

END OF TERM REPORT!

2015

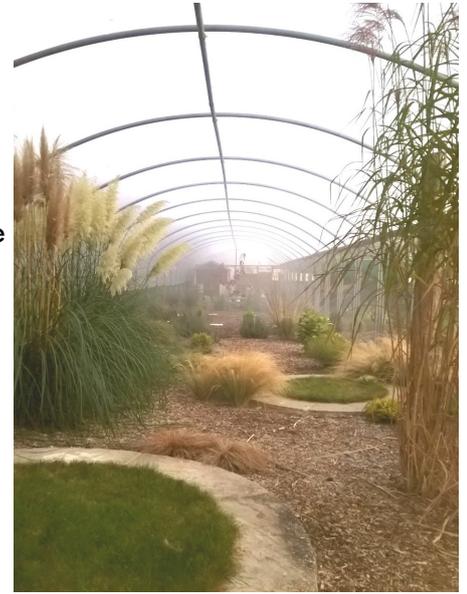
An Account Of Some Activities During The Year



Changing The World... One Child At A Time

Welcome!

Welcome to our 'End of Term Report'. I am delighted to tell you something of the journey we have been on this year and introduce you to some of those who have accompanied us both as clients and supporters. It's been a busy and hectic year in many ways. We have worked hard on the fabric of our facilities. The Rural Centre has come on in leaps and bounds, the Nature Reserve has never looked better and the fishing just improves every year. Referrals have come in from all quarters including Schools, Social Services and other charities that have contracts with the local authorities. Those of you who have supported financially, we are so grateful. You will know we do not charge for our services because "he who pays the piper calls the tune" and the reason we have so many referrals is that we are able to operate in our own unique and innovative way. We are able to respond to every child in a different way and we construct a package of support that is unique to each one's situation and needs.



Cover Picture. Autumn in our newly created Seedlings Centre. A taste of the countryside for pre schoolers and up to year 5—under cover.

Our 'Back To School' Scheme continues to be in great demand as we find the children who are totally disengaged with the system and gradually re-integrate them, not only into school but society in general. Dysfunctional families account for 80% of the symptoms we see and work with to correct. We get ever nearer to opening our Horticulture and Nursery Centre where we will provide employment, training, work experience and safe haven accommodation. 2016 is going to be a big year for us as we strive to complete the purchase and then develop the site further. Please take time to read about where we are with this and help us to achieve our goal by the end of next year.

Thank you for reading this, thank you for supporting us, thank you for believing in us.

Doug Hulme
Chief Executive
November 2015

Farewell Old Friends

Since our last report we have to announce the passing of two of our retired trustees. It is with great sadness we acknowledge the life and support that Frank Jarratt gave to our Charity and to our Chief Executive. Back in our End of Term Report for 2011 we announced Frank's retirement and the words we used then are as appropriate now to mark the passing of this great man. We can't begin to express our gratitude to one of our longest serving trustees. Frank Jarratt was incredibly influential in the establishment and development of the Charity. Doug Hulme, our Chief Executive, has spent many many hours debating, checking and seeking advice from Frank over Charity problems and strategies. Frank was a retired business man and had a very shrewd business head on him. He managed the family construction business through many successful years and upon retiring from that he was able to use those years of experience to good effect as a trustee of the Charity.

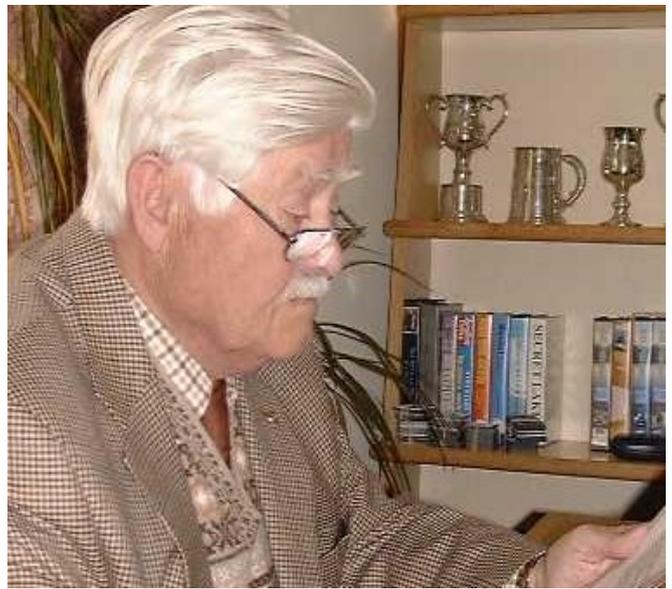
Back in the mid 90's British Telecom granted a tenancy at will agreement to the Charity, for its property in Portsmouth known as Grey Town House (a six storey office block). This led to the Charity establishing its links with Portsmouth that continue to this day. All good things come to an end and so it was that BT sold the offices to the NHS leaving the Charity without a home.

