



Raft building exercise at our lakes



Dads endeavour to show sons how to cook sausages without getting cooked yourself.... Maybe the fire was a tad big on this occasion?!!



Cleaning the rib after returning from the Isle of Wight



One of the lakes on our nature reserve... Could that be the tent that was stolen in the background? We think so



A group get their instructions aboard Malachi



Another gets a drink from the well in the middle of a harsh Finland winter



The House We Will use As A Residential Presence In PROJECT TRANSFORMATION



A Group On Our Cottage Steps, Courtesy Of The Balmain Trust

*"You Can Easily Judge The Character Of Man ...  
...By How He Treats Those Who Can Do Nothing For Him!"*

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# END OF TERM REPORT!

## 2012

### An Account Of Some Activities During The Year



**Changing The World... One Child At A Time**

# Hello!

Welcome to our "End of Term Report". Last year when I wrote this introduction I explained that the tradition was to send this out in November but we were a little late... Maybe this year I should be saying we have changed our tradition because as I write this there is only one day of November left!

That's because we have been so very busy, mainly with children and our 'back to school' programme. I doubt that many reading this will realise what chaos our systems for looking after young people have descended to. We have, it seems, inexorably descended from an excellent Child Centred approach in the 70's to an abysmal, politically correct, child driven system that ignores the fact that children have a need for guidelines, clear parameters and thrive on knowing just where they are and where they are going. I wonder if we are witnessing a 'lost generation' growing up?

That aside, we live in exciting times. You will read here about our purchase of our adjoining neighbours at Solent nurseries, our new capital appeal to pay for it, the replacement of our destroyed boat, the use of our Finnish cottage and the continued expanded use of our Nature Reserve and Farm.

Thank you for your support during this year. I do hope you are going to be able to continue during 2013 and 2014 because we are going to need your help even more as we battle against the continued recession and strive to complete a capital project at the same time.

Doug Hulme  
Chief Executive  
November 2012

## Finland In The Winter

On the gable end of our cottage in Finland hangs a maximum and minimum thermometer. It's fun to see what's been happening when we've been away. We just reset it at the end of November and when we did we had a +36 and a -31 showing! We often say that the summers are Mediterranean and the winters Siberian but that really isn't fair because it's simply Finnish, 24 hours of sunshine or 6 hours of daylight! It's all great experience for young people who have never left their inner city district in the UK. It's a great opportunity for social education, learning to live in a group with higher standards than they are used to. Coping with the freezing temperatures and forcing tired limbs through thick snow is all excellent stuff for these youngsters that come from an impoverished background. They learn so much about themselves, how the world works and what advantages can be gained from co-operation. These experiences can be life changing not least for some of them is learning that in nature we have something that they cannot dictate to or even influence... An experience awaiting them in adult life!!



The Beginning of 2012 saw a group of youngsters who had been to the cottage the previous summer in +30 temperatures return to -30! This is education with a capital E!!

## Your Old Fishing Tackle

Keep it coming please... We can use anything, all the various disciplines Fly, Sea, Coarse - we'll find a good home for it.

## Old Cars

We have three or four young people every year that we want to teach to drive and set them up with a vehicle, usually for work purposes. Anyone got a vehicle they could donate for the young people?

## Sponsorship In kind

Maybe your company has products or services we could use? No money need exchange hands but the worth to the Charity could be considerable. What about items we could auction or raffle off? We have appropriate functions for items from £5 to £50,000... Just a thought.

## Phil Continues His Journey...

Those of you who get our online news bulletins will be familiar with this story, but not the latest chapter. In January we ran the story like this...

Many of you will be familiar with a picture we used often from 2000 until a year or two ago and even now still occasionally has an outing. Here it is...

