

# END OF TERM REPORT!

2023



SECOND  CHANCE

*An Account Of Some Activities During The Year*

# ***Its That Time Of Year Again – Hello to all who have helped...***

It hardly seems a year since I was asked to write a forward or welcome to our 'End of Term Report' but here we are reaching the end of 2023. I must be getting old for just as the police get younger so the time seems to fly even faster!

We have had an eventful year, the political atmosphere has been charged with uncertainty. Wars in Ukraine and Israel and much media attention to the cost of living and the rising need for food banks. These things have affected us as you might expect by yet another fall in income. However we are also able to report that we have increased the provisions we provide to try and counter the ever spiralling number of referrals that the conditions of our economy and society are creating.

I am delighted to report that we have resumed using our facilities in Finland despite the exorbitant air fares, which has meant a drastic cut in our intentions for the place. The biggest news will be reported elsewhere in this report but it is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I can report that the building of our new facility here (we have decided to call it our 'fishing lodge') at our Rural Centre is now more than underway. As I write the building is fully water tight. Cladding, roofing and double glazing are all in and we are progressing fast now with the inside. There will be a grand opening at some time this coming year, hopefully sooner rather than later.

Many of you will know that a significant portion of our referrals come from schools and social workers because the children they are responsible for are not attending school. Despite the best efforts of all concerned many of the children are not getting access to a proper education. It has become clear to us over the past 5 years and not wholly because of lockdowns that it is now a commonly held belief by very many of the children that school is an 'option'! This has led to many, many children having none to about 2 hours a week of tuition. Our 'back to school' scheme is in overdrive and our work experience and training for the 16 and 17 year olds who have escaped the system is working flat out.

As a teacher myself I find it a sad fact that some of our children left the education system in September this year with less knowledge and life skills than their counterparts of, say 1976!

We are however, with your support, doing as much as we can about these things.

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



Doug Hulme

Chief Executive  
December 2023

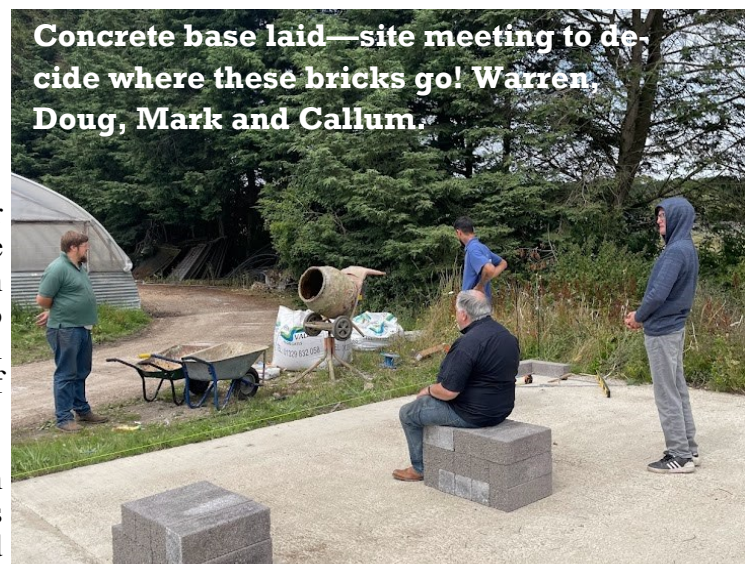
## ***The Fishing Lodge...***

Perhaps the biggest and most significant thing of this year has been the building of our new 'fishing lodge' at the bottom of our nursery site. Most readers of this bulletin will know we set off on this project 3 or more years ago but because of fundraising, then intransigence of the local planning department, then lockdowns it has taken all of this time to get round to actually building the thing!  
*Continued overleaf...*

We still haven't finished as we only started in earnest in late September but as you will see from the photographs the outside is substantially completed; only the porch and



*Cover Picture... Beginning of the year saw a cold start and our lakes frozen over. Mark Hodnett, our Assistant Site Manager, demonstrates why there was no fishing at the time on our wetlands*



**Concrete base laid—site meeting to decide where these bricks go! Warren, Doug, Mark and Callum.**

veranda to add. The building is now weatherproof and perfectly dry inside. As I type we are now working on the plumbing inside and the second fit electrics will take place probably before you read this... We are getting there! It will make such a difference to the way we work. It will extend the use of the site during the winter when we have traditionally been so hampered and limited by inclement weather. The showers and toilets will extend the educational facilities in limitless ways and when we are camping and doing outdoor activities in the summer it will also come into its own. It is transformational. There are many people and organisations that we need to thank for this development. From providing finance to giving practical assistance with building there are many to thank. We commit the cardinal sin of mentioning some and not everyone in this, for which we are sorry - if we don't mention you, it is no indication of the level of appreciation we hold for you. The lions share of financing the project has been met by The BAND Trust and we thank our very good friends Nicholas and Lavinia Wallop for their unfailing belief in this project. Alastair Leslie, The Bernard Sunley Foundation and many who gave us unrestricted funds for which we used some towards this. Southern Timber Frame Ltd, Marley Tiles, Borderland Fencing Ltd, B&Q, Spiral Carpentry Ltd and all the volunteers who have pitched in with practical building skills and labour.