Doug spotted an ideal building in a perfect location that was looking a bit sorry for itself as security had been breached and damage caused. The owner of the building was sought out and an offer of maintenance and security made in return for occupation. Thus in 1999 Frank Jarratt came into the life of the Charity. Frank was the owner and readily granted a tenancy at will agreement and a little while later agreed a very favourable, indeed half price, sale of the premises to the Charity. Second

Chance House continues to this day to be at the centre of all things the Charity does. Franks philanthropic tendencies were never in doubt, as a founder member of the Portsmouth North Rotary Club, he demonstrated those for many years.

It is with Second Chance, however, that he has left such an indelible legacy that will last for many more years to come.

It was only when well into his late 80's Frank felt, with some health issues, that he really should retire completely from these duties. It is therefore with great sadness, as well as fondness, that we announce that Frank Jarratt died peacefully in his sleep in May this year. He will be greatly missed at the Charity but he has left a legacy that will outlive all of us. Frank we are grateful for your input and your friendship, our old friend.



Frank Jarrett: Made a massive difference to this charity and therefore the lives it touches.

SO

Life is often ironical and when it was realised back in 2001 that we needed another trustee on board, it was Frank Jarratt who invited his old friend and fellow Rotarian Ron Wickham to become a member of our board of trustees. What are the chances that we would in the same year have to inform everyone that Ron too has passed away in the same year as Frank. At the beginning of October Ron suffered a fatal heart attack as he was about to leave his home to play a round of golf. Ron gave generously of his time and expertise for many years at the Charity and we will be forever grateful of his input and encouragement. Farewell old friend.



An early season first fish for a very happy punter!

House of Lords

Readers may recall that following a decision by The House of Commons to charge the Charity £6,000 for the use of the members dining room, a move to the House of Lords was sought for our annual dinner and auction. We are delighted to say the move was a great success. We were welcomed by The Lords who gave us exemplary service and as old friendships were renewed and a great evening had by all, the Charity raised over £20,000 for its work. We will return again next year. Please put Friday the 11th of March in your diary and contact the Charity if you would like to come.



During the course of this year we have shared many educational, social and personal experiences with many of our children at our Rural Centre in Hampshire. Taking inner city young people out into the countryside, even for an hour or two, can be a real game changer in their relationships with our staff and volunteers. The young people have enjoyed a variety of activities and lengths of stay. These range from an hour out of



Andy Barbour BPI Visqueen whose company supplied the polythene with some of the Trustees in the newly completed largest polytunnel in June



A first specimen fish—out of our lakes—what a difference success can make to a child's life.



Swimming in our mill pool in August of this year... The experience of the countryside for our inner city youngsters can be a life changer

the classroom as a reward for good work to a whole week spent under canvas at the side of the lakes. The summer started early and was very warm and dry until August, when things got a little wetter. We have plans for improving our facilities so that more children can spend more time at the Centre regardless of weather and time of year. We have a small farm on one side of The River Meon where the young people learn that cows don't lay cartons, chickens don't have cellophane coverings but lay eggs and that sheep give birth in a most biological manner! Across the river our Nature Reserve ticks all the boxes for conservation and environmental improvement and contains the lakes and carrier stream that the young people fish and spend hours enjoying the countryside. Lastly across the carrier stream we have the old Garden Centre and Nursery where we are trying really hard to restore the nursery to a fully functioning one where young people will learn much about horticulture, work experience and mini enterprise—but more of this later in our report.



We built a new building 'The Canteen' on the edge of our utility area to help with accommodation when groups camp or spend time in cold weather there. The log burner should prove interesting as the cold weather arrives!

