

HOPEFIELD: Praise for helpers who gave stables a fresh lick of paint Volunteers pick up brushes and get stuck into the work

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THE desperate battle to save Hopefield Animal Sanctuary's animals has been taken up by a group of disabled volunteers.

Time is ticking by for many of the four-legged residents at Hopefield, who may be forced to spend winter sleeping outdoors.

In September, superstar singer Leona Lewis and the Gazette launched the Save Our Sanctuary Campaign in a bid to raise £100,000 by Christmas.

Cause

And while the cash is much-needed to replace the ramshackle animal shelters and feeble fencing, helpers from the Community Service Volunteers (CSV) also gave up their time for the cause.

As part of CSV's Make a Difference Day, 23 volunteers, all adults with learning disabilities, grabbed brushes to spend around four hours painting the stables which are not due to be replaced.

Dave Schlaich, the manager at the animal centre, in Sawyers Hall Lane, was delighted with the help on Friday.

He said: "They did a really good job and it was a real help. It just goes to show how people donating either skilled or general help here can make a huge difference to us."



STABLES BOOST: Volunteers help out at Hopefield Animal Sanctuary

"If there is anyone else out there who can come and lend a hand, please get in touch."

CSV is a national volunteering charity which supports disabled adults and helps them to volunteer in their communities.

CSV project worker Kristy Franklin said: "We are really pleased to get behind the Save Our Sanctuary campaign at Hopefield. The stables now look amazing, and so much fresher and newer."

"We were at Hopefield last year, and this

year they left the stables for us because they knew they could rely on us. It is nice to see all the people come together and work together."

Make a Difference Day encourages people to give time to benefit their communities.

Kristy added: "They are proud to show their ability."

Tins of paint, brushes, and other materials for the day were donated by Wilkinson in Brentwood.



HELPING HAND: Peter Forward gets on with painting the stables

In brief

School is closed for move to new building

HUTTON: Willowbrook Primary School will be closed next week to pupils while staff move into the new building.

Several parents have volunteered to help pack up belongings from the old school and move it into the new, ready for welcoming pupils on Monday, November 14.

Head teacher Sally Taggart said: "Imagine moving house after living there for over 50 years, and having nearly 200 children to pack up after."

Casino set to open

ESSEX: The largest casino in the UK is to open at the Westfield shopping centre. Opening in December, the Aspers Casino is a 65,000 sq ft venue with 40 gaming tables, 150 slot machines and a 150-seat dedicated poker room.

The casino will also have bars and restaurants overlooking the new Olympic stadium.

What you can do to help



What still needs to be done?

- Rebuild the house on the land to build an education and ecology centre – £40,000
- Renovate one of the decrepit and dangerous stable blocks – £6,000
- Rebuild the barn and house more animals – £15,000
- New fences – £15,000
- Buy a secondhand tractor – £8,000
- Animal feed – £600 per week



BRUSHING UP: Vanessa Wong, and Hannah Dean work on a stable door

Are you a business or individual who can donate to the cause? Or can you donate timber, roofing, stable materials, a tractor or fencing? If so, call the sanctuary on 01277 201110 or to donate by text send HAST11£ (amount) to 70070. Donate online at www.hopefield.org.uk

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