

END OF TERM REPORT!

2019




An Account Of Some Activities During The Year

Welcome!

Another year—a little bit wiser and a lot further along the journey. 2018 left us a legacy that we didn't want; we dropped a massive amount of income and we needed to make it up during this year. I am delighted to say, with your help, we did it. The two big projects from 2018 have carried over into 2019 and we are well advanced in making the fishing lodge and The Creative Arts Centre come true. You will read about this elsewhere in this report but it is all good news. We have had some personnel issues! Saying goodbye to Sean—our senior Youth Worker—welcoming his replacement Jamie and appointing Clare as our new Charity Administrator. Not to mention some illnesses and a tragedy along the way as well. However the young people are doing well and responding positively to our inputs - we have a waiting list for referrals - and we are looking forward to 2020 with a clear vision, intent on accomplishing the targets of getting The Lodge built, The Arts Centre open and welcoming many more children from all over the country into our facilities here. We have also launched a new website. In these national times of divided opinions and our young peoples dysfunctional families we feel Second Chance is a beacon to all. To those of you who supported us throughout this year so magnificently we thank you from the bottom of our hearts; we couldn't do what we do without you—you have as much impact on the children as we do...

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



Doug Hulme
Chief Executive
November 2019

Fishing Lodge Project

We have two major initiatives or projects up for completion this year and we are closing in on the successful conclusion to both of them. With your help we will be telling you how we have used them this time next year.. The first is our Fishing Lodge...

We already have our amazing facilities here; Nature Reserve, Farm, Camping and Fishing. We need this additional capacity to fully unlock these resources, both for more children and for longer periods, extending into the deepest of winter weather.

The new lodge is going to be built at the very bottom of the new Garden Centre site, on top of the hill overlooking the nature reserve and farm. It will be just above the bridge connecting the two sites. From the veranda you will be able to stand and survey 80% of the nature reserve and farm.



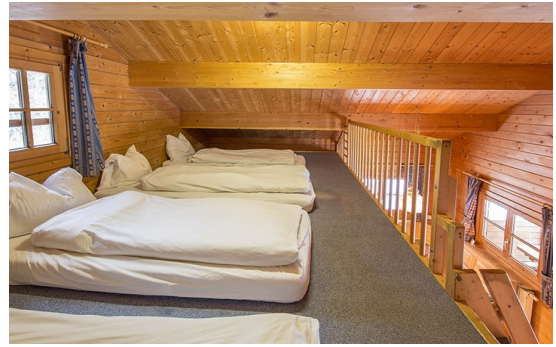
Cover Picture.: We liked this photo because it shows a young man learning a new skill and helping the Charity at the same time by making a bee hive at our new Solent Nurseries site. He has a future.



The Fishing lodge at Dever Springs fishery has been a useful model for us and ours will look very similar.



The inside will be something like this.



Residential accommodation onsite for the first time.

It will be a timber 'Log Cabin' style and will fit well into the environment. It will have a highish vaulted ceiling. The main room will be capable of seating 50 or so. At one end there will be a kitchen and dining area with a mezzanine floor over the top. At the other end of the main hall will be the showers and toilets, again with another mezzanine floor above. On these loft floors we will be able to sleep 5 children at each end on low beds, Scandinavian style, as we currently do with our cottage in Finland.



Kitchen below, beds above.



Toilets and showers below, beds above.

The Veranda will have a porch that will provide shelter to entertain and eat in the dry but still be outside and part of The Nature Reserve.

This building will extend the range of activities we can undertake right through the year into the winter months when the tented accommodation is not practical. It could be we may get some income too from renting out the facility for conferences and meetings when the children are not using it. We intend to open up access to other groups who work with similar children. Under our guidance we hope to encourage a new and robust way of working with them, giving confidence to and disseminating good practice to their staff.



The view from the balcony.

Lodge cont/d....

We have been talking to a company that could build this lodge for us. They have been able to accommodate our design brief and the build is surprisingly quick. We will of course need planning permission to site it where we want it (though it can replace existing buildings if we have to without planning). Matters are in hand and due process has begun.

