

END OF TERM REPORT!

2025

SECOND  CHANCE



An Account Of Some Activities During The Year

2025 has been an interesting year...

This the 41st Annual “End of Term” Report brings a whole variety of news and action. We have finished building and are now using our new fishing lodge, Claire Wilson has now joined us as our Youth and Families Liaison Officer. We started the year by saying our River and Nature Reserve were the wettest we had ever seen them. By June we were saying they were the driest we had ever seen them! The summer was so dry we had to feed our flock of sheep throughout the summer and into October, there simply was no grass.

Finances have been much the same. We had a very generous donation in January but as I write this towards the end of the year in real terms we are something like £100.000 down on our normal income and we have been very reliant on our reserves which are now looking very sad.

We continue to experience an ever increasing demand for our services and as the children become ever more autonomous so it becomes ever more difficult to persuade them to accept our guidance. It feels to me (though I haven't done any research on it) that something like 80% of our children now come to us with a diagnosis of ADHD and I have to say it is less than helpful! Social Services are more stretched than I have ever seen them and the various Education Departments are claiming ‘no funding’ for anything that might resolve the children’s problems in a common sense manner. Something seems to be brewing, of what I am not quite sure. On the bright side however what makes it all worth while is seeing the many success stories that come from our interventions and the changed lives we witness as children experience success and start to learn how to live in this world in a positive and contributing manner,

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



Doug Hulme

Chief Executive
December 2025



Cover Picture... April 2025 newly born twin lambs. When the children observe this there is a myriad of lessons to be learned. Not least when the comment 'that's what your mother went through to have you' is passed on!



So much activity ...

Here comes a ton of photographs and captions that relay just a little of some of the activities and the children that have enjoyed them.



Late night camping - quite an experience for the town dwellers!



'Camaraderie' round a camp fire. Something of an antidote to the anti social learned behaviour of the streets.



'Success' and a bit of tuition from one of our volunteers.



Our impromptu band plays carols at our local Park Gate Shopping Precinct to raise funds and spread the word.



Claire, our new Youth and Families Liaison Worker

A bit of team bonding in the middle of our very own River Meon, a chalk stream.

A wonderful resource - when it's wet!!



Wikipedia still asking? ...

We asked this same question in the last newsletter but we were thinking we could have an entry in Wikipedia for the Charity. We tried once a few years ago ourselves but they don't like it if you write about yourself - any experienced Wiki moderators out there that could write a submission for us? We've got loads of content you could use?



Success! It often changes a whole life.

For some it might be the first real taste of success in their life!



**SECOND
CHANCE**

Action shots!



This young man made these cakes at home with his foster carer and brought them in to celebrate a birthday of a newly found friend at Second Chance.



Biology, science, nature, life... call it what you will but hatching eggs out is an amazing lesson for these urban dwelling young people.

Chicks above, ducklings to the left.

To someone who thought eggs were manufactured for Tesco's, it's a revelation!





'Geoff' the duck happened to have the good fortune of being the only successful hatching in one batch so he is now a celebrity and thinks he really is 'Geoff'... it's another of life's varied experiences that our children would probably never encounter without us.



Work Parties...

We rely heavily on volunteer labour. The children still think they've done it all and feel ownership of the results and take pride in the 'hard work' but in reality it's the adult volunteers that have done the 'hard' bit! We are ever grateful for the work parties that come from various companies and organisations to spend the day with us. Long may it continue - we couldn't manage without you.



A Working Party from Specsavers planting bulbs in our nature reserve. Our resident bees will appreciate their efforts in the spring!

Zurich Insurance Work Party clearing our shop area ready for the youngsters to sell the plants they have grown.



Welcome during 2025...



SECOND CHANCE

From the wettest winter we have seen since we moved in during 2006 we moved to the driest we have ever seen in that period. The river was at summer levels from April and still was at the beginning of November!

It's a great resource for our children, it's a beautiful small chalk stream with sparkling clear water. However we think it's under threat from 'water abstraction' and with a new development called 'Wellborne' within its catchment area that promises eventually to house another 30,000 people, one can't but help wonder where the water is going to come from. Building one reservoir, due to open in 5 years time, will not answer that question. Will we see the last sea trout to run up the River Meon in our time? We wonder.

We are delighted to welcome Claire Wilson as our new Youth and Family Liaison Worker. Claire comes to us with a wealth of experience having worked in mental health care for many years and came to us from a local charity that worked with young people as well.

Rather confusingly (at least for our CEO in the next office) we now have TWO 'Claires' in the office. One spells her name with an 'I' so that's helpful for things like emails but not when you answer the phone! We are delighted to have this problem, long may it continue!