Fundraisers

We want to say a huge thank you to all those who have completed fund raising functions for us this year. We do not charge for our services and so we have to fund all our activities ourselves (there is good reason for this but we won't go into that now). The largest percentage of our income comes from Trust Funds, closely followed by rich individuals. Until the recession hit the second largest source of income had been business or company giving. This area has now almost completely been lost. We have replaced this loss of income by people undertaking fund raising events for us. We do appreciate that many of you reading this report now will have either undertaken one of those functions or contributed to the success of them by sponsorship or some other form of input. There are too many of these functions to mention them all and we don't have photographs for many but here's a photograph or two of a couple of them...



Andrew Short undertook to do a 'Round Jersey Walk' officially called the "Collas Crill Island Walk" which starts at 3am from St Helier Harbour and hugs the entire coastline of Jersey. We are delighted to say that through sponsorship he raised £4,000. Thank you to Andrew and thank you to all those who sponsored him.

Another Andrew, this time Andrew Boughton, husband to our Office Manger Collette, did The Edinburgh Half Marathon in May this year raising over £500



We were grateful to SOUTHSEA NOMADS RUGBY TOURNAMENT for nominating us as one of their charities this year and we were delighted to receive well over a thousand pounds towards our work. It was also heartening to see former clients, now volunteers and well into their late 20's, Phil, James and Louis (who took the photograph) manning and operating the stand we had at the event. Most encouraging.



'STOKES GRUMPY OLD MEN POOL TEAM'
From Stokes Bay near Gosport, they adopted us for the year and raised almost £1,300. Seen here with our very own Colin Marshall receiving the presentation cheque



We are grateful to Waitrose for their fundraising - seen here with other local charities - is our office manager Collette Boughton at the coffee morning presentation where local causes were given over £2,000 of the money

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL?

SEND IT TO US ON

charity@second-chance.org.uk

Dates for Your Diary 2016

H of L – Friday 11^h March

Dever Springs Fishery – Wednesday 15th June

and Sunday 2nd October

Barbeque at our Land - July TBC

Working Parties

It has become a feature of our development of the old Nursery site that several companies and organisations have donated their support in the form of hard labour! Whilst we strive to use the young people as a work force so that they feel 'ownership' of the place and the project, it is a fact of life that the smaller ones can't undertake anything too strenuous and the older ones just don't have the energy, stamina or stickability to be of significant use.... It has to be realised that some of them are as old as their late teens and early twenties—they have to take things easy at that age!! We decided to do a pictorial representation of a sample cross section of work parties! With apologies for missing several out but we have used all the photos we have.



The team from The Royal Navy, HMS Nelson, on their first working party. They put up 'The Great Hall'. They also came back for a second helping later in the year and raised £500 for the funds as well!!



The Enterprise Rent A Car team who came on the 'Give and Gain' day in May this year.



Look at the smile on this young mans face—it's his first fish... doesn't it show!

Other working parties included those from Gemalto, Office for National Statistics, The Department for Work and Pensions, Southern Co-Op and Portsmouth Grammar School 6th Form (all 150 of them!).

Personnel Update

Many of you will remember from the last newsletter that we said a sad farewell to Nathan Hulme, the chief architect of the new 'Seedlings Centre' and also the first part of the clean up organisation at Solent Nursery. We are pleased to report he tied the knot with Meredith in New Zealand to a spectacular backdrop, in September this year.

We miss them terribly but wish them both all success in their new life in New Zealand. We think it helped that they won the rugby, but that did take all our powers of persuasion and influence to achieve as England really did want to win it at home!!



Our 'Back To School' scheme has continued to be a back bone of our work in the Portsmouth area. With the increased autonomy given to young people through the politically correct regimes they are growing up in, they increasingly feel empowered to disengage from the system. There is nothing worse than a child who has totally disengaged; he is uncooperative, often aggressive, very behind academically, frequently socially inept, sometimes amoral and commonly unmotivated to do anything in life. If left they will drift through life, most often on benefits, they will stray into and out of relationships and generally remain on the periphery of society. It is therefore imperative that we get to these young people and re-engage them. Getting them back into full time education is our aim and we are pretty successful in this but taking it further and teaching them new social skills and hooking them on meaningful activities in their leisure time means we most often see a huge increase in the quality of their lives... which is what it's all about... one child at a time!



