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LIFE BEYOND THE MILITARY – OUTDOORS

AUTUMN 2024

WELCOME TO OUR 2024 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

FROM THE CEO'S DESK:

HighGround is nothing without the team and I must start with thanking the tireless and unrelenting drive that all team members have and give; from Anna securing much needed funds, Heather driving operations, Jane, Steve and our amazing volunteers at Stanford Hall, the Board and most importantly our Friends of HighGround.

As the seasons change, it's always a pleasure to visit DMRC Stanford Hall and witness the remarkable transformations taking place. Each time I visit, I'm struck by the beauty and ever-evolving nature of the village green and raised beds – they seem to take on a new character every month!

I'm thrilled to share some exciting news with you: thanks to a generous donation from The Headley Court Charity, HighGround has been able to expand the team at Stanford Hall. I'm delighted to welcome our newest team member, Grace Aldis, who joins us in our mission to provide vital support through Horticultural Therapy in aid of patient rehabilitation. We're incredibly fortunate to have her on board.

We continue to grow our networks with businesses and employers within the land-based sector. Recently, I had the privilege of meeting James Kittow, a fifth-generation butcher and grazier, at his farm in Cornwall. It's partnerships like these that allow us to further enrich the lives of those we support, opening new opportunities and pathways.

I'm also incredibly proud to announce that HighGround has been successful in our application for the prestigious Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award. Becoming a Gold holder is a tremendous honour, and it demonstrates our commitment to supporting those who serve and have served. This recognition means so much for the charity, solidifying our reputation as a trusted and valued partner in the Armed Forces community.

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending the RFCA Wessex AGM and Cobseo AGM, which were excellent opportunities to stay updated on critical developments within the military charitable sector. In addition, we have exciting news to share about our new podcast – we've started recording episodes, and we can't wait to share them with you in the very near future! We are very much looking forward to releasing this which will add to the advice and guidance offered by our Careers Guides.

In September, we ran our first full Residential Week at Askham, and I'm thrilled to share that we've now secured Askham Bryan College as a delivery site for the foreseeable future. This development will allow us to support even more beneficiaries, and I'm incredibly grateful to everyone who made this possible.

As CEO, I continue to seek out future opportunities for the charity. A recent visit to Scotland, where I met with Scottish Land and Estates and the Scottish Officers Association, was hugely beneficial. Watch this space!

On top of that, and the icing on the cake, I'm excited to share that we are partnering with City Veterans CIC this year, and we'll be sure to provide more updates in our Winter edition on how this is progressing.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting milestones approaching. Next week, we'll be at the House of Lords, and by then, we'll have completed Rural Week 46 – a remarkable achievement for all involved.

Finally, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who supports HighGround, whether through financial contributions, networking, donations, volunteering, or simply spreading the word. We are nothing without our friends, and your unwavering support means the world to us.

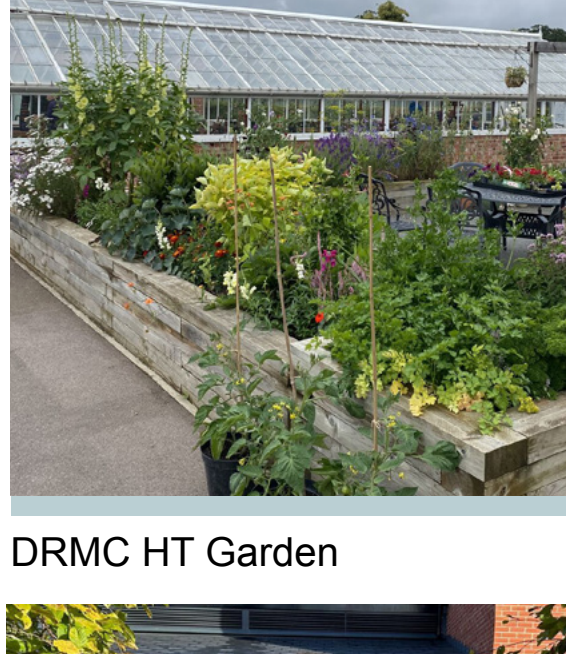
With warm regards,

Jamie Crisp

CEO, HighGround



DMRC Team



DMRC HT Garden



Grace Aldis

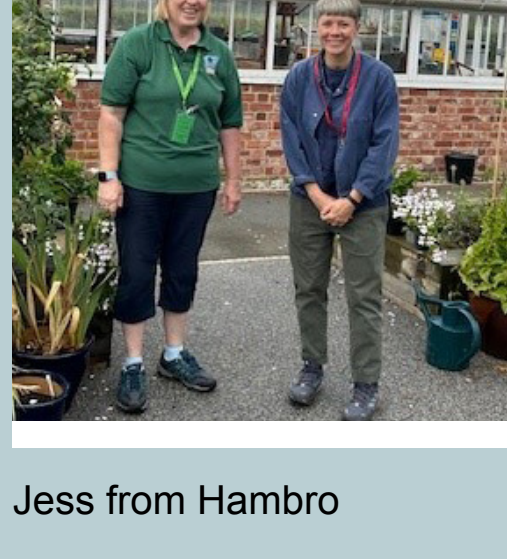
FUNDRAISING – FROM THE DESK OF ANNA (HEAD OF INCOME GENERATION)

Anna's fundraising continues apace and as well as a grant from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust www.covenantfund.org.uk via the OVA Career Development Fund, Greenwich Hospital www.greenwichhospital.co.uk have generously funded Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel to attend our Rural Weeks programme - we thank them all. Visits to the Game Fair www.thegamefair.org and the Royal Warrant Holders Association's www.royalwarrant.org summer reception at Marlborough House in London and hosting funders and supporters at DMRC Stanford Hall have kept Anna busy this summer!