Bricks Laid, Walls Going Up



Roof Up, Tiles going On



Wall cladding complete. Roof tiles in place. Double glazing installed. Gable end finished.



The Front - Facing The Nature Reserve, Porch yet to come.



Inside cladding complete. Floor insulation going down. Next is the pipework for the underfloor heating.



**Cooking in our kitchen, learning life skills.**



**Donated Christmas presents, enough for birthdays too — thank you everyone!**



**A second replacement bus to compliment 'Ruby's Bus' ...thank you Jan Dye.**



**Planting in the 'Seedlings Centre' A great way to learn some gardening skills!**



**New Bell tent, first time up — thank you Alastair Bentall**



**Revamped, restocked and tidied 'Mud Kitchen' in our early years Seedlings facility**



**Another bench made by the youngsters — ready for going out**



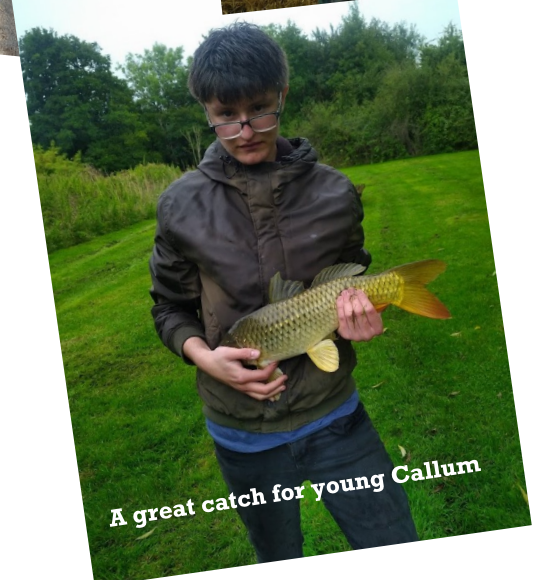
**Lambing went well this year and the youngsters love being involved**



**Tubing on an artificial ski slope.**



**Pete, our Youth Worker, sadly left us this year but is still a volunteer**



**A great catch for young Callum**

## **Finland again ...**

We were delighted to get back to the cottage this year and make use of the mind blowing facilities and scenario that we own there. A facility way beyond any of the young peoples experiences. Taking them beyond the close confines of their lives where many have not been further than a mile from their inner city home. Placing them in a cabin, in a forest at the side of the Baltic Ocean reduces their normal street wise, sometimes arrogant belief, that they know everything to the point that they ask what they should do and what are they seeing here. It's then that we can get inside their heads and begin a dialogue that often changes their lives forever.

We have not been able to use the facilities nearly as much as we would have liked because the cost of air fares does not make for the prudent use of our much in demand funds! We intend to appeal to the CEO of Finnair once more to see if there is any chance we might once again enjoy some special treatment. Both Finnair and British Airways have previously declined to re-instate the historical friendship we once shared—time will tell and will directly effect how much we use our cottage in 2024.



On the steps of the last Tsar of Russia's Fishing Lodge. It's an iconic pose - we do it with every group. There is a similar picture with the last Tsar - it all helps build a picture for them.



Camp fires always feature heavily. Great for social skills and memories!



One of the affects we have on them... the end of a week—on our way home to the airport!

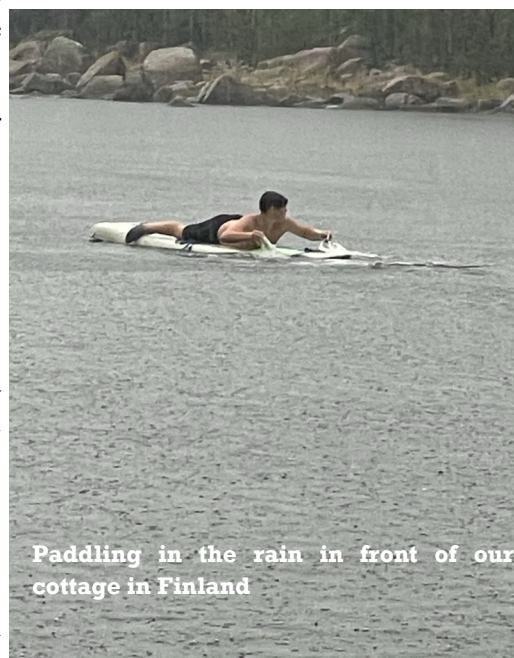


Setting off from the bunkhouse on an exploratory bike ride around the forest!

family imparted them to them are sadly missing. The many and varied activities we engage in are not frivolous or merely to occupy—they serve a purpose!

