

***END OF TERM REPORT!***

***2022***



**SECOND  CHANCE**

*An Account Of Some Activities During The Year*



# Welcome to our 'end of term'

## Report...

I am so pleased to welcome you to our latest 'end of term report'. This year has proved interesting for us. While we have seen 3 Prime Ministers come and go and the cost of living sky rocket we have maintained a steady ship here. Glad to see the back of the lockdowns we forged ahead and had a great summer of activities in the scorching heat of the UK's record breaking heatwave. I am so pleased we finally recommenced our residentials at our cottage in Finland, we have missed the place during Covid restrictions. It had to be a limited use this year because the price of air tickets has rocketed. This seems to be a feature for everything at the moment. With food and energy prices soaring our families are often amongst the most impoverished to start with so you can imagine some of the challenges we have faced in the latter half of this year and don't expect it to get better for 2023 either.




Cover Picture. What a scorcher of a summer we had. Hosepipe bans and 40 degree heat but there was always one of our lakes to plunge into to cool off - a welcome relief.

I need to thank all of the people who have supported either financially or practically (and indeed often both) throughout this year. As always it goes without saying we would do very little without your help and support.

The financial situation of the country has meant supporters have prudently looked hard at their expenditures and have decided that charitable giving needs to be approached with caution and subsequently our income has fallen towards the end of this year. This is a bit worrying as those very same circumstances appear to be creating more need for our services. However I am glad to say we are weathering the storm and look forward to much progress next year. The building and opening of our new fishing lodge facility is the main item on the agenda next year and the return to some normality with full use of our facilities both here and in Finland.

Please take a look at some of the activities we have engaged in during the year here in our report. They give but just a flavour of the myriad of activities and barely do justice to the changed lives that we have witnessed during this time. I commend the work of our staff and volunteers to you and can bare testament to the changed lives and second chances we have facilitated during this unusual year.

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



Doug Hulme

Chief Executive  
November 2022

**Finland 2022** We are glad to report that after almost three years of travel restrictions and lockdowns we finally opened the cottage up to our youngsters again this year. The only draw back being that the airfares have increased hugely and will limit our future use if they don't fall back to pre-pandemic levels before next summer. Because of these difficulties we didn't manage any winter trips this year but are planning some for February next year when we hope to take the



Camp Fires always feature prominently in our residentials



summer youngsters back to walk where they were swimming this year. It's an amazing experience and a huge education for them to see the sea frozen and to feel minus temperatures in the same place they wandered in T shirts and shorts. The amount of personal and social training we get through in these weeks is truly life changing for many of our children and leaving their phones and computers at home means there is an element of education that possibly doesn't exist elsewhere in their lives. Amazingly they can make the end of a week here without their phones and without needing psychiatric counselling! (we are not sure the same can be said for the staff).



**Back to the classroom in The Maritarium in Kotka to learn all about the fish and the environment of The Baltic.**



**Waiting at the gate in Helsinki Airport for the flight home... most of our children have never been abroad let alone flown.**



**A Baltic Pike - Caught right in front of our cottage!**



**We visited the 'Bunkeri' museum on the Russian Border. Timely discussions as the Russians did their worst in Ukraine.**



**Arriving back home at Heathrow**





Small Perch on the spinner from the River Kymi.



Eating together gives the staff so many opportunities for teaching.



Breakfast taken on the cottage veranda, beside The Baltic



Changeover time! Land Rover to Mini Bus for return journey to Helsinki Airport.



Shopping in Prisma, Kotka



Our Bees produced delicious honey this year.



The stock pond brings success again!



Our Land Rover finally made it back to Finland. Transport to all things Finnish!



A Day on the beach on the Isle of Wight.



Pete, our Youth Worker helps a youngster display her catch.



A nice summer fish From The Wetlands Lake.





We visited the 'Bunkeri' Museum near the cottage. A museum from a previous attempted annexation by the Russians. They say history repeats itself!

*Ruby Williams Mini*

*Bus ...*



The aquarium in Kotka allows you to duck down and come up inside the water of a stream so you can have a 'fishes eye view'.



Below is a small group about to go beach fishing for the day at Eastney and at Hayling Island in 'Ruby's Bus'

We are pleased to say we have replaced one of our aged mini buses. There is bitter and sweet in this news. Eddie and Ruby Williams have been volunteers and supporters of the Charity since the late 1980's. Very sadly Eddie lost his beloved Ruby during this year. It was requested that instead of flowers a donation was made to the Charity in her memory. With a top up from Eddie we were able to buy a very nice second hand bus. Appropriately we have called it "Ruby's Bus"...

Thank You Eddie - you're a STAR



continued over...



