place this year. I'm so glad to say it was an absolute triumph for the site. Comments and feedback from nearly everyone was so positive and the crew had a brilliant time. It was amazing seeing the whole site being used by so many young people. Mud Run 2020 will be taking place with a few small tweaks to hopefully improve on this year. Watch out for our promotion video!

As always, the crew continue to improve the site. Uncle Toms Cabin got a face lift on the crew work weekend along with a few repair jobs. Our new decking area for picnicking will hopefully be open for next spring.

Our second caravan is almost up and running to create more bed space for our ever expanding crew! A massive thank you to Mark and Susie Stewart for all their time and effort spent on the caravan.

Next year will start to focus on crew recruitment. Bookings are increasing year on year and I hope this trend will continue for the foreseeable. If this is the case then having just one or two crew members on each weekend isn't going to cut it!

Our relationship with bushscout uk grows stronger and stronger! Our first annual survival camp takes place in October. I look forward to reporting to you all how successful this camp will be next year! A big thank you to Terry and Sam Longhurst and their team for all their support this year!

Finally, a few special words of thanks. Firstly a big thank you to everyone who volunteers their spare time making this place function. Without you this really would not be possible. Without you Danemead would just be a wood with a couple of buildings dumped in it!

A big thank you to Steve Brownless, Chris Harrison, Robert Pytches, Mark and Monica Finnis for all their help this year on making the site run like clock work and introducing new systems I never thought we would have up and running on this site!

A big thank you to my two assistants Nick Stevenson and John Pridmore for looking after the site whilst I had three months off.

A big thank you to the best bunch of crew members any site manager to ask for. You all do an amazing job and you just have to look at our increasing bookings to see what a great job you all do!

Finally, a very personal thank you to my fiancé Carmen Haines. Soon to be my lovely wife. You have put up with so much Danemead Danemead Danemead. Even though we fight sometimes over Danemead. You are always the one behind me and pushing me to continue fighting for this place that means so much to me.

Here's to a great 2020!

Matt