Our Trustee Sue Mosley helped Anna when for the first time they took a stand at Shrewsbury Flower Show www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk in August where they made lots of new Friends of HighGround and raised awareness of our work.



Anna with Nick Farrow



Jess from Hambro



Anna & Sue

STOP PRESS

It has just been confirmed we have been nominated as charity partner for the City Veterans Dinner at Lancaster House in 2025. [City Veterans CIC Charity Partnership announcement](#).

This will be a game-changing opportunity for HighGround to raise precious funds and reach a new audience and we offer our profound thanks to the City Veterans Committee.

OPERATIONS NEWS

RURAL WEEKS

Rural Weeks continue to be very successful with the third week at Bicton underway as we go to press. The first full week at Askham Bryan College was delivered at the end of August and although light on numbers due to the military summer leave period, it was a roaring success with fantastic connections made, including a valuable visit to UK Agri-Tech which has spawned country wide links. We were delighted to welcome Jonathan Ball, Director Grants at Greenwich Hospital who fund places on the rural weeks for Royal Navy beneficiaries. It is always a pleasure to introduce alumni to funders and allow their experiences to 'sell' what HighGround does.



UK Agri Tech

Another well attended virtual week took place in early September and these continue to be a worthwhile part of the course portfolio, often reaching those who for many reasons are not able to attend a residential week.

As always, we extend our thanks and gratitude to both colleges, our industry supporters, guest speakers, and alumni who make the beneficiaries' experience truly worthwhile and developmental.

You can read about the Rural Weeks

www.highground-uk.org/land-based-employment/rural-weeks/rural-weeks-reports-archive

CAREERS FAIRS

The career and employment fair season continues apace with attendance at BFRS and CTP events in Cardiff, Chelmsford, Aldershot and York. Anna and HighGround Trustee, Sue Mosely, attended the Shrewsbury Flower Show, whilst Heather was ably accompanied by HighGround alumni Sean Potheary at the New Forest Show. There are always useful and productive conversations with service leavers, veterans, and potential partners which help to grow the charity's profile. Being able to utilise the skills and knowledge of Friends of HighGround and alumni enables us to reach audiences... At the invitation of the RMA-



Heather & the T-Rex

The Royal Marines Charity, Heather took the HighGround stand the Corps Family Day at CTC Lympstone. This was a great opportunity to meet with serving and former Royal Marines and their families and to showcase HighGround, particularly as we share a close relationship with the charity.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

After several years of valuable help and guidance we said goodbye to Andrew Crystal our web guru freelancer, over the summer. Our gratitude and deep thanks to Andrew for a steady hand in keeping HighGround visible. He kindly recommended a replacement, and we have started work in earnest with Tom Westlake who brings a wealth of skills and experience to help us continue moving forward with website development. He is being kept busy with a range of projects – all of which seem to have an 'ASAP' timeline! Together with the creative genius of Shaun Cuff, we are in good hands; timely as we have several exciting projects and partnerships that will significantly increase HighGround's visibility and reach.

With these projects in mind, together with the rural weeks, amazing work at DMRC and all the incredible work done by Jamie and Anna, Social Media presence will grow significantly. You will see focused campaigns and regular links to and reposts of partner posts, all of which serve to keep you and the wider community up to date with where we are and what we're doing.

Our closed LinkedIn group for HighGrounders (our course alumni) continues to grow in numbers and has seen an increase in job and training opportunities posted in there. There have been incredible opportunities in the land-based sector over the summer and we have been delighted to share these with the group.

Please do get in touch with Anna or Heather if you have a relevant job opportunity you would like us to highlight.

THE HIGHGROUND TEAM HAS NOW SETTLED INTO THEIR ROLES:

CEO

Jamie Crisp

Head of Income Generation and Founder

Anna Baker Cresswell

Operations Manager

Heather Crawford

Horticultural Therapist

Jane Taylor

Grace Aldis

Therapeutic Gables Manager

Steve Waters, ably assisted by our supportive Trustees, alongside Chris, Pete, Katie, Ruth, Andrew and Shaun.

We look forward to another exciting few months and continue spreading the message – #outdoorsisbetter!

GET IN TOUCH

DONATE NOW

GDPR AND OUR STANDARDS

GDPR came into effect on 25th May 2018. We had an extremely busy run up to this date, but our small team were able to pull out all the stops and get things in place in time. As a charity we take GDPR and the security of your information very seriously. To this end, we have ensured that all of our data processors comply rigorously to keep everything secure. You can read about our Standards [here](#).

You are reading this newsletter because you are a Friend of HighGround.

Do please share it with anyone you think would be interested in our work – we are nothing without our Friends.



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