



maintenance and dilapidations, especially on vehicles. Some people have held on to their donations as a precaution against any covid effects, others have chosen to prioritise other areas of work with covid. This has been a disappointment to us as we haven't had a single day off of working with our vulnerable children, we even had a bit of action on Christmas itself and because many schools closed their doors to our children we had even more than normal. I mention this so that if you are one of the many who did maintain their giving you might realise how very much we appreciated your support. I didn't think it possible that we could be more grateful than we normally are but apparently that is one of the side effects of the pandemic!

graph as it tells a story. A young person, with their mentor (in this case our long standing volunteer Paul Tarrant) out in the countryside with the sweet smell of success cradled in their hands. As someone once said "perlick".

Despite this gloom our accounts, for the year will not look unhealthy at first glance as with thanks to the BAND Trust, several other funders and some generous individuals we have reached our target to pay for the building of a new facility here at our Rural Centre. These funds are of course allocated and cannot be used for running expenses but by the time we write another one of these reports we will be in residence of a wonderful new facility—more news on this subject later.

I commend this 'End of Term' report to the reader as a brief glimpse of some of the work the staff and volunteers have done during this very unusual year. We have experienced a huge increase in referrals and yet have continued to support and help these children who have needed a second



(see <https://www.burtonappreciation.com>) We are delighted to acknowledge Oliver's great effort and to thank him as **he raised the magnificent sum of £5,600...** Ride strong Ollie!

Fishing for Success!

We have featured our fishing and angling activities in these first few pages because we have found the activity to be so beneficial to our young people. For many of them the feeling of success is completely unknown. They may come from a dysfunctional family or a poverty stricken background. Many don't attend school full time, if at all in some cases. They have been excluded from 2 or sometimes 3 schools. Their lack of education means they don't read or write too well, if at all. It's likely that quite a few have been in trouble with the law, some are 'looked after' children with foster carers or in a children's home. None of these are the best foundations for building a future life on.

Catching a fish can change lives, no matter who you are, or what your circumstances are.



In their own minds these children have be





OUR 'Finnish' Land Rover has sat, sadly, in our store in Hampshire gathering dust for almost 2 years now.

The Creative Arts and Cultural Centre

The lockdowns and continued staffing problems within schools has meant we are still frustratingly waiting on things to improve. Despite having gained sponsorship of a salary for 3 years we have still to find a suitable candidate for the post. Our Portsmouth centre is currently underused as we ship many of the Portsmouth youngsters out to our rural centre in Titchfield. Portsmouth City Council are not encouraging us to work with their children as you will see elsewhere in this news letter!

Portsmouth City Council Bites The Hand That Feeds It!

We work with about 14 different local authorities around the country and of all of those we find our very own Portsmouth City Council to be the least sympathetic and helpful of them all. They have closed our main vehicular access route off to our centre with a rather bizarre criteria of improving city health by making people walk! In so doing they have shut off the only street level entrance we have to our building for anything other than pedestrians.

These things we could live with but they have now decided to withdraw their discretionary relief for our council tax on our





We tried during the chances of us holding our annual March dinner at The House of Lords this year were blown out of the water when the Christmas/New Year lockdown was announced by the government. We held on to the hope that we might have had an autumn date but even that was eventually scuppered as Covid infection rates continued to expand and catering in numbers became impossible - so alas for the first time in 26 years we were unable to hold this annual event. The good news however is that we have booked the **Friday 18th March for next year** and Covid and God willing we shall meet again for another memorable evening to raise much needed finance for our young people work.

Fund Raising in 2021



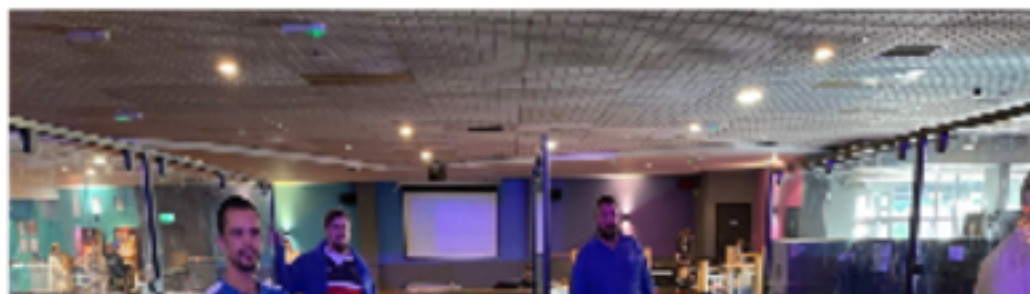
As we predicted last year, this year has been the problem year. During the initial period of lockdown in 2020 we had access to government grants and local authorities (but not Portsmouth City Council who refused our applications). This made up for the shortfall in individual donations and for the normally supporting trust funds that strangely directed their giving to other pandemic related causes.

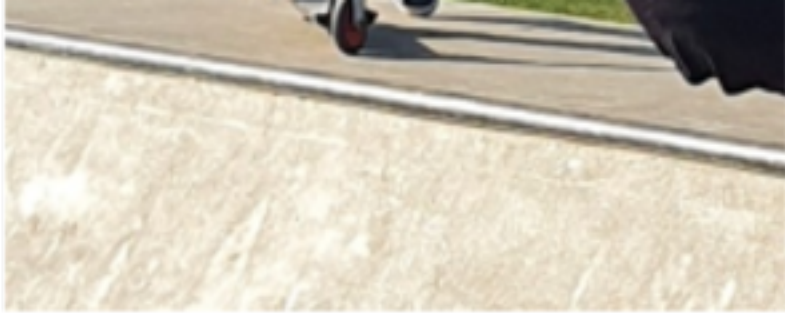
Thanks to **Wave 105**, the local radio stations Christmas Appeal, we had bundles of presents for our underprivileged children at Christmas.



Social and Emotional Education ...

Many of our children will leave school without any meaningful qualification (indeed that is if they went to school at all). This is not to say that most of them lack any intelligence, far from it. So we aim to teach them or help them discover qualities that will make them highly employable. Social skills are top of the list, work ethic is high too and generally a realisation that being a nice person can have its rewards and get you noticed. This is not easy and we have to get inside their heads and win their confidence to do this. A lot of this can be done in social and leisure activities. Don't confuse this with the old chestnut of rewarding bad behaviour... our youngsters really earn anything we give them. Here are a few activities we have repeated throughout the year.





Skateboards and scooters are very popular just now - and great exercise too!



Other Activities include...



- 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, clear and metal corrugated roofing sheets
- Your time to Taxi children around Portsmouth, Southampton to West London areas.

Our Lakes: Wetlands and Mill Pond





Lambing is a great time for the children to learn much... even lessons on contraception have been known to take place!!!



Pete, our Youth Worker, shows how his young charges can feed the sheep flock in winter.





Please lend your support to 2022. Consider funding our work either with Core Finance 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!