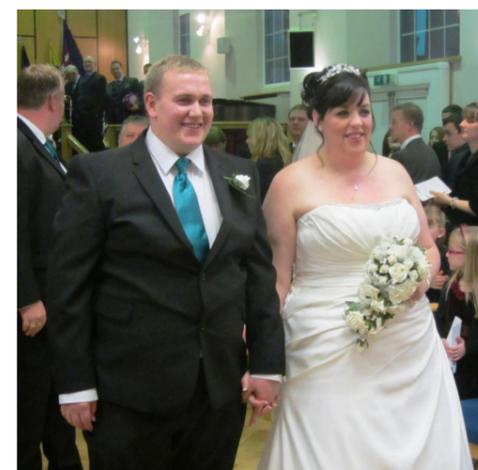
'This is Philip McMonegal aged 13. Taken in 2000 on our first ever trip to Finland. He caught this near 20lb pike when we went salmon fishing on the Kymi-oki. It was as tall as him when it was lifted head to tail!! Philip has been with us since he was 8 years old and is now a volunteer with the Charity'.



'Phil came to see us last week (Jan 8) he has a new prize catch, a little less than half the size of his Finnish Pike weighing just 9lb 30z, we took a picture of that too...'



Phil & Dylan Jack, Born 1<sup>st</sup> January



The Latest Chapter—November 24th Phil marries Katie:

Doug was asked to be Best Man!!



Dads & Lads on The River



Edward Starr equipment in action. The Sandpit.



A background partition.



A splendid new kitchen and shop unit.



Ice Hockey on The Baltic Sea (well at least for those not resting on their sledges!



Campfires can be lit and sausages and potatoes cooked, even in such Arctic conditions!



Clearing the snow off the frozen sea can be character building!!



Standing where 6 months previously we were swimming!

## Annual Report and Account Of Spending

This was published at the end of October and if anyone would like a copy please just ask us and we will post one to you. There is a scanned version available on the Charity Commission website if you want something quicker!

## Many of Our Children Live In Poverty

There are 3.5 million children living in poverty in the UK. It is almost the worst child poverty rate in the industrialised world, successive governments continue to struggle to bring it into line. These children and their families are under-represented, under-nourished and often under the radar. Second Chance aim to represent some of these and give them a voice and a 'second chance'.

- The proportion of children living in poverty has doubled in the past generation.
- The UK has proportionally more children in poverty than almost any of the other rich countries.
- In 2008/9, 2.8 million children were living in poverty in 2012 there are 3.5 million
- 600,000 children were lifted out of poverty between 1998 and 2008.
- This compares with a government target of 850,000 to be lifted out of poverty by 2004 and 1.7 million by 2010.

• In addition to the human cost to families and children of allowing high levels of poverty to continue, research estimates that child poverty costs £25 billion each year in costs to the Exchequer and reduced GDP.

## Summer Arrives Early In The UK

UK readers will have to stretch their minds if not imaginations to verify the truth of this headline! Despite one of the most abysmal summers many of us can remember it all started so well. Easter was amongst the warmest and driest we can remember. We started our 'summer' residential courses at our Nature reserve in Hampshire earlier than we have ever done and as the photos prove, it was warm enough for sun cream and swimming in the lakes!



Warm enough in April to Swim in our Lakes... There was a hosepipe ban in effect! Little did we realise what was to come!!



Easter 2012



The Fish Obligated



Warm enough for sun cream and Carp!



We have had many visiting groups during the year from as far away as Italy and Spain to the West Midlands and Scotland. One such group here didn't come so very far.... 6th Formers from Portsmouth Grammar School!



## Mini Bus

Those who followed the Citroen Mini Bus saga will want to know the final outcome. Ironically the problem was sorted by a combination of Youth Worker and Insurance Company!! After all those new engines and gearboxes and clutches and batteries and... Blood, sweat and tears!!... The new engine and gearbox propelled the mini bus into the back of a stationary van at a junction. This we cannot blame Citroen for!! The mini bus was declared dead at the scene. The NFU offered us the maximum it could for the written off vehicle but I'm afraid in these recession hit times we couldn't afford to put any money to the equation so the settlement bought us a rather elderly but low mileage Vauxhall Movano mini bus. Owned previously by another children's charity who it would appear had children like ours but not staff like ours as the bus had been more or less destroyed from the inside out! Hardly a panel was left undented and the upholstery was in tatters. We have spent a lot of time working on the bus using the children and whilst it's still not great it is acceptable and it journeyed to Finland this year without any of the Citroens previous problems!!