Raft building and floating are always a great hit with the youngsters. In this case, back in August, maybe floating was an exaggeration, but the swim did them good and was a lot of fun!

'The Great Hall'

Thus we refer to our largest polytunnel... So named because one of our volunteers had his Wedding Reception in it back in July! Courtesy of The Navy working party from HMS Nelson, BPI Visqueen (the manufacturers) and Trust Funds who supplied the other finance, we completed the re skinning of the tunnel. Ultimately we intend to grow Koi carp in there—each young person given a tank and some fish fry from which they will then learn that hard work and application will grow these fish to the point that they can put an advert on eBay and sell the fish—keeping the profit for themselves. The lessons and the skills they will learn from this mini enterprise scheme will be many fold and deep—skills they may not pick up from their educational institutes wherever they are.



The finished polytunnel. The biggest of 20 and the third to be completed



The Wedding Reception—Yes, those really are storm troopers—don't ask!!



Our very own and first 'Lakeside Wedding' in July. Pastor Andy Elmes delivers the address to Charity volunteers Mark and Janine Smith!



Our cover photo shows an up to date picture of our Seedlings Centre. This is a facility for pre school to about year 4 giving them a rural experience under cover (polytunnel), a safe environment where all play and adventure activities are all based on the countryside. Schools can also use the facility for their science lessons. There is a petting area next door as well with rabbits, chickens, guinea pigs etc.



The Seedlings in early 2014. We cleared several tons of rubbish and probably 20 tons of concrete to reach this stage



The same area September 2015. What a transformation! We hope the area will be useful in creating a similar transformation in the lives of some of our young people.

Nature Reserve



Top left moving clockwise... **swimming** in the small lake, a group **picnic** beside the meandering River Meon, a **water vole**— (ever present on our site despite the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife trusts assertion that they were extinct!!) a spring **fishing** expedition on the Mill Pond and finally, the other end of the season, a **Swamp Cypress** the children planted 3 years ago, in its Autumn colours before the winds came.



Polytunnels



Chillies



Red Peppers

We grew some vegetables for the first time in one of the polytunnels; tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes, marrows, chillies, red peppers, beans. The youngsters were amazed... more to come next year if we can cover more of the tunnels.

The Farm



The flock of Wiltshire sheep continues to grow and teach the youngsters much



It's quite an experience for an inner city youngster to have to release a lamb when it got its head stuck in the fencing wire!!

The Farm has continued to tick along, the interesting addition is the newly planted fruit orchard occupying about 2 acres of one field. It is populated by old fashioned traditional English varieties, grown on vigorous root stock, which will produce trees big enough for the children to climb when picking the apples! It also helps support an ecology that is struggling as supermarkets and fashion have resulted in most of these varieties being ripped out - leaving a gap in the habitat for wildlife that had adapted to the old style of orchards for centuries.

We are also planning to resurrect the free range chicken set up that has fallen quiet recently and, if we could source the equipment or the money to buy it, we will also make our own hay next year.

This asset is really proving invaluable with our work and education of the children.

The Big Project

The burning question for most readers is where we are with the 'Big Project' as outlined in our last two newsletters.

We live in exciting times and the journey is speeding along. To recap: first you will remember we gave £100,000 to the owners of the old garden centre in order to avoid them having to go to auction with the property. In return they gave us 2 years to raise the balance of £700,000. Some time after that and having worked hard at raising the money we went back to the family with another offer late last year. We offered them a further £350,000 with



A big event on our amenity area



the request to sell it to

us and allow us to have a mortgage with them. This we have done. In October we became the proud owners of Solent Nurseries. This leaves the little matter of raising the remaining £350,000 in what remains of a 3 year period (2 years at the time of writing). We have made a good start and have promises to the value of £60,000 in hand at the moment leaving us still to find £290,000. We hope with our track record and your help that we may be able to do this during the coming year.

We have outlined during this report the various uses

Camp site beside the mill pond

of the Centre but to be clear, and in case we have missed anything out,

the new site is important to us in so many ways. Firstly as soon as the tenants that are in the offices (illegally!) move out (this is proving tiresome but will be achieved before the deadline) we will move our administration centre in. This will save a huge amount of expense and time in travelling between the two sites. Secondly, once we have settled the outstanding debt, we can begin to build our fishing lodge. This will overlook the nature reserve and lakes and will be a great resource for watching the natural environment, security over the site but most importantly, with sleeping accommodation and shower, toilet and cooking facilities will mean it will significantly increase the usage of the site and therefore the number of children accessing it.



