

END OF TERM REPORT!

2016

An Account Of Some Activities During The Year



**SECOND
CHANCE**

Changing The World... One Child At A Time

Hello!

Welcome to our 'End of Term Report' 2016. I hope this news letter will provide a glimpse of our activities during the year. Activities which you may well have made possible by either your practical or financial support. I view the life of this Charity as a journey, a journey we have now been on for 32 years. With some of you it has been the whole time, with others more recent and if you are reading about us for the first time we invite you to get on-board and accompany us.

It is inevitable when a journey gets as long as this one that you lose a few on the way and this year has proved no exception and I write personally later about a man who inspired me to start this Charity back in 1984 and who has gone on to greater things this year.

We have tried to spend our limited resources wisely during the year and I hope this report will demonstrate that. 2017 is going to be one of the most important ones yet because we need to complete the purchase of our Rural Centre and then set the compass for the next ten years. It's so important that we've taken space in this report to look forward to next years fund raising in the hope someone reading this will be able to respond to that need.

For some reason, we know not why, the average referral age has dropped in the last 18 months from 14 to 11 and it has been a joy to work with the younger ones who are not so set and entrenched in their ways. The problems that bring them to us however get ever more complex and ever more common. Dysfunctional families and lack of anyone to set boundaries and give guidance seem to keep us in business and the provision of positive role models gets ever more important.

Personnel changes have been plenty this year and I am delighted to be surrounded by a young and vibrant team that are set to fulfil our goals in the coming years but at the same time we have said emotional good byes to a number of staff who have done sterling service for the Charity and in 2 cases, having now moved to other jobs, are staying on here as volunteers.

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this year such a great one.

The journey continues...

Doug Hulme
Chief Executive
November 2016

In The Beginning...

I am sure you are all aware of how many new charities are formed every week in the UK - even I am startled by the number! Behind each charity there is always a story of inspiration from the founder. The person who is an amputee starts a charity for prosthetic limbs, the parent who lost their child in a car crash starts a road safety campaign, the recovered mental health patient trains as a counsellor, the person who witnessed the decimation of wildlife becomes a conservationist etc etc.

I was working in senior management of a special school for children who had Educational and Behavioural Disorders when I started this Charity some 32 years ago. When you work with these children not one is ever the same as another, everyone is unique and everyone's problems are different. This means that you have to be innovative, original, sometimes off the wall in your solutions and actions. You draw deep on your personal experiences that have built up over the years. You have to be confident and well rooted in who you are. You endure many set backs and failures so you need to know for sure why you are doing this work and what you are trying to achieve—in short you need inspiration...



Cover Picture. One of our children plays a large carp in our own lakes at our Rural Centre on The River Meon... remember those days of summer when you were 11?

My inspiration and motivation goes back to my childhood. Our childhood was idyllic; we grew up deep in the countryside, with our own woods, an orchard and many animals. I spent hundreds of hours being David Crocket or Robin Hood or some other character that had crossed my path recently. On occasions it would get me into trouble such as when the aging postman on his bike complained to my parents I was deliberately frightening him by crashing out of the pathways onto the road in front of him on my 'Grecian flyer' or when a group of us enacted a scene from Robin Hood when he attacked the Sheriff of Nottingham from behind trees – the local riding school had the temerity to complain to my dad about it. He took their complaints very seriously and they seemed satisfied – they wouldn't have been if they had seen the wink he gave me as he turned away or heard him later tell my mother 'well he's a boy isn't he!' We were not rich but we lacked nothing. This was due in no short measure to the care and precision dad took over our finances. Every penny was calculated and we were never in debt, yet he was also generous, albeit carefully. The point is that I realise that the difference between many of the children I work with and me is... I had a father. A very good one and a life full of opportunity and encouragement that he created for me. This is the inspiration behind Second Chance. We want them to have what my father gave to me; for most that means a second chance at it. I mention this because at the beginning of this year we lost the man that inspired the Charity, fit and relatively well to the end he had a great life and was known to many of you, especially those of you who were children in the Charity back in the 80's and 90's. He's gone on to greater things but I thought I would pinch a piece of this news letter to make a personal acknowledgment of the role he played in changing so many lives. Thanks Dad... You are my inspiration. Doug Hulme, C.E.O.



Ron Hulme and CEO Doug Hulme. Fathers make such a difference to our lives, the absence of one can make even more.