## Land Rover

Too late to get into the news letter from last year was the arrival of a replacement Land Rover for our very bent winter vehicle for the cottage. The original vehicle was supplied by the Cloth Workers back in 2008 but was unfortunately involved in an accident and written off. We were unable to

replace the vehicle financially so we were delighted when a community police officer Ben Harrington from Sutton Bridge got in contact with us to say he had a team of young people rebuilding a Land Rover as part of a community occupation scheme and would we like it? The rest as they say is history. If you would like to read about the project and the young people from Sutton Bridge here is the link: <http://www.bridgwatch.org.uk/community-initiatives-4x4.html> It goes without saying we are very grateful to The Lincolnshire Criminal Justice Board, Lincolnshire Constabulary, Pc Ben Harrington, Andy Hunt and Stuart Coote the tutors and supervisors of the project, all those who supported the work with sponsorships

and of course most importantly and significantly the youngsters who saw it through to the end and put all the 'elbow grease' in! We are in the process of transferring all the special equipment off of our old Land Rover onto the 'new' one so it is ready for Finland this coming year.



Front Cover Photograph. Deep sea fishing on board Malachi out of Chichester Harbours, Hayling Island.



Our Farm and our Nature Reserve have proved a valuable asset to our work throughout the year. Here Marina our Italian student who was on work placement with us examines our cow pasture with a youngster.

## Back to School scheme

This scheme only operates in Portsmouth at the moment but continues to expand throughout the City with some 35 youngsters engaged. We had official confirmation during the year that schools cannot keep youngsters at school against their will! This means that getting them there isn't enough any more and we are often to be found looking for missing children and then returning them to school!! Attendance at school is by no means certain these days. We are aware that logic does not apply to this!! Political Correctness drags us ever nearer to a precipice that no one knows where it leads to. We have a theory that the Education System is managed by a group of people who are more mindful of 'political correctness' and such institutions as the 'European Court of Human Rights' than they are the needs of the child and their responsibility to the child. Financial support is being sought for another year to make sure this unique and valuable work continues.

## The Edward Starr Foundation...

Edward Starr was a well loved and respected musician who lived in Brighton and when he died a year or two back his family set up the Foundation to carry on his philanthropic nature and ensure a little of him continued to affect the world. We were delighted they agreed to support our Nursery by supplying some much needed equipment that has enhanced the youngsters learning experiences and enjoyment no end...

## Ship Wrecked

Many of you will recall we had a mishap with the main boat at the cottage in Finland, it was blown onto the rocks and holed below the waterline and sank. I was at the cottage on my own in September 2011 and I managed to salvage it and winch it up onto the shore line. I checked on it during the winter when we were there with the youngsters and I thought we might be able to repair it. However when we drove the mini bus out at the beginning of the summer I took with me a suitable quantity of glass fibre and materials to attempt a repair.



Apparently in the late spring the cottage had experienced a tremendous storm of unusual power and height. We found our boat in the edge of the woodland so badly holed that she had broken her back. There was wreckage to be found on the other side of the bay and some 50 metres into the forest!! So completely beyond repair, we merely salvaged all the fixture and fittings that were left. However the time was not wasted, the storm had been so bad that all the ridge tiles had been ripped off of the cottage roof so Doug, Andrew the volunteer and Jack the work experience lad that were there, spent the boat

repair time repairing the cottage roof, which is probably better now than it was before. Doug's job description seems to widen every week!!! However it was a good job we had the time and it was satisfying to be able to complete it before any damage had been inflicted on the cottage. The Cottage and its facilities are now coping with all a Finnish winter can throw at it, minus of course the boat. Finances were limited so we were very excited when the QBE Foundation gave us a grant that enabled us to purchase a 16 foot Orkney Longliner as a replacement. Thank you QBE,. More news of her adventures on the Baltic in due course!