Dates for your Diary 2026

House of Lords Dinner & Auction:

Friday 13th March

Manningford Fishery Corporate Days Fishing:

Wednesday 20th May

and Saturday 3rd October

Look out for our 'Open Week' ...

when we will invite everyone to visit
throughout the week



Farewell to old friends during 2025



Seen here is **Barry Moore** in the middle of building our bunkhouse at our cottage in Finland.

It is with some sadness we have to announce that in August Barry passed away after a short battle with cancer at the age of only 68. Barry was a long term volunteer with the Charity and he had many a tale to tell! He helped out in many practical ways from fibre glassing our boats, through helping build several projects, including our super insulated bunk house at our cottage in Finland, supplying materials from his various work placements, latterly at B&Q and also teaching the children how to go fishing.

On one memorable occasion he was on a week long stint in Finland when one of the older youngsters who had come back to help, suffered a seizure and his heart stopped and to all events died but the ambulance was able to revive him and he was admitted to hospital. With 10 children to return to their homes in the UK the following day, Barry volunteered to stay on at our cottage, meet the youngsters mum from the airport and look after them for another week while the lad recovered. Barry was the man and stepped up to the task admirably.

He was also quite unassuming and modest. Despite his numerous labouring skills and a great knowledge of fibre glass technology he labelled himself and was forever known as "Semi Skills" a nick name he proudly bore in the name of the Charity and for a decade he was just as likely to be affectionately summoned as 'semi skills' as he was Barry. He also had the very dubious accolade of having gone to school with our Chief Executive!

Barry we shall miss you but you can rest in the knowledge of a job well done.

There will be a short ceremony at our Rural Centre in memory of Barry when we propose to bury his ashes at the side of the river where he taught so many young people how to fish and after that we will put a memorial bench over the spot so that the youngsters can still use the support of Barry.

Eddie Williams

Sadly our CEO Doug Hulme had the privilege of attending Eddies Funeral during the summer. Readers will remember Eddie as an avid supporter of the charity over several years and when Ruby his wife passed away a couple of years previously he contributed enough to buy one of our mini buses which is still affectionately known as 'Ruby's Bus'. Eddie was a regular fixture and fitting at the lakeside often arriving with Ruby in his famous 'Kontiki' motorised caravan teaching the children to fish who in turn responded to his wicked sense of humour with genuine fondness and admiration. I don't think Eddie would object to me describing him as a rough diamond because he shone like a diamond when working with the children. Rest in Peace Eddie, you are missed

ADHD anyone? ...

A note from Our Chief Executive, Doug Hulme... I have been teaching children with behavioural disorders for 50 years; at one point I was a Head Teacher of an EBD/MLD school. My mantra was to never give up on a child unless they gave up on me! Never in all that time have I seen the situation we now find ourselves in. I have not researched what I am about to say but something like 80% of the children referred to us now come to us with a diagnosis of ADHD and often PTSD as well. We find all sorts of reasons (excuses?) for this diagnosis; most often at the moment is the Covid Lockdown but there are a varied mixture of others as well. Previously I estimate about 10% of our referrals came with this explanation for their unacceptable behaviour.

Has the world changed, has the way new human beings brains now work? I somehow doubt it. I am rather controversially prepared to stick my neck out here and say the prevalence of this diagnosis is due to our lack of understanding on how to manage our children and their behaviour. I am convinced our ADHD child of today was a 'naughty' child of yesterday. I have always felt medication for ADHD was a last resort anyway and we most often did not need to use it when they were in our care. A busy programme of activities to occupy them and a robust set of behaviour expectations have always stood us in good stead.

The upshot of this prevalence of diagnosis along with other mental health issues means there has been a complete explosion in demand on Social Services services. I have never seen Social Services in such disarray, they are a spent force - they simply do not have the resources to cope with what's being asked of them. As I write we are dealing with a young 14 year old boy that was taken into care because he was deemed to be in neglect... 3 weeks later he was returned to the same situation because Social Services had no foster carers available! 2 weeks later he was once again taken into care because his mother couldn't cope. At that point he was told to walk the streets until 11pm at night when a temporary foster carer could then accommodate him for that night. A lad already in trouble with the police as vulnerable as could be. As I pen these thoughts it looks like a further attempt will be made to return him to his mother. The Social Workers dealing with him are not bad social workers they just don't have any budget or any personnel to deal with the situation. If it were not for us I fancy this youngster would be in police custody along with the ensuing mayhem that would bring. My suggestion of a residential school was met with derision by the Education Department - guess what... no budget no placements!