House of Lords

It is now 2 years since we moved our Annual Dinner and Auction from The House of Commons to The House of Lords and again this year, on the 11th March, it proved to be a great success. As usual Baroness Golding was a superb host and everyone had a great time. Auctioneer, our great friend and supporter Neil Freeman (right), did a superb job and the Charity benefitted by some £20,000. If you would like to join us in 2017 keep the 17th March free!!

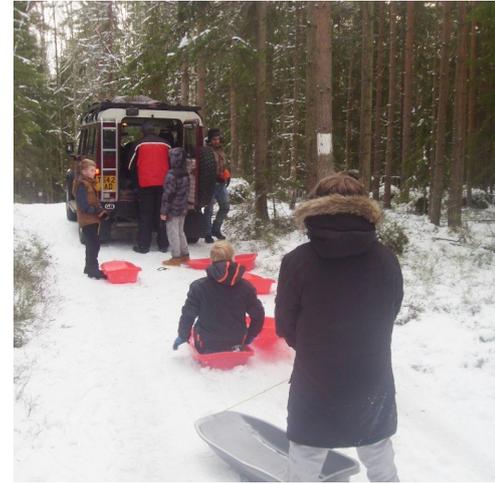


Finland Cool



James, our Head of Youth Work, takes part in a mechanical toboggan pull!

Minus 10 and plenty of snow, frozen seas and biting winds... all featured in February when we took parties of children to our Finnish Cottage near Kotka. We try and take children that have experienced the summer back in the winter to see the contrast. One year our maximum and minimum Thermometer registered +30 and -30 degrees Celsius.



The Land Rover is the pulling power. The vehicle is still going strong from gifts by The Clothworkers and The Sutton Bridge Motor Project in 2010 and 2012. It's the only way to access the cottage when the snows come.



Warren Hulme, James Nice and a group of youngsters at the top of the old light house tower in Kotka. Minus 10 and very windy!



The view from our cottage as the sea begins to freeze over.

Finland Hot

In the summer the children swim where in the winter they walked. There are those this year who visited for the first time in July and August that will be amazed in February when we bring them back to the same place. Here they learn social and personal skills, they have positive role models, they learn much geography and biology, they do currency conversions and they learn to converse with the locals. For many it is a life changing experience. We are grateful to our local volunteers in Finland, particularly the family Sundqvist and family Kotola along with various other supporting organisations like Kotka City Council who between them make it a relatively inexpensive exercise to take the children to such a special location...



On the Baltic near midnight sun—what a magical experience for an inner city youngster from the UK



Freshly caught from The River Kymi one Wednesday afternoon. The smile says it all.



The temperature was +32 and no air conditioning as our Land Rover waits in line at Stockholm dockside. Coroline roofing sheets on the roof rack are ready for a working party on our bunk house.



The traditional shot of a group on the steps of the last Tsars fishing lodge, some engaging in less than traditional poses, not to mention the cracked collar bone in evidence!



White water rafting on The River Kymi in August.

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL?

SEND IT TO US ON

charity@second-chance.org.uk

Dates for Your Diary 2017

H of L – Friday 17th March

Dever Springs Fishery – Wednesday 14th June
and Sunday 1st October

Reception and Naval Review—May 1st
Portsmouth TBC

Finland Working

10 years ago we built a very special bunk house to sleep 10 children. It had to be very well insulated and able to stand up to very strong winds coming off the sea at 60 or 70 miles an hour, put up with a possible temperature drop down to -30 or more and equally not cook the children when it went to plus 30 in the summer. It only has one small window which cuts down on heat loss but more importantly only lets a little light in when we get mid-night sun and the children need to go to sleep (oh yes they do)! When you are working so many thousands of mile from home, time is limited so we built the bunkhouse but finished it off with a very tough tarpaulin, carefully battened down. This we thought would do for a year and then we could finish it off properly. Some of you will know how these things go but... ten years later we were back to finish the outside off. We clad the walls Finnish style with timber and put a roofing cover on the top. Finances being tight and time even tighter, we tried to take as much as we could when we drove the vehicle out for the summer and acquired it as cheaply as we could here in the UK. So it was that Onduline, the sheet roofing manufacturers, supplied us with exactly the right number of green corrugated Coroline sheets to make a superb job of the roof. Starki, the local builders merchant, did us a special deal on the timber and one working party of 7 volunteers later we finally finished our bunk house, I guess you could say 8 years late!!