From estimates we have received and quotes gained we think we can have this facility built for us for about £230,000. There has been some interest in supporting this appeal. Alastair Leslie, a great friend of the Charity and The BAND Trust, long term supporters of our work, have pushed our funding to the £210,000 mark. What we need now is a final push for that last £20,000. Any offers to fill that gap or narrow it would be gratefully received. The more time we spend fund raising, the less time we spend with the children and the closer next summer will be.

The Norwegian Log company with offices in Reading are talking about a 7-8 week period from instruction. Here is their website if you would like to see an illustration of some of their projects. <https://www.norwegianlog.co.uk/about> Obviously we have not yet fully instructed them but with a little help from you now we could have this built by May!

Farewell To A Great Friend.



Bryan Edward Bone... 35 years a Patron and volunteer with Second Chance. An insurance broker of distinction, a father figure of note!

Christian life you lived to the full. Our CEO, Doug Hulme, was privileged to attend Bryans Funeral on the 22nd of March this year in Milland and later at Havant Crematorium.

Bryan Bone would have read this newsletter last year as one of our dearest and longest serving supporters. Bryan owned a very successful Insurance Broking business in Castle Street Farnham for many years. In this capacity he supported our Chief Executive, Doug, in buying his first house through to raising money from the Insurance Industry for The Charity by persuading various companies to commit to annual donations. He was a sounding board for many of the Charity's ideas (both good and bad)! We have a cupboard full of South African Art waiting to be sold for the benefit of the Charity, all donated by Bryan. He spent his latter years studying the life and times of Prime Minister Lloyd George and was writing a biography of him, which sadly he won't get to finish now. With his characteristic moustache, he even looked like Lloyd George! Some will also remember him from regular attendance at our dinners in The House of Commons. It is always difficult to say goodbye to someone especially someone who was in right at the very beginning of the Charity and has supported us relentlessly throughout the 35 year history and events leading up to its formation too. Bryan we will miss your ever enthusiastic optimism for all things to do with Second Chance and indeed the Christian

'Finland 2019'

We have had a very different year in Finland this time. Most of you know that our cottage lies at the side of the Baltic in the middle of a Finnish forest. Here we can experience summers where the sun shines for 24 hours and the temperatures reach the high 30's. It is an experience the children never forget. They have almost always never left their neighbourhood let alone their country, never flown, never swum in the sea, cooked potatoes in a camp fire, fished at midnight, explored the thousand islands in front of them... an endless list of experiences for inner city children that change

from all knowing, non listening experts in their own environment to simply asking 'what do I do now' and giving our staff and volunteers a chance to get inside their heads and gain their confidence. Imagine then when you have just had these experiences coming back, a few months later, to find the sea you swam in so frozen that you can drive the Land Rover on it, that temperatures dip to minus 20 and the snow is at your waist height! The difference is mind blowing for the children and they learn in those conditions you really have to do as you've been instructed or the consequences are too dire to contemplate. This then is our resource based on our cottage close to the Russian border in Kotka. Let the photographs tell the tale of one week in February.



Our trackway as we arrived.



Chases in the snow filled forest.



Endless snow ball fights beside a frozen river.



Temperatures shot up and it rained, so we adjourned to sports centre Sirius...



...where the boys were instructed and taught...



... to fly in a wind tunnel!

However, shortly after these photographs were taken something terrible happened this year which meant just for this year we haven't used the cottage as we usually do. We have some lovely volunteers in Finland who help the Charity enormously with its efforts in bringing the children to the wilderness experience. Sirkka Kotola in particular has been a stalwart liaising with Kotka City Council and other local organisations for the benefit of the Charity from our very first trip. Our very first contact with Finland however was when The Salvation Army asked our CEO Doug Hulme to travel to Russia back in the 1990's. We met The Family Sundqvist who have become close friends and allies in the intervening decades. Pasi is affectionally know as 'our man in Finland' and houses our equipment and Land Rover and even supplies water in the winter! Pasi had a wonderful daughter Sara who was a similar age to Ella, Doug Hulme's granddaughter, and they have played together...

