

# ***END OF TERM REPORT!***

## ***2018***



**SECOND  
CHANCE**

*An Account Of Some Activities During The Year*

# Welcome!

It hardly seems a year since our last 'End of Term' report but here we are. The year has been a strange one in many ways. Following on from the tremendous success of purchasing the new site to add to our Rural Centre there has understandably been a fall in our income during this year. It seems capital appeals are always more popular than revenue appeals... We however cut our cloth accordingly and a few less residential courses and one member of staff less we reach the end of the year in fine style. More referrals than the previous year, more complex family issues, ever increasing politically correct pressures all add up to a busy but rewarding year. As you will see elsewhere in this news letter, we have started work on our new Cultural and Creative Arts Centre in Portsmouth. We opened our doors to the cameras at the beginning of the summer. We have made progress in raising funds to build our fishing lodge come residential accommodation. Income from our activities on the new site is starting to come in. We have started growing things in the polytunnels, albeit for our own use in The Nature Reserve. We are looking forward to Christmas and our usual round of supporting the families with food and presents (maybe presence). Dysfunctional families and a general lack of guidance and discipline is now wreaking havoc in our society. I know the days are gone when we could have changed all that but we are doing our best... *changing the world... one child at a time!*



Cover Picture.: Sums it all up... one generation to another.! It all goes wrong when there is no one to pass it on. Its what fathers are for. Taken beside our Mill Pond at our Rural Centre.

*Douglas P. Hulme*

Doug Hulme  
Chief Executive  
November 2018

## 'Finland 2018'

January and February seems such a long time ago now and after the scorching summer we had it seems strange writing about snow and cold but we certainly got that this year at our cottage near Kotka.

The snow fell while we were there. The sea had frozen to nearly 2 feet in depth. We brought back many of the children that had enjoyed the summer before in 2017. It is always a delight to see their incredulity at finding ice where they had previously been swimming in water warmed to over 20 degrees.

The 'party trick' of driving the Land Rover on the ice with the children in it was possible this year. They all think we have lost our senses when we do it, but drilling holes for ice fishing lets you know just how thick that ice really is!





Our trusty Land Rover is now into something like its 6th season at the cottage. Fresh snow overnight is always greeted with great enthusiasm!



This is how we know how thick the ice is! Drilling holes so we can fish through them into the sea below. A much shorter activity than in the summer!



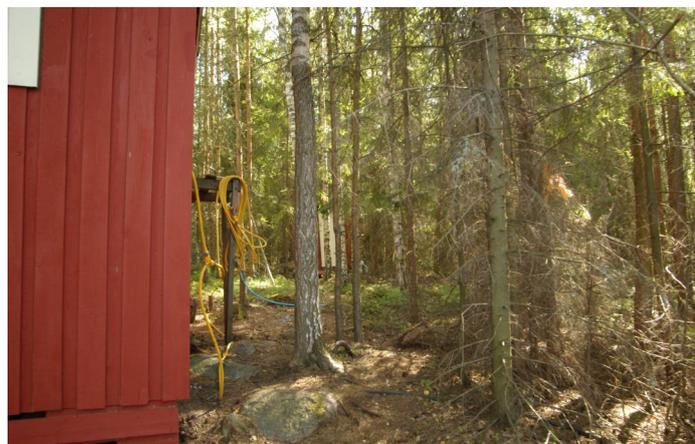
Tobogganing is so much fun especially with the air of improvisation we allow in the activity!



It is hard to over state the good these residential courses have on our children. When we take them out of school, we simply justify it by recording that it is for Personal, Social and Educational purposes but that barely describes some of the processes that go on in a week like this either here in Finland or more frequently at our Rural Centre back in Hampshire.

Many of our children are left to grow up by themselves. Little input from parents or any other adult. This is for many reasons. Dysfunctional families come in all shapes and sizes from rich to poor from ethnic minorities to main stream majorities. Breakdown in relationships, selfish parents, intellectually challenged parents, children unduly influenced by their peers, school phobias...the list is endless. The end result is that far too many young people grow up without having even the most basic of inputs from adults. Its like Lord of The Flies set in an urban situation!