Before



During



Almost Complete

The first occupants of the finished bunk house (minus the strop that was in a Finnish forest at the time!!)



An early season carp caught from one of our lakes at our Rural Centre. The sense of achievement from doing something like this is amazing and the effect on a child is often profound. Success at last.



Another for the album from our Rural centre



Joint effort this time.



Luke with a great fish taken from Lodge Pond , Courtesy of Farnham Angling Society, who give us special access to their facilities.



Remember these days? - such enthusiasm!

Personnel Updates

There have been big changes at the Charity this year. In March we said goodbye to Senior Youth Worker James Nice, who has taken a completely different career path and joined The Navy as a submariner! We have been keeping in touch and he has visited a few times and checked up on 'his' kids and he promises to do more volunteering when his training is over, although that may mean opening a new region in Scotland! We wish him the best and he served the Charity well in the 6 year period he was with us. James is replaced by Sean Finch who has become the senior Youth worker and has a real heart and passion for the young people and, rather helpfully, he is a mad keen angler! A father of two young children, married to Paula, he previously worked for another charity called Stella's Voice and his local church. Sean as a youngster has been there and got the T shirt - he knows what these youngsters are going through.



Sean Finch, our new Senior Youth Worker



Collette Boughton, our Office Manager, has left us for pastures new. Seen here collecting a cheque for £2,700 in October from Denmead Cycling clubs Mike Thwaites

Collette Boughton, our Office Manager, has left after nearly 5 years of managing the office and is currently working as a school secretary. She has already been back volunteering and recently represented us at a money presentation ceremony near her home. She is replaced in a dual role by Tim Smith who is now projects manager with a bit of youth work and a bit of administration! He comes to us having previously volunteered with us and having managed a chain of charity shops after working for some time with Brittany Ferries. He too is married with a young baby and Amy, his wife, does a little bit of part time work looking after our animals and volunteering as an advocate with our girls. Finally, and to complete the line up, our latest recruit is another Tim (very confusing with 3 Tim's in the office sometimes)! Tim Button has recently left The Royal Marines as a musician and has been studying Charity Administration and Fund Raising and we plan to use those skills as time goes on, but if you have been used to talking with Collette it is probably Tim you will be talking to now. Tim is working 15 hours a week for us (unless someone wants to sponsor another 15 hours for us?!) He is married to Ellie and both are very talented musicians, which may have some impact on planned work with the Charity!

Doug, our CEO, commented how blessed he feels to have such a young, vibrant and talented team around him as these new faces join the established team working to progress Second Chance to a new level.



Tim Button Charity Administrator and his wife Ellie



Tim Smith, Projects Manager

Farewell To An Old Friend...



It is with sadness we acknowledge the passing of our previous Chairman and great friend of the Charity, Admiral Sir Jeremy Black... CEO Doug Hulme had the privilege of attending his memorial tribute in Winchester Cathedral earlier this year. A Great Man.



Portsmouth Grammar School Give A Lift!



PGS Go 'Potty' for us!

Working Parties

There have been several working parties down the land this year from people such as Gemalto, our evergreen supporters from nearby Segensworth Business Park, and other neighbours like The Office for National Statistics. Then there was the Department of Work and Pensions, The Navy, Portsmouth Grammar School, Zurich Insurance, Give and Gain and many more. Unfortunately we don't have many photographs... next year perhaps? We couldn't have done half of what we have without this invaluable source of help, support and encouragement. Thank you all!

The Big Project and 2017

So to recap, for those of you new to the 'Big Project.' We had the opportunity, about 4 years ago, to purchase the old Nursery and Garden Centre that adjoined our Rural Centre. The offer was to buy it for £800,000. It contains offices, sheds, polytunnels, houses and 2 mobile homes to mention some of the facilities. We've put a footbridge in to join the two sites and are in the process of putting a full large bridge in. The new site is or will be used for our admin offices, winter accommodation, work



As we cover and extend the use of the Poly tunnels, courtesy of BPI Visqueen, it opens ever new possibilities, their continued favourable prices means we are bringing more areas into use. They replaced last years hurricane destroyed great hall free of charge!

experience, mini enterprise schemes, education courses on animal husbandry, horticulture and retailing, safe haven accommodation, storage and much more. The older youngsters will learn the work ethic and be prepared for jobs and life in a much more realistic way than they experience at present.