We have watched as Sara grew up to be a beautiful young lady—she was 11—going on 20! At Easter she went skiing with her mother in Lapland and a terrible fire took place in the log cabin she was staying in and along with her two cousins it claimed her life. We can but imagine the total devastation felt by the family but for our part we have had the wind taken out of our sails and our cottage has sat during the summer in a flat calm of emotional loss. It has meant Doug and others have struggled to find the breeze that steers us to Finland this summer. We shall return in the winter, which fits our feelings more closely, but next summer we will try to impart some of the Finnish spirit Sara has left for us all in that marvellous part of the world—maybe we can gift a little of Sara's spirit into the broken lives of our children in the UK.



Sunset At Our Cottage. The Sun Will Rise Again.

Dates for Your Diary 2020

House of Lords – Friday 13th March

Dever Springs Fishery –

Wednesday 17th June

And Sunday 4th October

It Finally Happened...!

After what seems like forever we have finally got the digger we have wanted for so long. Thanks to Alistair Lesley's continuing support we are now the proud owners of a JCB 130 digger... and a list of jobs it needs to do as long as your arm! Not least is the building of our new Fishing Lodge. Happy days!



House of Lords

Friday March 15th proved to be another great year for us at The House of Lords. The fifth time in the Lords but we think possibly our 31st in The Palace of Westminster. It is now a family occasion, The Second Chance Family! Neil Freeman, as always, managed to convince the Patrons to dig deep in their pockets and we raised £19,000 for the Charity. Save next years date, you will be most welcome. Friday 13th March 2020.



Sean, Phil, Louis, James 'Our Team' at The House of Lords

Creative Arts and Cultural Centre



Second Chance House—Our Portsmouth Base. Set for a development of use.

Our second big project during this and into next year is the creation of our Creative Arts and Cultural Centre. Work is at an advanced stage. We have almost finished the physical 'revamp' of the building, new doors and windows, new flooring, mirrors and equipment have all been installed. We continue to develop the community use of the building with playgroups and parenting classes.

The children that Second Chance work with come from three main backgrounds in roughly equal proportions. They may have been abused (sexually, physically or mentally), come from a poverty stricken background (almost always an inner city area), or may have learning difficulties. Sometimes, experiencing all three backgrounds! These

children carry their disability on the inside; they do not always generate sympathy from those they meet. Second Chance consider them to be amongst the most disadvantaged group of people in Britain today. One of the Charity's mottos is: Changing the world....one child at a time!

Our Portsmouth centre is situated in the third most impoverished ward in Britain.

The Creative Arts and Cultural Centre, which involved adapting our own Second Chance House into suitable facilities, is going to address an issue that has been laid on our hearts for some time. The local Rotary Club, Portsmouth and Southsea have funded the first phase and have promised a further £10,000 when we secure funding for a salary. We have someone in mind to manage and run this but we need to organise finance for their salary. This position is the most important piece of the jigsaw as the children most often have behavioral problems and are



completely disengaged from the system – it's all about relationships and mentoring. We have just finished building a new storage facility at our Rural Centre and have emptied the basement of Second Chance House and have almost finished converting it into the music area with practice rooms and recording equipment etc. The middle floor is now a dance studio and a multipurpose room, the top floor is already finished and contains toilet and shower facilities with offices, and a flat for independent living skills training.

We have entered into a partnership with the Salvation Army who in turn are working with The Trinity School of Music, London who have designed a resource for teaching our sort of children (<http://arts-support.trinitycollege.co.uk/course/view.php?id=23>) musical instruments and arts based activities.

It is a complete scheme with certificates and a kind of (relevant) curriculum. One of our existing staff is into instrumental playing anyway and when we say dance we are thinking of breaking into this via street dancing and similar styles that will appeal more to our youngsters and we hope it may lead to other avenues as well. We have a volunteer who is very much enthused by this prospect and we have volunteers coming to staff the facility from various musical backgrounds not least the Salvation Army local churches.