## **'Projects and Objects'**

***We need the following if you can help or know of 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 dinner
- Week day volunteers for fishing and other activities
- Mountain Bikes
- Fibreglass, clear and metal corrugated roofing sheets
- Your time - to Taxi children around Portsmouth, Southampton and West London areas., to our Rural Centre in Titchfield.



**Second Chance House** our Portsmouth Centre.



**Boat Fishing In The Solent. Skipped by our Andy Snow. What a scorcher this summer was!**



Our Corporate Day, fishing at Dever Springs in June was incredibly hot and the fishing difficult but we thoroughly enjoyed the day. Better fishing weather was encountered when we did it again in October. These days are valuable additions to our fundraising and for keeping in touch with our Patrons.



A group enjoying our camping field, just before all the grass died in the heatwave that was just beginning when this photo was taken.



## ***Dates for your Diary 2023***

**House of Lords:**

Friday 3rd March

**Dever Springs Fishery:**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June

and Sunday 1st October



**'Potting Up' in one of our Polytunnels. Mini enterprise - if they water and look after them, they get to sell and keep the profit. A relaxed work style demonstrated here!**



**Tree House under construction beside the camping field**



**Lambing went well on our Rural centre this year. A biological education for many of the young people!**



**Canoeing on our largest lake was popular during the summer holidays.**





**Cooking in our kitchen. Producing meals and treats for everyone is part of the preparation for life as adults.**



**'Tree Hugging' is not on the curriculum but if you feel the urge.... !**



**Ice Skating can take many forms!**



**Action shot 'Rock Climbing' ...  
Great for building confidence as well as expending energy!!**



**Hatched our own ducks this year!**



# ***Funding This Year...***

Coming out of lockdown, the Russians invading Ukraine, the spiralling cost of living, threat of recession and inclement weather have brought about a disappointing end to the years fundraising. When faced with these and other issues it is not surprising that donations from individuals have slowed considerably. Funding from Trust Funds has held up much better but company and private donations have fallen to a level where our income has meant we have had to make some cuts in our spending and services. This is ok and we have not had to substantially cut any of our services. This has partly been helped by the fact that we have not had a full programme of residential at our cottage in Finland. It is however a concern for next year. We recently used the current price rate of electric to us and used this years consumption. If it stays the same then we will have to pay £53,000 in 2023 for our electric! But in the finest British tradition we will cross those bridges when we come to them.



**The House of Lords Dinner was a resounding success. It was so good to return after a Covid induced break !**



‘Working Parties’ from various companies and organisations have become a mainstay of our maintenance and development of our **Rural Centre**.

If anyone thinks their company could contribute in this way we would be glad to hear from you!

These photographs to the right are taken during a very hot summers day when **Zurich** visited us for one of their two days with us this year. So much work was done but the lunch time barbeque was a welcome relaxation from the hard work.





**Thank You...** We were sorry to lose the services of our long time Store Manager David Price (right) and his able assistant Arthur Chambers, towards the end of the year. David has relocated to South Wales so it is a bit of a commute from there! Both have promised to stay in touch and to continue to volunteer on an ad hoc basis. We wish them both well after several years of hard work sorting our fishing tackle, camping gear and all the paraphernalia we have collected to run the Charity efficiently. Thank you gentlemen.



Crafting and Art work proved as popular as ever and gives the staff ample opportunity to engage the children and help steer them.



**Second Chance Brass** - Carol Playing at The Park Gate Shopping Precinct. Too late for last years newsletter but we will be there again this year. Thank you to the traders for organising this. It is a very valuable fund raiser too.



One of our volunteers, Olivia, Kimber was racing at Goodwood this year despite fighting health issues. We thought it would be a splendid idea and a great educational experience to take some of the youngsters to support her.

When the Duke of Richmond, a valued Patron of the Charity heard, he organised for enclosure tickets for the young people. They had a brilliant day out! An experience way out of their normal lifestyles. Education - with a capital E?





The view from the top of our 'garden' in Finland. Taken in July this year!



While we were in Finland we had a fire at our Rural Centre. We are grateful to the Fire Service for prompt attendance. We did lose our tractor shed though!



Himalayan Balsam is a problem for us as an 'invasive species' beside our River Meon. We are grateful for a working party from Barratt Homes for clearing many bulk bags of the plant. They also did many other jobs too. Thank you so much!



Same day, 3 fish, 3 boys, 3 smiles. Success makes such a difference in all our lives!

## Thank YOU ...

*This is just a **small glimpse** of some of the activities and impacts made during this year. We would like to thank **all** of you who have helped in **any** way.*

*We are changing young lives here and we are really grateful for your support.*



***2023 is coming ... and we would love  
you to journey with us ...***



***Please lend your support to 2023. 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 Excel-  
lence' 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!"***

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