

SECOND  CHANCE

END OF TERM REPORT!

2020



An Account Of Some Activities During The Year

Here We Are!

I started last years report by simply saying “Another year!”. I can’t start the same this time as it would not convey the time we’ve just had. Maybe “What A Year” would be more appropriate or perhaps even better “Who Would Have Guessed!”. Certainly if we had known in January what was to come perhaps we could have had a lie in during February and all stayed in bed for a month!! That’s not to belittle what we have all had to endure. I, like many of you have lost someone to Covid 19 and the effects of the Virus and its lockdown have had a profound effect on the Charities work. We have been busier than we have ever been having remained open throughout both the lockdowns, as we were requested to do because of the vulnerable children status that most of our children have. At the same time because of the lack of facilities and the restrictions in movement etc. it feels as I look back on the year that we have run a marathon but not reached any destination! It has been hard in many ways but also uniquely rewarding in others. We have used the facilities we have to the maximum and are incredibly thankful for the good weather we enjoyed during the first lock down, which left us out doors with an abundance of space. We are left even more grateful to those of you who helped us purchase our Rural Centre a few years ago. It was worth it for just this year alone. I fear next year may be even more difficult for us but I will address that matter later. In the meantime we thank those of you who supported us financially, physically and morally during one of the toughest years this country has had since the end of the war.



Cover Picture.: We thought this was great. Taken just after the last End of Term Report in December. Sums up the opportunity to indulge in the countryside. Camp fire, picnic lunch, the dog... not To be found in the inner city!

changing the world... one child at a time.

Doug Hulme
Chief Executive
November 2020

Corona Virus Covid 19

We couldn't really start on any other topic could we? Doug alluded to it in his welcome note. It has defined everything that has happened (or not happened) during this year. We end the year battling it as hard as we were in April but this time we have more knowledge and as we write news of even more vaccines going into production leaves us with more hope of a return to normality for the Charity soon. Let's hope the Government don't mismanage the distribution and administration of it.



Thank goodness for our farm, nature reserve and gardens. Along with the weather they were a life saver during lock-down

We have remained open throughout the year, not a day off. It has to be said there was more fishing than maths going on but could anyone think of a better way to socially distance than have a whole

fishing swim to yourself. Still within shouting distance of your neighbour (there goes another fish frightened off) thank goodness the weather was kind to us. Never has the Nature Reserve and the Farm been more valuable. Although most schools operated a small caretaker service the specialist needs of our vulnerable children were not met and most of the special schools were closed throughout leaving our youngsters without anything. This is a problem since many of the families are underprivileged as well as living in flats and small inner city houses. No computers, poor phones (sounds like heaven but they have come to rely on them, albeit too much) no space to exercise with little intellectual capacity to invent new occupations. The government asked us as a provider of education and care for vulnerable children to stay open—so we did.

It wasn't always plain sailing. On the first day of lockdown someone on Facebook posted a picture of the Army travelling in convoy into Portsmouth to take care of the security for Donald Trump's visit—last year. They put the caption something like “The Army arriving today to secure the lockdown in Portsmouth” a couple of minutes later someone added a photo that they had taken previously of a Portsmouth v Southampton football match in the city, of police horses controlling the crowds. They added the caption ‘Yes and the police horses are out in force today too’. These two posts were enough to convince about 25% of the population of Portsmouth that Marshall Law had been declared. The first three children we called on that morning refused to come out of their houses for fear of an Army sniper shooting them! It was actually 3 weeks before we managed to persuade them all to come in as normally... the power of social media.



First two lambs in April



More fishing than maths but what a summer!

We have noticed a change in some of our work during this time. We normally deal with about 20 or so families a year that are embroiled in domestic violence. This year we did 4 in one week and the total is almost double last years, a worrying side line to the lockdown we fear. Children out of a meaningful education placement has trebled. On the other hand if you are a child, no one in your family has had Covid and your school has been shut for 6 months of the best weather you've known—2020 will be remembered with great fondness! Its been a land version of swallows and amazons for them.



To be fair it did rain a few times but the summer was amazing.



Early May



Baking in our kitchen



Another from our lakes

Some random pictures of children using our facilities during the lockdown and other times. Bee-Keeping, Fishing, Cooking.



Covid Implications For Next Year...