Funding is crucial to us. We don't charge for our services and most of our families cannot afford to contribute. We are finding that our services are more and more required to teach the young people the values that we hold dear and which our society is based upon. Most of our young people are not stupid but will leave school without any meaningful qualifications. They will need the social and work skills we are teaching them to survive and become contributing members to our society. We are pragmatic about these things but if we don't succeed then many will look at a life of benefits at a cost to the tax payer. We aim to get them all in gainful employment and enjoying good balanced family lives.

Many of the young people are referred to us by schools and social services because they are not attending school and many are now 'enjoying' just two hours a week of home tuition. An hour of Maths and English, that is their total input in an academic sense! We aim to get them back into mainstream school, full time, but regardless of outcome... they do need us!



Padding in the rain in front of our cottage in Finland



**Boat Fishing In The Solent. Skipped by our Andy Snow. No one was sea sick!!**



Our Corporate Day, fishing at Dever Springs in October, was perfect weather and many fish were caught as opposed to the hard work earlier in June.

We so enjoy meeting with patrons in this way and we thank you all for your support.



David Price plays a fish whilst fishing the corporate day at Dever Springs Fishery—it would be nice to see you there next time as well?



**We took two of our young people to help out at our dinner at The House of Lords this year. Here they are in the Great Hall at the Palace of Westminster. Treading where kings tread!**

## ***Dates for your Diary 2024***

**House of Lords:**

Friday 1st March

**Dever Springs Fishery:**

Wednesday 19th June  
and Sunday 6th October



**Work parties are a vital support for us. Here are some from Markerstudy Insurance ... Could your work place volunteer for a day?**



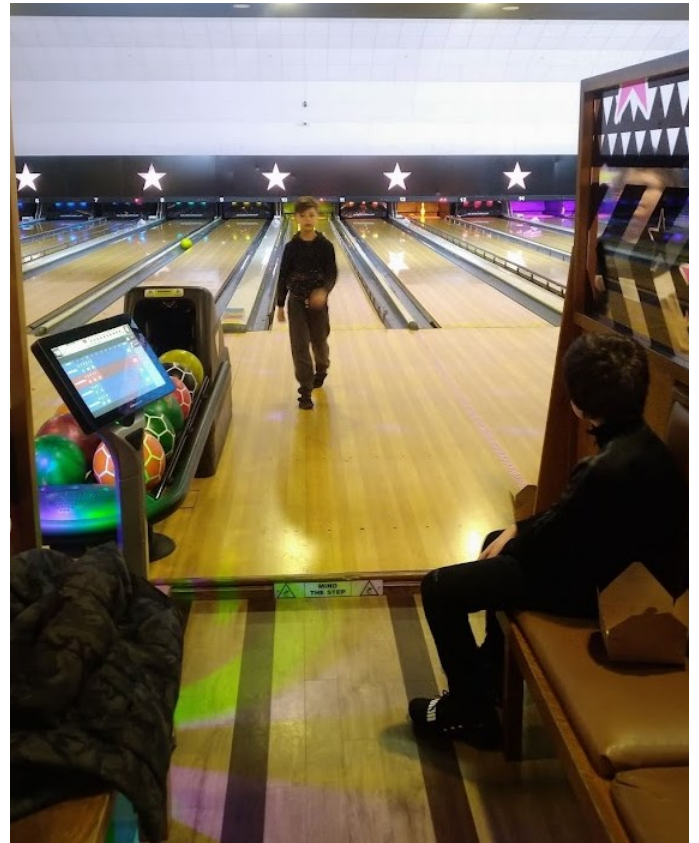
**Zurich Insurance, making good the gardens at our Rural Centre, Titchfield.**



**One work party from Mountjoy rebuilt our bridge into the main sheep field, despite inclement weather (rain) we managed and the bridge is here.**



**At the Airport on the way home from a reward trip.**



**'Bowling always works, good for the maths as well as social skills!**



**Raft building is always a good team building exercise!!!**



**Summers are idyllic in the nature reserve; sun, grass, flowers, lakes, fishing - it all happens! This is the lawn and shelter beside our Mill Pond**