## Who Steals From a Children's Charity?

Sadly we have to report that one Thursday evening in July after everyone had gone home we had unwanted visitors to our rural centre and they broke into the caravan we use for storage and tea making and stole a quantity of the children's fishing tackle and camping equipment plus a generator. They even stole a bivvie/tent beside the lake that we had left erected because we were returning the following day to use it with some more children. Didn't bother with the bag it went into just took it as it was. To our minds that's on a par with the old analogy of stealing from the poor box in church. We are slipping ever lower with each new generation. We think it's another good reason for supporting our Charity and helping us to instil something more into the next generation. It's also a good reason for helping us complete 'Project Transformation'. A residential presence would make such a difference to the security of our rural centre in Hampshire.



The Chicken Flock have become well used to the attention from the youngsters and are a great asset to the education of the children not just on things rural but personal and social development too.



One of the youngsters discovers the warm water well that is at the furthest point of one of our treks across the frozen Baltic. Welcome refreshment after walking through deep snow drifts.

## House of Commons Dinner

It is a pleasure to report that we had a very successful evening together during March in the Members Dining Room at the House of Commons. A capacity crowd met for a thoroughly enjoyable evening. The food was great, the company even better and Neil Freeman, the auctioneer, was on form and managed to persuade the guests to part with their money in a most pleasant manner.



Nothing to do with the headline but The Farm, and in this case the sheep, are proving to be a real educational asset to the Charity here on a cold January day.

The event has raised over £20,000 for the work of the Charity and in fact when Gift Aid has been accepted it will probably be about £22,000. Much needed at this particular time as I am sure you can appreciate.

My thanks goes to all those who helped make the evening possible. Baroness Golding, our Chairman, for hosting it; Our Chaplain, Major Ced Hills, for Grace; Patron Tom Brannan, for his vote of thanks and of course the already mentioned Neil Freeman - without whom the evening would be all the poorer (literally!!).

We sense we now have a community amongst the supporters and there are many who look to renew friendships through these events. It bodes well for the future of the Charity. The date for 2013 is March 8th ... book it now!

## School Holiday Activities

We normally spend August running residential courses and holidays for the youngsters. For many of the youngsters it's the time they wander the streets and get into trouble—others just sit around at home and get bored. So... we try to use a double edged sword, occupy them and teach them something of value. It seems to work!

Normally we would have fitted 5 weeks of residentials into August (I know the maths doesn't quite work, but you know what I mean!). This year however the recession and the Olympics have prevented us from running our normal plan. Usually we would use the cottage in Finland for most or all of the activities for this month, but the Olympics had the effect of almost trebling the cost of flying and linked to the recession meant we had less money than ever to fulfil our aims, so we stuck to just three weeks

Two of those weeks were at the cottage and one was at our farm and nature reserve.

We were once again grateful to The Balmain trust for taking care of the lions share of expenses for these weeks.

Each week took on a different characteristic. The Dads and Lads week was completely different; we took a combination of volunteer dads with their child and dads of our clients. The mixture worked well and we were tremendously pleased with the work we did. Thanks too to Lochy who was Doug's right hand man that week.

The week at our rural centre was interesting with trips out to go deep sea fishing on a charter boat and a (very) quick trip to the Isle of Wight on a fast rib. After a quick exploration it was back to the mainland again. The youngsters all present their own problems and we expect that. We did have a

**DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL?**

**SEND IT TO US ON**

**[charity@second-chance.org.uk](mailto:charity@second-chance.org.uk)**

first for us however... one of the youngsters fell out with another and decided it was time to go home, so walked off, found a house not too far away and asked to use the phone. He called the police and asked them to take him home!! So

there is a lesson there should you ever find yourself in need of a taxi and no money!!! Actually the police did respond but brought him back to us for him to complete the rest of the week. We've been doing this a long time but they always seem capable of thinking something fresh up. Raft building, egg collecting (chickens that is) and swimming filled lots of other small gaps.