We think the worst effect is yet to come. The arrival of vaccines and other treatments and testing will no doubt kick in during the spring and we hope, health wise, Covid will become a bad memory by the end of April. This is exactly the time when we will feel the pinch as investment returns come in at the end of the financial year, trading accounts and future predictions will be floated. This will be when our friends who are Trust Funds, Bankers and rich individuals will find they don't have as much money to give away. We may well face some tough times.

This year has been interesting as some funders who we had anticipated would support us as they have before, decided not to this year and to channel that money into a covid related project. This was particularly disappointing for us as we were right there in the front line, straining to cope with extra work loads in order to meet the covid challenges. We wait now to see if those funders will return or indeed if they will have any money left because many of them reduced their capital or used their reserves to a short term cause.

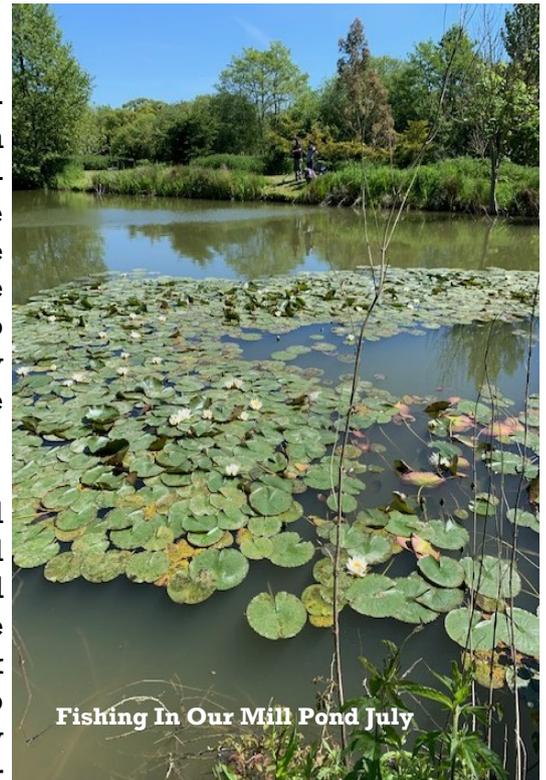
It's an interesting scenario and we really do not know which way it will roll. One thing is for sure, we will find out who our friends are and we would urge anyone reading this that isn't in the family of supporters to join in.

We have contingency plans to cut our outgoings to a bare minimum and we have plans that we can bring in to cut services in a way that will still maintain a minimum service. We aim to support the children now and be here in ten years time too!

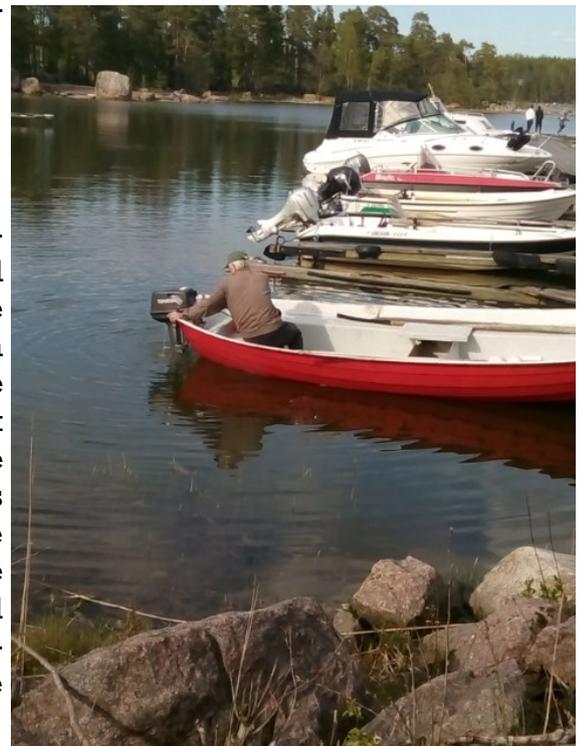
Your support in 2021 is going to be more vital than ever. We don't receive funding from the government of any statutory resources, we rely on our family of supporters.

Finland 2020...