The large throne chair we made for The Seedlings, the smaller less royal ones to the side and along with large log rings they form the basis for the children to sit and listen to many intriguing and imagination stretching stories to be read and told!

It will extend the use into the winter and colder months considerably. For instance, we will open the old garden centre shop again. This will give work experience to many of the young people, it will raise a small amount of income for the Charity and will be a great promotional tool for what we are doing on site. We will be able to sell our produce through this outlet and, in line with other garden centres, we thought we could probably sell other allied goods too, such as a second hand fishing tackle/charity shop. Once all the polytunnels are skinned (and we are well into this process) we can begin growing. This process in itself will be educational for the young people but we hope (as mentioned earlier) to run mini enterprise schemes so the children will learn so much more about trading, co-operation, working with a greater power (nature) and above all application. So many of our young people are of perfectly good intelligence but they leave education with no meaningful qualifications at all so real skills like these are going to be invaluable to them as they try to apply that intelligence into something that will give them a living. Ancillary activities have already begun—the young people are making wooden furniture, fences and sheds so there will be other opportunities to extend these sort of undertakings that compliment both the nursery and the garden centre. Last but not least we now have staff living in the house on site. This has considerably improved the security and accessibility of the

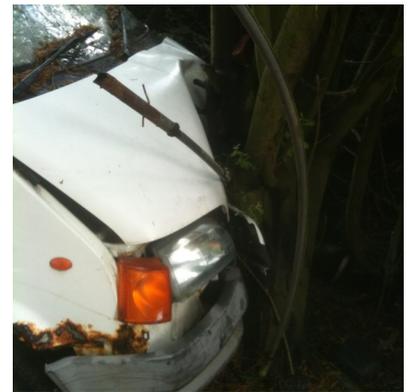


Volunteers and part time staff are always needed, especially for the fishing aspect. Staff like David Price here are difficult to come by. Free fishing and plenty of satisfaction—guaranteed!!

site.

Everything is a win win situation in this project. The big question is where do we find the last £290,000? If you have an idea or if you could help or if you have access to this sort of money, either yours or a trust fund, please do get in touch.

To everyone in any way remotely interested in the project Doug Hulme is always willing to fix up a date for you to visit and see for yourself what it's all about. Please do come along.



The old transit van used round the site took a turn for the worse this year—a replacement is needed!



Our Chief Youth Worker James Nice will be leaving us next year

A Shopping List!!

If you have any contacts that could help supply any of the following please do get in touch.

- 1) Oxy/Acetylene bottled gas. We need a complete bottle of each, quite willing to pay but need someone registered to access it for us.
- 2) 13 ton (or thereabouts) digger.
- 3) A large dumper truck.
- 4) Your old car (usable not scrap) for our young people to get to work in (legally and of age of course)!
- 5) A mini bus.
- 6) Mountain bikes.
- 7) Polythene for the Polytunnels (or money to buy it—BPI Visqueen will supply at advantageous rates!
- 8) Fishing tackle and camping equipment.
- 9) A new Toro ride on grass cutter.

STOP PRESS - DISASTER

There are times you feel you can't win. A "one step forward two backwards" situation. Since writing the beginning of this report and just before printing Hurricane 'Abigail' (why have they started giving names to weather systems?) struck with all its force on Saturday 14th November late evening. I am afraid to report (after all the hard work and fundraising and generous support) the wind shredded the "Great Hall"... we were gutted, what a disappointment not just to us but the guys from the Navy who put it up and all the other supporters. What a discouragement.



The 'Great Hall' today!

Don't see this very often! The bridge at the end of our site collapsed last week when a new and apparently too heavy tanker crossed it. Fortunately the bridge isn't our responsibility. The river is however and it was quite safe and sound after the experience!!



"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, Second Chance House, Somers Road Bridge, Portsmouth, Hants, PO5 4NS
Tel 02392 872790. Fax 02392 737550 Email: charity@second-chance.org.uk

Web Page: <http://www.second-chance.org.uk>

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