So over the intervening time we have raised over £500,000 and we now owe just £290,000. Not bad going, but the deadline for the remaining sum is July 2017! This is why we mention it now and why it will be the major project for 2017.

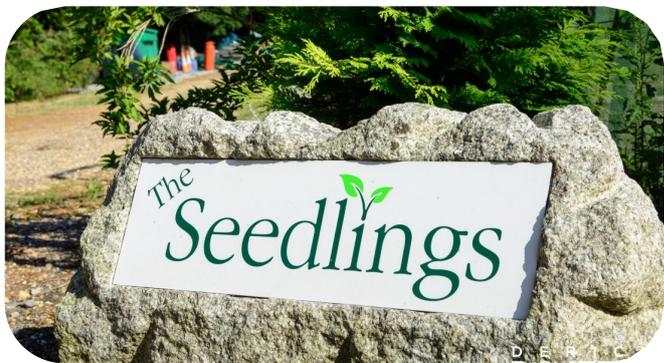
Steve Edge of Edge Design in London is helping us to tackle this problem. He is re-designing our web site, face book and twitter accounts as we write this. He is going to help us market our problem and access a lot of people hitherto untapped. We have a great hope that someone reading this and other words that will be written in the next few weeks, will be able to solve this capital shortfall. If you can help please contact the Charity and talk it through. If you can't help maybe you know someone or a trust fund who can?

We do have a back stop in this scenario. If we can't raise the money we shall sell our offices, drop in centre, children's centre in Portsmouth. However we have a vision for this building, which is to use it as a cultural centre for our kind of children which will include a music centre with music lessons and instruments on offer, a dance studio and other arts and media activities—it's something that our children just don't do or experience at all. We need to raise the money for the new site so we can develop this site for the benefit of the youngsters.

Please help.



During 2017 we will move our administration into these offices on site. A big saving in travelling costs and a much more efficient arrangement... watch out for our change of address notifications. July is our schedule.



The Seedlings is a 'countryside experience' and set of resources for pre-school to year 4... all under cover so it doesn't matter what the weather is doing—all schools will be able to access this.



The House on Site



A mobile home on site affords safe haven accommodation in emergencies and difficult situations.



Mini Enterprise Schemes are running now. We give a packet of seeds or a bucket of fry to a child. They look after it, invest in it, get educated in and learn not just the factual stuff but things like a work ethic, work manners, social interaction. At the end of it they can sell the plants or the Koi Carp and will keep the profit for themselves—a valuable lesson in all the things mentioned plus business and marketing skills—all preparation for work. This polytunnel is destined to be the Koi Carp Tunnel.

I



Chris Jones and Susan either side of Doug Hulme. Taken in Finland during the holiday they bid for at the House of Lords Auction. Thank you for their support on such an important night for fundraising



Our Land Rover safely tucked away inside a warehouse as it has finished the summer activities and awaits the winter ones in Finland. We are so grateful for our volunteers, Pasi and Annika Sundqvist who look after us (and the Land Rover) so well!



'Fishing' written by David Martin John Price

I like to fish with rod and line, out in the lakes and serpentine.

There I find there's much to learn, with many a twist and many a turn.

Different rods and different reels, and different lines and hooks to feel.

Floats and weights, and tents and chairs, and a carthorse just to get it there!

There's different baits with different taste, maggots and boilies and even paste.

There's different ways and different rigs, and floats and chods and thingemejigs.

And special clothes so you're not seen, and welly boots, oh and sun cream.

And don't forget the fork and dish, and a big net to catch the fish.

And birdsong is a great delight, and not to put the fish to flight.

Mice and rats and wasps and bees, the wind that's blowing through the trees.

The ducks, the geese and also swans, are out there on our fishing ponds.

Lots to do and see, but just to wish, to catch another lovely fish.

31st May 2016.(c)



We hope you have enjoyed reading this bulletin. It is just a small flavour of some of the things we do. Many other activities and many other people have been involved and we are sorry not to mention them all. Fishing is but one activity. We are working with children who have fallen through the net. Often not at school, often from broken or single parent families, often from poverty stricken backgrounds, often abused. Always in need of a second chance. Please help us to meet this need and change their lives around. Any donation however small is noticed and used wisely, please give generously to our work. If you are one of those who have made this year possible we all say a huge thank you from the bottom of our hearts on behalf of the youngsters who have had their lives changed this year. Long may it continue .

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

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