Well it never happened! Our Finnish supporters and volunteers repainted a boat and launched it in readiness... and then took it out at the end of the season! We left the cottage in February and as we write we have yet to return. What a shame and how much have the children missed. Maybe we should think 'what you've never had you can't miss'! We look forward to next year though with great enthusiasm and we anticipate that our Finnish facilities will be changing lives again before too long. Just worried that the aftermath of the 'virus 'no fly' policy' will be very expensive air tickets. We shall see. Thank you to all our Finnish supporters for all you've done and for waiting patiently for the children's return. Doug plans to prep the cottage for the winter and see you all before Christmas... hopefully!



Fishing In Our Mill Pond July



The Creative Arts and Cultural Centre

Perhaps the biggest disappointment of the whole lockdown and covid period has been that we have been unable to open our new centre at our premises in Portsmouth. Having secured the funding for a three year contract for the manager and almost having finished the refurbishment of the place we found ourselves surrounded by closed schools, locked down pupils and volunteers. We had no alternative but to temporarily close the place. We did consider a start again in September but we wisely (in retrospect) decided to wait and see how things went. We are glad we did. There is however a vacancy for a member of staff to run this now, see the advert elsewhere in this 'End of Term Report.'



The House of Lords Dinner



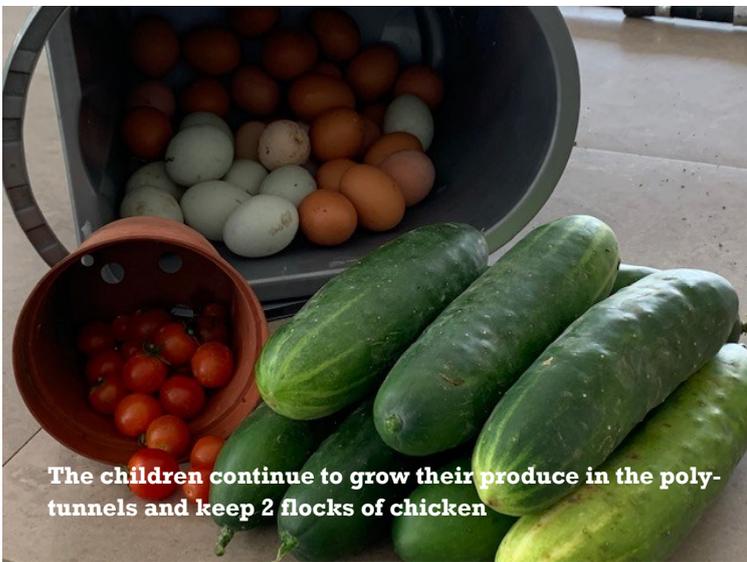
This year will go down as the strangest of all our dinners over the past 27 years. All was set for another fantastic dinner and auction on March 13th. We were at maximum numbers and raring to go. The nearer we got to the day the worse the news became of this new Flu outbreak. By the time the evening came to fruition it was apparent we were heading into uncharted waters. Many guests decided that the risk to their health was too great and couldn't attend so we had reduced numbers. But there was a wonderful atmosphere. These occasions have become family affairs now and many a re-union takes place annually. However there was a special edge to the evening. It was as if we all felt the imminent arrival of doom! Few of us were actually around during the war years but a couple who

were likened the comradery to the days before the war began. We all knew something was coming and it wasn't good but we didn't know exactly what—but we felt it was good to be together. Neil Freeman, our indispensable auctioneer, flew in from Norway that night on what turned out to be the last plane for sometime! He did a wonderful job of rallying the troops and after a wonderful and insightful vote of thanks from eminent Surgeon Lord Terrington, a goodly sum was raised at the auction. Not as much as other years but under the circumstances a wonderful gesture of support from all those present. It turned out that we were the very last people to dine in the Peers Dining Room, even until the time of writing, as on Monday morning the first national lockdown was declared and no one was allowed into the Palace of Westminster. It was a wonderful and never to be forgotten experience and we are delighted to record that no one who attended was bothered by the virus. Thank you to all those who attended or organised guests. A special mention ought to be made of Geoffrey Palmer who arranged almost a quarter of the auction items. More of Geoffrey later.



Persimmons Homes Competition...

Thank you to all those who voted in this competition for a £100,000 donation. We were up against a large comprehensive school, a regional/national music centre and a large NHS hospital. Even with all the brilliant efforts our supporters put in we were never going to compete with that level of clientele and support. We didn't win but we got a £5,000 consolation prize and we gained increased awareness of our work several times over so we are very grateful for everyone's support.