**Working a flight simulator when visiting the Aircraft Museum near Andover**



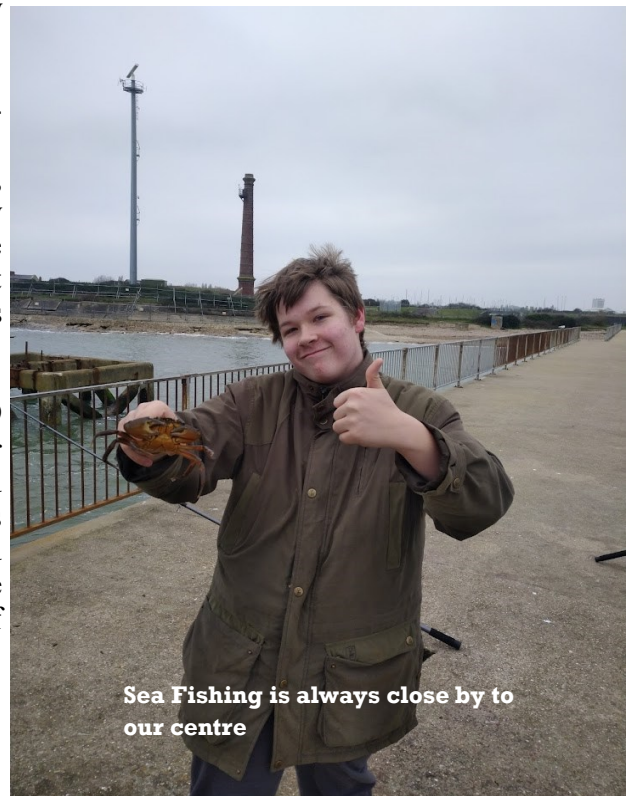
## What Cost A Good Education? ...

Elsewhere in this newsletter we mention the new phenomenon of children deciding school is an option and no one managing to counteract that stance. There's a new government report that states that smartphones and social media are the biggest problem when it comes to plummeting attendance rates at schools. They think cyber bullying and false expectations are tied in with this. We are not sure that's entirely right and there is much more to this than one or two simple reasons. However it is a fact that today the number of pupils absent from school is double what it was 3 years ago.

Figures for the last academic year show more than one in five pupils were "persistently absent", that's missing 10 per cent or more of their lessons. That equates to 17.2% in primary schools and 28.3% in secondary schools! We have been saying for a long time now that family breakdown is an even bigger contributory factor. A strong and sensibly orientated family unit can counter many things such as bullying, too much computer game time, false information. Without it what does the child find to turn to for guidance and direction?

There is evidence that says we do know that one of the biggest impacts on the children's side is family breakdown.... And according to the report we are now the family breakdown capital of the Western World here in the UK. Nearly half of our children now will experience their parents' relationship break down during their childhood. In our experience that almost always means that mum is the single parent. We don't express an opinion on this, we are pragmatic about it, but if you think about the difference between a stable family unit and one struggling to make ends meet, no positive male role models, working and trying to get children to school at the same time etc. then there's a big contrast. It's just worlds apart.

The Office of National Statistics revealed that there were 2.9 million lone-parent families in 2022, accounting for 15 per cent of all families. These two problems alone (schooling and family breakdown) now account for about 80% of our referrals and the work we are engaged in. Everyone deserves a second chance but we can't offer that to everyone. Please, please continue to support us in what we can do. It really is a case of 'one child at a time' for us.



Sea Fishing is always close by to our centre



Back to the classroom! CEO Doug is taught how to jigsaw by a young expert !



Tramplining at 'Flip Out' is good exercise and an opportunity to gain in confidence.



**Electric Trikes was a new activity for us!**

**Thank You...** We were sorry to lose the services of our Youth Worker Pete Tomlin. There is a gap there for someone who has a love of fishing, the outdoors and the countryside. If you have any suggestions let us know or send us your CV!

There are more photographs and less text in this edition so do visit our website for more information and sign up to receive online updates.

We haven't printed our 'shopping list' of wants this time but you can be sure it does exist!

01329 842525 gets us!



**'Grown Up' Activities are a great way to help young people move away from childish ways and accept responsibility, along with consequences.**



**The New Forest Wildlife park is close for a visit and an education about the deer that visit our Rural centre.**



**A visit to 'Monkey World' can sometimes lead to difficulties differentiating some patterns of behaviour!**





Winters can be bleak, even if you are allowed to light a camp fire! Our new Fishing Lodge will be a massive help for these times when it is completed.



An early Chub caught in our Mill Pond



Using our boats in the harbour for fishing and recreation can lead to some interesting spectacles. Here we take a look at the new Queen Elizabeth Aircraft Carrier... not too close though!



A Nice Roach From The Stock Pond



We unsuccessfully (as it turned out) remodelled our sea frontage at the cottage in the spring more to come in 2024.



A Fine 'bag' of carp taken from our Wetlands Lake

**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.*

***2024 is coming ... and we would love you to journey with us ...***

***Please lend your support to 2024. 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!"***

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