There will be opportunity to film and photograph various topics as well. For want of a better description Drama will feature with a volunteer who is specially qualified in this medium for children who lack confidence. It is hoped to also organise visits to theatre. Some of the music will be electronic and recorded with an element of DJ. Parenting and some leisure activities will also take place. As time goes by we intend to identify other volunteers who have passions they would share with our children, this I feel is the key to engaging the youngsters. Two of our volunteers are black belt Karate experts and there are going to be classes for that along with a steel drum band and more!



These are things that our children would never do without a push from us. One of the main projects we operate is a 'back to school scheme' because many of our youngsters are completely disengaged and do not attend school very well, if at all. There is no way they would take part in these activities at school or elsewhere without us. Just the mere mention of a £10 contribution towards a visiting teacher at school sends them scuttling away, let alone the prospect of after school practicing and getting an instrument to take home.



£30,000 A Year Is Now Needed for 3 years...

We still need some help with equipment and provision but we are at the stage now where we need to appoint a manager for all of this or we can't progress any further. We thought we had cracked it with a trust fund who were very interested in our work but alas it reached a dead end and now our planning is at a standstill until we can fund this post. We did have someone in mind but without the finance to offer them we have lost the opportunity to appoint. We are looking for 3 years funding at about £30,000 a year to cover salary, employers contributions, training and other support costs for the member of staff.

Are there any offers out there?



PERSONNEL CHANGES



Jamie gets one of the youngsters half way towards holding the fish the youngster had just caught.



Jamie and George release the new arrivals following a "Fox Incident"!

Whilst sad to see Sean Finch leave us, we were delighted to welcome Jamie Leeper onto the full time staff as our new Senior Youth Worker during the earlier part of the year. Jamie was already well known to us as the volunteer who supervised the Bee Keeping project so it was logical as he retired from his duties as a Commander in The Royal Navy to offer him the post. The youngsters (and the bees) seem delighted by the arrival I am pleased to say!



Jamie has a Polytunnel with the children. For most of them it's the first time they've seen tomatoes 'in the wild'.



Just like the Charity itself, it's a family affair. Leeper Junior, Leeper Senior and Grandpa!



Blake gets suited up for his first meeting with the bees, personally we think this is the better view of Jamie!



Charity Administrator...

We have to say that ever since Tim Button left this position it has been down hill for almost a year. As valiant an effort as it was our CEO Doug could not keep the Administration up to the high standards we would have wanted! He (and we) are delighted to announce that Clare Hulme has taken the role on. She comes to us as a highly qualified accountant and has shown her commitment to the Charity by moving from a senior well paid position in a large accountancy firm to steer the Charity into more efficient ways. In her first week she reduced a 2' pile of our filing to a well ordered and distributed filing cabinet—not only that but you can expect to get the 'phone answered now too!

We welcome Clare to the fold and look forward to a bright future together. Many of you will get to meet her throughout the coming year as you invest your support into our children.

Our Website Is Worth A Look...

We finally revamped our website, courtesy of Richard Stangroom's professional service - given free of charge and Carol Robinson, our veteran volunteer, who persevered with great patience to translate Doug Hulme's ideas into words and pictures. Check it out at

www.second-chance.org.uk

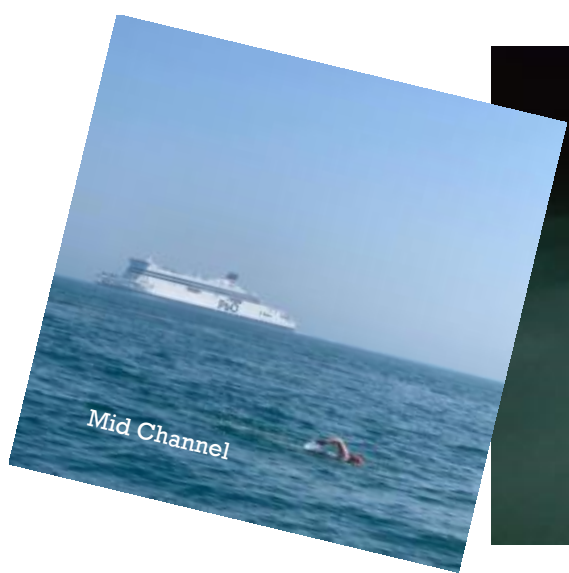
A Shopping List!!