The children continue to grow their produce in the poly-tunnels and keep 2 flocks of chicken



Keep our bees under Jamie Leeper's watchful eye!



We were sorry to lose the services of our senior youth worker, Jamie Leeper at the end of the year but he remains as our Apiary Manager

Dates for Your Diary 2021

House of Lords – TBA

Dever Springs Fishery –

Wednesday 16th June

And Sunday 3rd October

Fishing Lodge...

This is very much alive and on the go but we don't have much to show you in photographs. I am sure the next news will be the opposite! We are currently locked into Winchester City Councils Planning Department and hope we are making progress. As soon as we have the go-ahead we will start building. If it drags on for too long we do still have the option of replacing a current building with the new lodge, it's just not quite in the place we would like it. Our fund raising target has extended a little because of the time delay with planning and costs have gone up, so we are on a basic shell build at the moment. Thank you to the three Trust Funds who have combined to bring us this far. Any extra contributions now would be the icing on the cake and allow us to kit it out the way we need it.



Zero Site Costs...

It is our ambition to install a bore hole and well at our Rural Centre, produce electricity from the fact that our carrier stream is about 6' higher than our main river and our wood recycling scheme has a lot of burning potential for a furnace, heat exchangers for offices and fishing lodge, solar panels on roofs and not to mention producing our own food in the polytunnels and gardens. Not looking for self sufficiency but the potential to save costs is considerable. Any expertise on tap out there?....

Dever Springs Charity Fish In...

We were delighted that we managed by last minute announcements and change of guidelines to successfully meet and eat at Dever Springs in June. The fishing lodge was off limits for gatherings but by the judicious use of numerous small gazebos we were able to satisfy all the guidelines and have a wonderful lunch and auction outside. The weather was superb for socialising though a little less desirable for fishing but we supposed you couldn't have everything! We met again on the first Sunday in October



and managed once

again but for the first time in 20 or so years of doing the event the weather was far less favourable and because of the restrictions on gathering we couldn't manage an auction. That said the guests as always were very generous and made up for any shortfall from the auction and the guys who make up the 'Nymfs' group of friends organised a cheque for £500 that was presented on the day. This money was raised by selling one of their members fishing tackle, one who can no longer enjoy the art of chucking a nymph or two at the water. Thank you gentlemen and all those who attended both days. It's good to share in friendship like this and the couple of

youngsters we brought along had a great time too. The power of fishing!



Presenting a cheque of £500 to Doug of the Second Chance Charity, donated from proceeds of auctioning Philip's fishing tackle. Dever Springs - 6th October 2020

New 'Mud Kitchens' were hand-made and added to our 'Seedlings' parent and toddler pre-school facility this Summer!



The Gazebos in process of going up. Lunch Covid Style

Employment Vacancy.



The Second Chance Children's Charity

PROJECT MANAGER: Creative Arts and Cultural Centre

The Charity works with children who need special help. They are mainly drawn from a background of abuse, poverty or learning difficulties. They rarely engage in artistic or cultural activities and it is the ambition of this project that this situation may be reversed.

Based in Portsmouth on the South Coast the available facilities and resources are excellent. This is a new post and a new project. For this reason the post is initially offered on a 3 year tenure with a review at the end of this period with the hope of taking it forward permanently.

It is envisaged this will be run on the lines and in co-operation with The Salvation Army's Creative Arts Project with Trinity College London. The Corps in Portsmouth are supportive of this venture.

Expertise in an arts subject such as music, dance or drama will be beneficial.

Initial salary £23,000 P.A with generous holidays, working conditions and training, possible help with re-location.

C.V's welcome . Further details from...

The Second Chance Children's Charity. Solent Nurseries. Fontley Road, Titchfield, Hampshire, PO15 6QS. Email charity@second-chance.org.uk. Website www.second-chance.org.uk



Mini Bus...

We are still spending undue amounts of money keeping our aged mini buses on the road. We need a sponsor

to replace one or both with a low mileage second hand replacement 17 seater. Preferably a reliable Mercedes.

‘Projects and Objects’ We need the following if you can help or know someone who can! ...

