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To: Clare Blatchford-Hanna
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Dartington

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Hello

There is an element to LandWorks that was always hoped for but could never really be planned for... People getting involved and just being themselves.

This is very much the case. We have people who come for lunch, just visit or even work with us. I want to highlight this because I suspect the people involved have no idea the effect they have had... it is just absolutely second nature to them, but it has had a profound effect on the guys.

I want to share three examples of this, from the last month or so...

- A few weeks ago one of our trainees was feeling quite low, really worried about an on-going health issue, hospital and some surgery, he was scared. Whilst picking up the day's food for LandWorks, he bumped into somebody who has already joined us for lunch. She listened to his worries and just instinctively hugged him, holding him

for a while. So simple but it made such a difference to him.

- During our launch event one of the guys understandably felt a little shy. A regular LandWorks visitor popped into the portacabin to find him and took the time to be a "buddy", both walked out into the crowd and chatted to people together. This simply was able to happen because a feeling of trust had formed, over lunch and on previous visits... If you have been let down constantly in your life, trust is a very big issue.

- Two people have stepped in to do some of the driving between HMP Channings Wood and Quarry field. Just as you would give a lift to a work colleague or a friend and it is this normality, the daily chat, the start/end of the day stuff we all do, that just makes these guys feel part of everyday life... one less judgement on them and their past.

I am sure all the above is just what these people do, naturally... for another human.

I do wonder if this also speaks to the wider debate about how society considers prisoners and their resettlement. Perhaps the term prisoner or offender is too often used as a convenient label to stop us thinking about people as fellow humans?

Involving people from every walk of life is just brilliant, no barriers and everyone gets such a lot from these interactions. I know a lot more of you want to get involved, which is great and really is one of the strengths of this project.

We are very keen to find somebody who could take on the LandWorks website, bring it up to date, offer new ideas and look after it. Please do just email me about this or any other involvement and we can pick it up from there.

Chris

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