A story Doug often tells to illustrate this point is a somewhat earthy one and we hope you will forgive us for repeating it now and hope you are not reading this at the breakfast table.... When in Finland, as in common with most of the locals, the facilities at our 'summer' cottage are simple and we enjoy a back to nature existence. It's great for the inner city kids. The toilet facilities however are the ones that puzzle the youngsters the most. We operate an earth closet. It's very well organised and is quite sanitary and not at all unpleasant but it does involve someone emptying the contents of a large bin every so often. It was way back in the millennium when Doug first noticed that one or two children in every group would use copious amounts of paper when using the facilities - as much as a whole roll on occasions. Doug describes this as "The Boxing Glove" technique! Because a boxing glove size of paper is used for each wipe (with apologies again if you are eating your cornflakes)!!!. Every year Doug has to take one or two from each group (and many of these are 16 year olds not 6 year olds) and explain to them how they should wipe their bottoms. Doug describes this discovery as a "light bulb moment" for him. It simply illustrates how much work we have to do with these children. If no one has actually taught them how to wipe their bottoms—they certainly don't know much about right from wrong, how to socialise with their peers, how to respect their elders, property or the value of education. Time spent in these residential either at our cottage or at our Rural Centre is so valuable indeed.



*Who would have thought an earth toilet in Finland could contain a lesson for our CEO?*

*What a great environment to spend time broadening the children's minds and influencing their thinking—sat round a camp fire toasting sausages and cooking potatoes*



**DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL?**

**SEND IT TO US ON**

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

## ***Farewell To Great Friends.***

It seems that every year we write our annual newsletter we have to say goodbye to great friends and colleagues. We suppose this must be because we are now in our 35th Year, It doesn't make it any easier though.

***John Drewett*** has been such a supporter of the Charity over most of that time. Many reading this will have paid money to win the fishing on The River Nadder at our auctions at The House of Commons and latterly House of Lords; often with accommodation thrown in down near Salisbury. This was organised and donated by John for the whole life of our auctions. In 2009 when the Environment Agency lost their senses and wrongly confronted the Charity about the work they were doing at the Rural Centre it was John Drewett with his immense experience of managing long lengths of The Nadder and Wylie who came in with sound and confrontational advice for the EA and it was in no small measure down to John that they saw sense and retreated! John was a power house of advice and support for the Charity. He would ring our CEO at least monthly to check up that all was well—most often with irreverent questions and chiding for Doug! John you have been worth your weight in gold to the Charity and we shall miss you immensely. Johns funeral has not yet taken place as this is being written but we do extend our sympathies to the family... he was an institution in himself!!



*John Drewett... 30 years a supporter and volunteer with Second Chance. An agricultural engineer of note, a river keeper of legend!*



***Amy Hulme*** was the very first Trustee of the Charity when it was first registered. She was a Social Worker of some note down in the Surrey/Hampshire borders and had quite an influence on its early days. She also had a much deeper and more significant impact by being the other half of the parents that were the inspiration for setting up the Charity and trying to give young people what parents should. She was the mother of Founder and Chief Executive Doug Hulme. Unfortunately she had endured a long period of the wretched Alzheimer's disease and had long ago given up her Trusteeship but her influence is still living on today in its present day work.

## ***Farewell to two former youngsters as well.***

It is with great sadness and no little shock we had to say goodbye to two of our former clients and volunteers. We pride ourselves in the fact that so many of the youngsters come back in adulthood to help us. Ricky Wolstenholme, the eldest of 3 brothers, was one such case and was in charge of cutting and recycling our surplus wood from our recycling and bench making activities. Sad to say Ricky died at his home, of an (accidental) overdose of pain relieving medicines during the summer when we were at our cottage in Finland. The Coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death. Some of you may remember Ricky giving a vote of thanks at The House of Commons for all the Charity had done for him.. Also Damien Kessell was tragically drowned in a boating accident in The Solent just off of Portsmouth, leaving behind his partner two children and a third on the way.



*This was the front cover of The End Of Term report in 2005. Sadly we have had to say goodbye to Ricky this year as he lost his life. He is pictured, the older of the 3 brothers, far right. Our thoughts are with brothers Roy and Graham. Roy is today a volunteer with Second Chance.*



*Damien Kessell centre. Happier times on a Residential week with the Charity in 2006*

### ***Dates for Your Diary 2019***

**House of Lords – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

**Dever Springs Fishery –**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June

and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October



**We had our own Bonfire and Firework Night at our Rural Centre in Hampshire... Safety and Privacy what more could they want!**



## ***House of Lords***

Friday March 16th proved to be another epic year for us at The House of Lords. The fourth time in the Lords but we think possibly our 30th in The Palace of Westminster. It has become a family occasion, The Second Chance Family! Neil Freeman once again managed to convince the Patrons to dig deep in their pockets and we raised nearly £20,000 for the Charity. Save next years date, you will be most welcome. What a superb job Neil does!