- Musical Instruments (for our Creative Arts and Cultural Centre)
- Fishing Tackle
- Camping Gear
- Old roadworthy cars and mopeds (for the older youngsters to get on the road)
- Auction items for The house of Lords
- Week day volunteers for fishing and other activities (when we are not locked down!).
- Mountain Bikes
- Fibreglass corrugated roofing sheets
- Your time to Taxi children around Portsmouth, Southampton to West London areas.

An engineer/mechanic to swap an engine from one Yanmar Digger to another... The twins need separating but only one will live... !



Employment Vacancy.



The Second Chance Children's Charity

SENIOR YOUTH WORKER

To organise and inspire both leisure activities and social learning skills. To play a prominent role in our Back to School Scheme, for disengaged young people. One other member of staff in the department plus as many volunteers as can be raised!

Based at our Rural Centre, in Titchfield, Hampshire facilities include 3 lakes, a river complex and a nature reserve. Interest in fishing and outdoor pursuits essential. Commitment to the children and their families may require service beyond the call of duty and will necessitate involvement in their family and educational life.

The post is a developing one and the successful candidate will have great influence on how it develops. For this reason the post is initially offered on a 3 year tenure with a review annually.

Formal qualifications not essential as your character and what you have to offer personally is more important.

Initial salary £23,000 P.A with generous holidays, working conditions and training..

C.V's welcome. Further details from...

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Pumpkin Harvest was good this year!



Farewell to Old Friends...

Alan Fleming

It is with great sadness we have to pass on the news that Alan Fleming, known to so many of you, passed away in the early hours of Sunday 18th October, from a massive bleed to the brain.

Alan was a founding trustee of the Charity, was twice chairman of the board of trustees and hosted many many residential camping trips at his own 'Heron Lake' at Wyboston over a 20 year period. He was also to be found looking after the children as a volunteer both at his own lake but also other venues including our facility in Finland.

His passing was unexpected but he had been suffering for the past few years with a form of dementia. He was a much loved



and valued member of the team here at Second Chance. The news has drawn responses from many of the old children, some now in their 40's who remember Alan with great affection, one of whom is now a trustee of the Charity himself. I am reminded of the saying, what goes around comes around.

He was (literally) a larger than life character and was always a great ambassador for the Charity, Tackle manufacturers can now safely leave their doors unlocked without fear of Alan arriving to ask what they had left for the children. It won't happen anymore. Those attending Carp Shows will no longer be terrorised to 'have another go' on the Charities tombola stand !

Alan you will be missed but thank you for years and years of faithful service, it has been an investment and if you can see the hundreds of children that your life has touched over those years - keep a watchful eye on them... you know how naughty they can be!

Alan is survived by Linda his wife, who patiently put up with all his comings and goings on behalf of the Charity and even played host to staff including Doug's wife and family during residentials at Heron Lake. Linda if you ever read this our sympathies are with you and we stand by you if you ever need anything.

In these strange Covid hit times we were unable to pay our last respects but we register them now. Well done Alan... you made a difference.



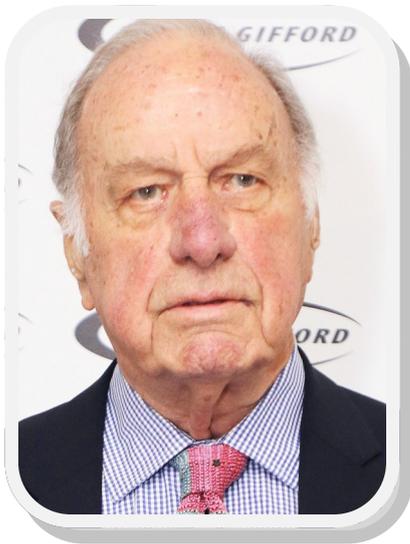
Alan surrounded by a residential group some years gone. One is now a trustee, another an employee yet another a volunteer today...

What A Lasting Legacy.



Geoffrey Palmer

A personal tribute from Doug Hulme



I am not ashamed to say I shed a tear the morning of the 6th November, when the family broke the news that Geoffrey Palmer had passed away that previous night. Such was the standing of the man not only in my estimation but also my heart.

There has been much said and recorded about his illustrious career as a famous and well respected actor of stage, screen and television. Appearances in 'Butterflies' and 'As Time Goes By', not to mention James Bond and even Dr Who will spring to mind. I can remember as a small boy having an asthma attack laughing so much at 'The Army Game', but I shall not dwell on those things of fame because I knew more of the man himself and the humble gentleman he was.