These weeks away teach the children a huge amount about themselves but also how to interact with their peers and responsible adults. For many it's a revelation, that you get more by co-operating and doing as you are asked, than by demanding and shouting. Matters of personal hygiene and diet are addressed, health issues about smoking and drinking – it's amazing what you can fit into a week away with good role models to back it up. We are very grateful for the financial support that made our efforts possible this year. Thank you.

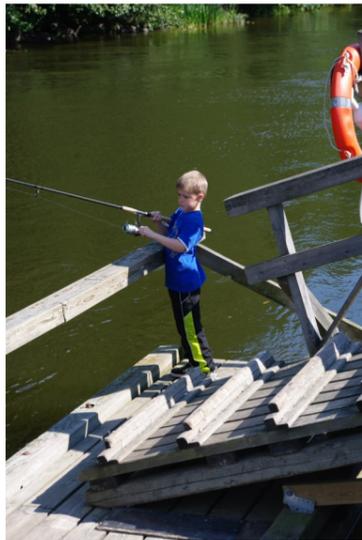
We have assembled a few photos here to illustrate those times, please take the time to have a look as they do paint a lovely picture of the personal journey the youngster make and in this the fathers too.



Father and Son Windsurfing on the Dads and Lads Week



Fishing after dark—Scandinavian style at midnight!



Salmon Fishing The Kymi River



Dads and Lads soak up the sunshine together



Historical venue, on the steps of the last Zsar of Russia's fishing lodge

***Dates for Your Diary***

HofC – Friday 8th March

Stratfield Saye – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May

Dever Springs Fishery – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June; Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October

Barbeque at our Nature Reserve - July TBA

## ***Personnel Changes at the Charity***

The House of Commons Dinner also marked the end of an era for the Charity in as much as it was Steven Careys last year at the organisational helm. Steven has been with us for approaching 10 years as the Office Manager, Charity Administrator and right hand man to Doug. We shall miss him. He worked during March alongside Collette Boughton, who is his replacement, and he 'handed over the reigns' slowly to her during that period. We are also delighted to announce he has agreed to become a Trustee of the Charity and continue some of his roles in a voluntary capacity.

We are also delighted to announce that Dr David Coates, a long standing friend and supporter of the Charity, has also agreed to become a Trustee along with well known journalist and supporter of the Charity Neil Collins. These appointments come after a long period of stability with little change on the board, but as reported last year age and health continues to haunt us all and has brought about these changes. The wealth of experience in many varied areas that these three gentlemen bring to our board of trustees is very welcome indeed.

## ***Project Transformation***

The news you have all been waiting for is now reality. The solicitors finished talking to each other, the contracts were exchanged and on the 1st of November we took control of the Solent Nurseries site. The site joins our existing Nature Reserve and Farm and we are in the process of organising a bridge between. The new site is going to enable us to train the youngsters in horticulture and aquaculture, giving them opportunities to work and engage in mini enterprises. We can also extend some of our farm activities onto the site as the site has storage and shelter provision. There is also a residential house for a permanent presence on site and the realistic prospect of us building a fishing lodge for accommodation and access to the whole site. The potential is enormous but so too is the problem this decision has brought with it. We have just less than 2 years to raise the balance of £700,000 or we will be forced to put the property back on the market. No one who has seen the site or knows of our plans has doubted the worth or the desirability of the Charity completing this project but we need to convey this scenario to someone or several people with the financial ability to contribute to its successful conclusion. If there is anyone reading this that could help with a donation or even a loan this would be very gratefully received and would enable us to transform the work we are doing with these neediest of people in the UK today. We will be embarking on a capital appeal in the New Year. Anyone who could help in any way would be welcome to get in touch. It may be that you know someone who might have the financial clout to make this a reality or maybe as a trustee or company employee you could influence a donation to us? Who knows... There must be a myriad of ways people can help. You will no doubt get more information on the project in due course.



Many Polytunnels that can be used in the Horticultural Centre



Nearly all tunnels need re covering. Financial and practical help will be required.