## ***A Special Thank You!***

Many people give surplus or second hand fishing tackle to the Charity. It is much needed, we think the children secretly eat it but at any rate we always seem to be in need. There are a couple of people however who give sacrificially and with such generosity throughout the year that we should make a special mention. Dr Robert Ferguson stands out amazingly after years and years of kitting the children out. Tommy Bermingham seems to have an endless supply of carp bits and pieces and Nick Goodenough twists the arms of his club members and friends and frequently meets us with a boot full of gear. Thank you so much gentlemen and if any others would like to join them they would be most welcome.



## ***Creative Arts and Cultural Centre***

This is still on target and will open during 2019. We are grateful for the support of The Portsmouth and Southsea Rotary Club who have funded the first phase and will continue to support the next phase as we kit the building out. Any further donations towards this capital project will be greatly appreciated.

## ***New Storage Facility at Solent Nurseries.***

This is all but finished now, just the electrical wiring to go and we will be emptying the storage facility in Portsmouth into it. Exciting times.



## ***The Gandhi Memorial Trust***

At the beginning of the year we were delighted to join with Lord Desai at the Tara Theatre in London to do a small presentation about the Charity's work to some of the major donors that contributed to 2017's grant to the Charity of £150,000. Our Chairman joined our C.E.O in this and enjoyed a delightful evening in this most interesting venue along with the other beneficiary charities. Thank you Lord Desai.



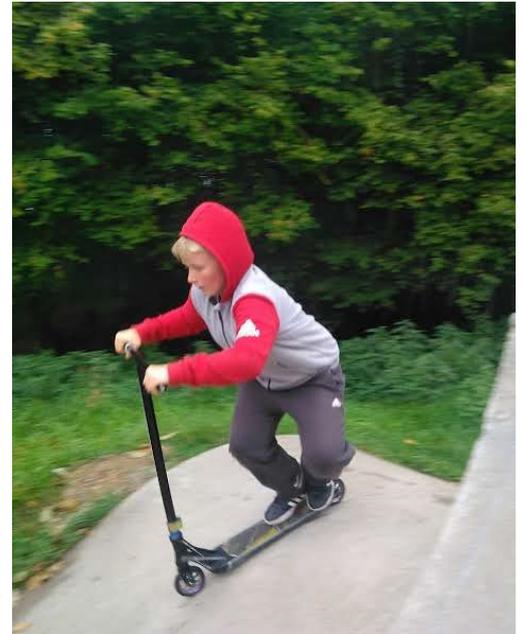
## ***The Most Valuable Work We Do Is The Simplest!***

A new report has found 16,000 babies in England are living in households affected by a "toxic trio" of problems.

England's Children's Commissioner's Report claimed children in these homes grow up around domestic violence, drug or alcohol dependency as well as severe mental ill health. This is our mission field here at Second Chance as many, if not most of these children, do this without any help from Social Services.

It also found more than 160,000 children aged under five are living in homes with two of these issues.

For more than 30 years we have been working with these families and each year we get more referrals and despite our best efforts have to turn down more requests for help than ever before. In other words it's getting worse!



We find this report just confirms what we knew and fills us with sadness to know that there are babies and children in our society - some of the most vulnerable people in Britain today - who are living in these situations.

At Second Chance, we feel strongly that every child deserves to feel special and secure. If they don't have it first time around then they deserve a second chance at it.

The commissioner, Anne Longfield, wants help focused on babies in the first year of life who are particularly vulnerable. She said we can all do our part to help put families back on track, which is something we at Second Chance recognised a long time

ago and have been urgently trying to do our bit with Parenting Classes, Parent and Toddler Groups, Baby Song, Individual Mentoring and Family Support. Many of the young parents are actually our older clients anyway so the definition of who we are actually working with is blurred but we hope to beat the cycle of one generation after another. As this is being written I can hear an 8 year old playing with the new charity puppy – his father is a 30 year old former client... we have to try harder this time during the next decade as we have been given a second chance ourselves with the family.

Chances come in many forms, not just the high profile things just mentioned as well as Back To School Schemes, Residential Courses or Grants. It can be, and most often is, just as simple as someone having a friend - someone who can come alongside and talk to them - someone who just actually shows them there is someone who cares. Often, that's all a family needs. We call our volunteers Advocates but frankly many children and their families come through not even recognising that the Charity was at work, they just thought someone was a friend who took an interest. It's not easy trying to fund raise on this basis as funders always seem to want the high profile not what can at times seem to be almost casual.