Geoffrey had a passion for fishing and for fly fishing in particular. This brought us together in the early days of the Charity back in 1984. Geoffrey fully understood the effect that taking an inner city child, often from a dysfunctional family, into the countryside and teaching them to fish had on them.

Always a great fisherman and understanding the importance of family and mentoring in a child's life he lent his support to the Charity and to me in particular. He quickly became a Patron and was until the 5th November one of two of the longest serving. Intent on not just being a 'name' on our headed paper he became involved in a wonderful way. He took it upon himself to encourage me and my efforts personally but to also make a difference to the Charity in general. It wasn't just bankside appearances with the young people, he worked tirelessly to promote the Charity whenever he could. He was truly an ambassador for us. At our annual dinner at either The House of Commons or the House of Lords he would fill several tables and organise a sizeable proportion of the auction items. He was always bringing new people to the table and creating more supporters of the Charity.

He would often ring me to find out how the Charity was and what was the latest news. He would comment on emails sent and news letters received but he would always take the trouble to seek out how I was and leave a word of encouragement. Geoffrey was very down to earth and never the celebrity. When our Neil Freeman (an avid Tottenham supporter) would conduct an auction Geoffrey (an avid Arsenal season ticket holder) would suffer much abuse for the unfortunate state of their opposing views... always taken with great amusement and great grace, joining in with gusto and merriment.

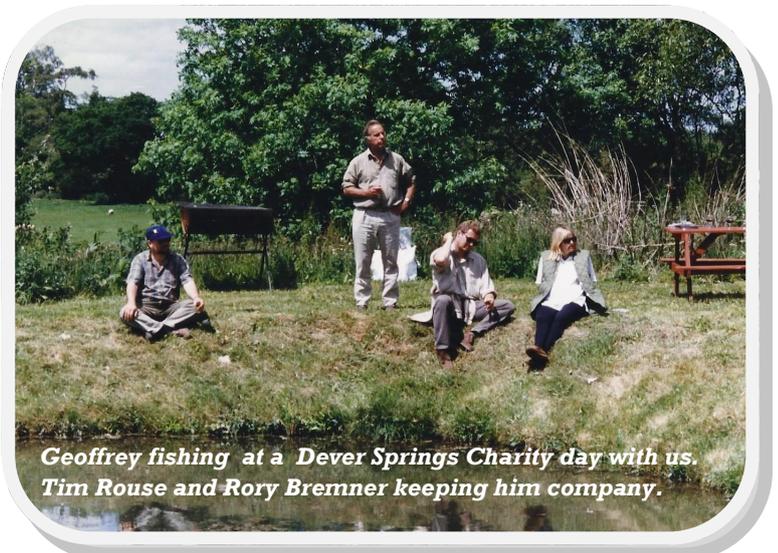
He may have been famous for his dour serious face but he was the exact opposite in real life. A real gentleman with a huge heart for the less fortunate. He has been without doubt one of the most influential people in the establishment and development of this Charity. Words cannot describe how much we will miss him. He will be irreplaceable, which I think is a good thing because if someone is irreplaceable it tells you how unique and how vital their life has been. So much so that you wouldn't want to replace them. Geoffrey's influence and hard work will live on for a lifetime of young people yet and for those who will look after this Charity (after I've gone to see Geoffrey) they will feel his legacy even if they don't know about it.

Geoffrey passed away peacefully surrounded by his family to the sound of fireworks going off outside in the neighbourhood. He was surrounded by love and family. He knew how important those things were, which was why he tried to help us supply those things to the young lives in our charge.

We send our deepest sympathy to Sally, Charlie and Harriet and all those that loved Geoffrey. Truly a unique gentleman.

Geoffrey I thank you, you helped us all so much here, we will miss you... I was proud to call you my friend.

Doug Hulme
Chief Executive
The Second Chance Children's Charity



*Geoffrey fishing at a Dever Springs Charity day with us.
Tim Rouse and Rory Bremner keeping him company.*

Journey into 2021... Walk with us ...

Please lend your support to the coming years work. 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 and help us to build a centre of excellence where children from all over the UK will travel to and find out what it is to have a second chance.



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

The Second Chance Children's Charity, Solent Nurseries, Fontley Road, Titchfield, Hants, PO15 6QS
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