This world and these children need us more than ever and they need more than we can give. If anyone reading this is in a position to make a significant donation to the Charity we will consider enlarging our services.

I think it's true to say the worlds gone mad... at least it feels that way.

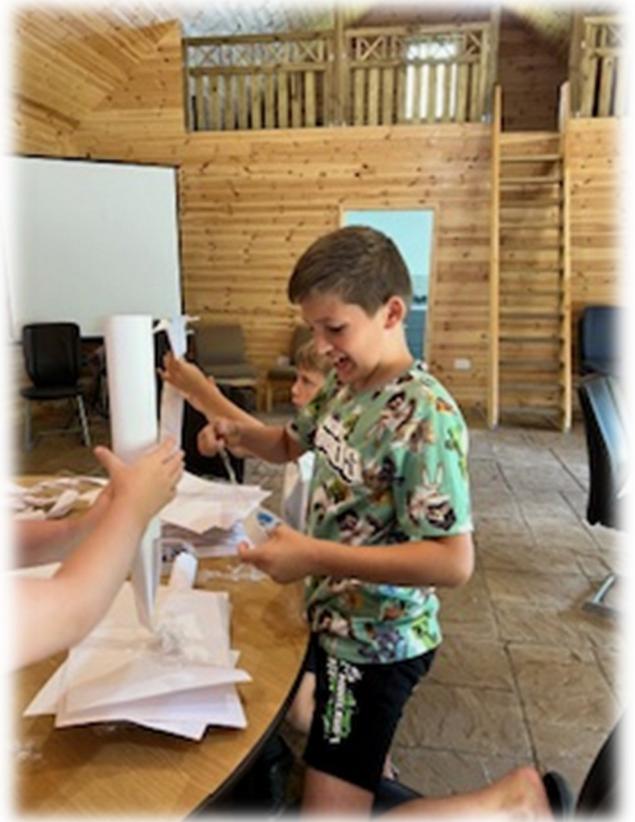


...changing the world.. one child at a time

Our New Lodge and Facilities in use...



The Porch entrance, room to eat in the summer without getting wet!



Craft activities. Note kitchen in the background through open door!



More Craft!

(Toilets and showers behind, sleeping facilities in the mezzanine loft above)!



A local school taking advantage of the facilities while using the educational facilities of our Nature Reserve and our other resources ...

North Bells Shiel ...

This is our new home in the Scottish Borders. Situated just outside Berwick on Tweed and close neighbours to the famous Paxton House. It sits right on the River Tweed, you could cast a long line into the river from our front door!



We have started to use this wonderful accommodation and have had some really super times at the cottage already.

During the spring we hope to build a bunk house (where the old shed used to be) and that will enable up to 10 children to sleep on a residential.

Donations to buy materials and bunk beds etc. would be gratefully received as indeed offers to help with the bunk house building.



Inside, log burner on... cosy !



Fishing at night in front of the cottage, September 2025



Loft Bedroom



Back at our Hampshire Nature Reserve youngsters are getting to grips with the tree house and old car tyre swing!



Jack Frost ...



Team 2C. Best Fundraisers Dave and Jordan Benton with Warren Hulme



Team 'Bream Bashers' with the most fish were Harrison & Roger

Jack Frost was a Trustee of our Charity in its early days, he was also the Secretary for The Farnham Angling Society. When he passed we decided with Farnham Angling Society to hold a fund raising match in his memory and so for many years we have raised much needed funds in Jack's name, a very fitting way of acknowledging Jack's passion for fishing and for our children.

These days we share the event alternate years with another charity but this year it was ours again and I am delighted to say we raised £6,137. We entered our own sponsored team who did actually raise the most money and nearly did the double as they were narrowly pushed into second place for the overall weight of fish caught. So a big thank you to Farnham Angling Society, our team of Dave and Jordan Benton and all those who collected sponsorship for the event. Well done.



Food Preparation ... an important lesson!



Even enjoyable!



Pizzas never tasted as good as when you made your very first one!



"Look what I grew in the polytunnel"

***2026 is on the horizon ... and we want
you to journey with us ...***



Please lend your support to 2026. 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, Fareham PO15 6QS
Tel 01329 842525 Email: charity@second-chance.org.uk
Web Page: <http://www.second-chance.org.uk>
Registered Charity Number: 1001462 Established 1984**

**Bankers: The Unity Trust Bank 60-83-01 Account No 20142951
'The Second Chance Children's Charity'**