If a family, or an individual, has no sense of where you can get support from, if you've got no one who you can call on just to help you to give you a bit of parenting advice, if you don't





have an extended family, if you have difficulty reading and comprehending, that can often leave you feeling so vulnerable and so isolated that you behave either inappropriately or without hope. Actually one probably leads to the other.

So we find having people they can call on can be a really, really simple and effective way of just bringing a family back on track. When we succeed it saves the country thousands of pounds in other resources and can change the course of that families history.

We acknowledge there will be circumstances where families will need to seek the help of our more formal and scripted schemes of help and even be referred to other agencies, but the work of our Advocates and general Volunteers in this befriending way is incredibly effective, possibly the most effective thing we do.

For so many of the families involved with Second Chance, the really simple things like someone offering to help look after the children for them to give them a short break or to help them shift some stuff in the charity van, or lend them a fiver for the gas... these things can suddenly make a family or an individual feel they're connected and in a community and they can start to build relationships, Second Chance is a big family!

## Restraint Training in July

The very nature of our children and their problems means that many of them present challenging behaviour. It's often the reason they are no longer at school and why they have been referred to us. This means that from time to time for their, or our staffs own welfare, a young person has to be restrained. We take this responsibility very seriously and it is of absolute paramount importance to us that no one, staff or child is hurt or psychologically damaged should this occur. To this end we undergo training and refresher courses with some regularity. Times have changed from the 1970's and when the Charity was born. Despite the seriousness of it there was some enjoyment of the July refresher course we did at our Portsmouth Centre. A flavour of this is glimpsed in the photographs!





## ***On Television We Were!***

Back at the beginning of the summer Rob Hughes came down to our Rural Centre to meet a few of the children and record a slot for his BT Sports TV Programme 'On The Bank'...It went out in September and has had many repeats since! They have kindly given us a clip of our slot on the programme and set it up on Youtube so anyone with a computer can go online and watch us if they want. We will also feature it on our new website which will go live in the New year too. Check it out on...

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY3H\\_M3zrBs&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY3H_M3zrBs&t=2s)**



*Rob met the youngsters when he spent a whole day with them filming and catching carp for the BT Sport Channel programme 'On The Bank'.*

## Poverty Is a Problem - for us and the UK...

We posted this short message by email a few months ago and thought we would repeat it here.

**FOUR MILLION UK CHILDREN TOO POOR TO HAVE A HEALTHY DIET, STUDY FINDS.**

Almost four million children in the UK live in households that would struggle to afford to buy enough fruit, vegetables, fish and other healthy foods to meet the official nutrition guidelines, a groundbreaking food poverty study reveals.

The research by the Food Foundation think tank, says the diminishing ability of low-income families to pay for healthy food is consigning the least well-off to a greater risk of diet-related illness, such as obesity and diabetes, as well as widening health inequalities across society.

The poorest fifth of families would have to set aside more than 40 per cent of their total weekly income after housing costs to satisfy the requirements of the government's Eat Well Guide, the study finds.

In the Independent they report in the same week that "Teenage Suicides In England and Wales rose 67% since 2010... and London had increased at more than 4 times the national rate from 2013 to 2016".



Sean Finch, our senior Youth Worker, with a Dever Springs brown Trout caught on our Corporate day in October.

Blakes first fish ever—taken one sunny afternoon from our Mill Pond.



*Below—A budding horseman in the making?*

## ***Our Big Capital Project - Build A Fishing Lodge...***

Many of you have shown interest in this project since we floated the idea last year in our end of term report. Progress has been made. Two Trust Funds have shown an interest in supporting it financially but we are still short of the full capital to start work and we are awaiting confirmation from these trusts as to their level of support. We have the offer from a firm of architects to visualise the finished building and planning applications have begun. We need we think about £150,000 in total. This will extend the use of our Rural Centre into the winter months, give us residential capacity and the ability to generate income. Please, can **you** help us realise this dream?



## ***Other Capital Projects we need help with...*** (which looks depressingly like last years list!!)



We desperately need a 13 ton digger to complete all the work we have to do on the Rural Centre; buildings, landscaping, water courses... This 2011 model this time last year would have cost us £24,650 on eBay!!

**Fishing Tackle**

**Old Cars & Mopeds**

**Laminate Flooring**

**Musical Instruments**

A 17 seater Mini Bus . Our two buses are getting **very** tired we need to replace at least one of them. This one on eBay this time last year would have cost us £18,995



*Please lend your support to the coming years work. We would urge you to consider supporting our work either with Core Funding or Capital Costs. We do not charge for our services and we do not receive any funding from statutory funders. We notice every penny and we make every penny count! Please join with us this year. Thank You.*

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

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