Every year we are asked “what can I give you?” So here is a sort of ‘shopping’ list. If you have any contacts that could help supply any of the following please do get in touch.

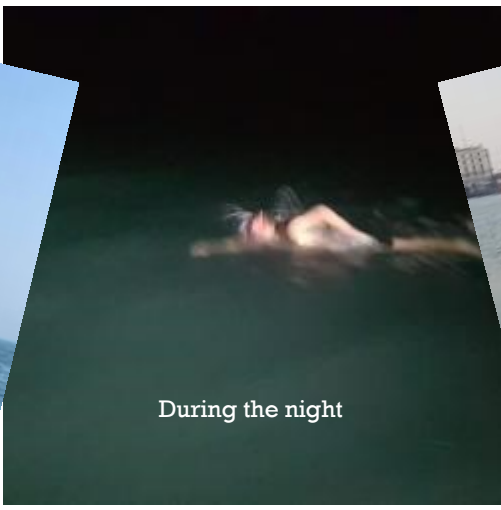
- 1) A large dumper truck.
- 2) Your old car (useable not scrap) for our young people to get to work in (legally and of age of course)!
- 3) A mini bus.
- 4) Mountain bikes.
- 5) Fishing tackle and camping equipment.
- 6) Employment for 18-20 year olds!
- 7) Musical instruments and other musical paraphernalia.
- 8) Clear/fibreglass corrugated sheeting.
- 9) Your time to transport children by car in and around the South East of England.
- 10) Your services to instruct young fishermen at our lakes.
- 11) Your time to ‘adopt’ a youngsters once a month for leisure activities with them.
- 12) If you're an agricultural or mechanical engineer—your time to work on and service our ‘fleet’ of such vehicles.

A Picture Paints A Thousand Words:

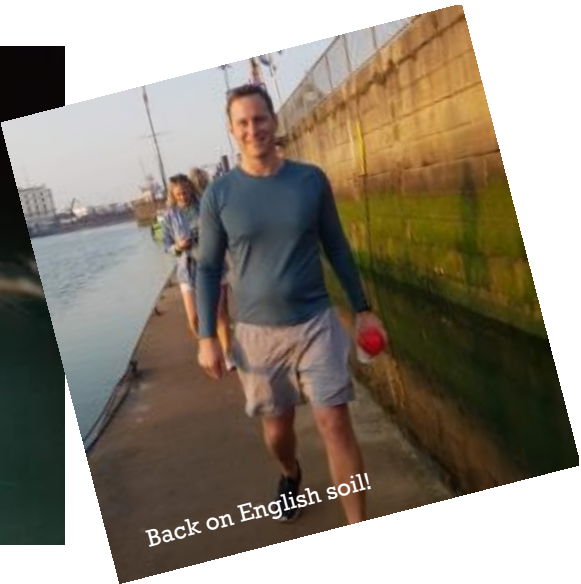
Or so they say. We have run out of space but we do still have a thousand words so here are a range of pictures that depict many of our children engaging in the many activities we take part in during the year. Very few have comments, they speak for themselves. Please join us in making these things, and much more, possible in 2020 for a very special and rewarding bunch of children... they are worth it!



Mid Channel

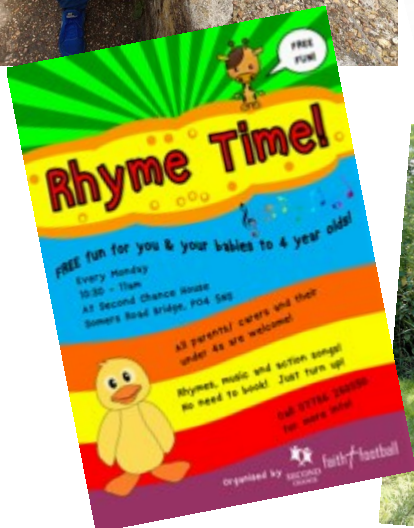


During the night



Back on English soil!

Alex Fordyce swam the Channel in August for us and raised so far nearly £12,000 in the process. What an effort—we appreciate it.



Walking into 2020... Journey 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!"

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