

SECOND  CHANCE

END OF TERM REPORT!

2021



An Account Of Some Activities During The Year

The End of 2021!

I'm not sure where to start with my introduction as its been a very 'interesting' year but firstly welcome and to all those who have journeyed with us, in whatever capacity, a huge thank you for your support.

This time last year we were looking forward to a return to 'normality' through 2021 and the demise of the covid 19 virus. As it turns out neither has actually happened but we have survived. You might remember that last year I was worried that the real danger for our funding was not the year of the lockdowns but the following year of the financial returns! So it has proved, by the end of this year we might be as much as £150,000 short of last years unrestricted or core funding. That's not as bad as it might seem because of course, we have spent a lot less than we would have done had we of been able to move around at will in the country and use our facilities in Finland. Nonetheless it is a challenge and there will be some kick back on the things that we have saved on, like 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!



Cover Picture. We rather liked this photograph 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 "perfick".

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 chance at life in general.

Please do what you can to support us next year.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Douglas P. Hulme".

Doug Hulme
Chief Executive
November 2021



Our Rural Centre has taken centre stage again this year. There is something about being in the countryside and experiencing success, like catching these fish, that has a profound and positive effect on our children.

Oliver's Bike Ride

Just after we wrote our last report Oliver Ward announced he was going to cycle 500km - from The Lake District to his mums house in Southsea for Christmas Dinner! He invited people to sponsor him. Covid 19 intervened—not that Ollie caught it but the second lockdown hit just before Christmas and it transpired Portsmouth and Southsea were in tier 4 early on. Oliver couldn't travel to The Lake District nor return to Southsea. He came up with a delightful answer. He did the 500km indoors on an exercise bike combined with circuits of Portsmouth on his main bike. David, his father, was able to join him for some of the ride. Oliver decided to do the whole thing because his parents jewelry shop couldn't hold their annual fundraiser for the charity.



(See <https://www.barbaratipple.co.uk/>) 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 become failures with corresponding low expectations of life in general. Catching a fish, especially a big one, with an accompanying photo that they can share, is quite literally life changing for some of them. It is astonishing how quickly they can change their lives from a success like this and the great thing about fishing is it does not matter what gender you are, what size or age, how fit (or otherwise) you are - you can experience success. Even better from our point of view is that with various tactics we can artificially increase the chances of success without the child knowing or devaluing the experience that they have achieved something amazing. People rarely believe us when we say how fishing can change lives. Sounds trite but it isn't!



The summer season was great for catching fish in our lakes..



Some random pictures of children catching fish from our lakes—life changing for many of them.



Finland 2021...

Sadly, for the second year running, our cottage remained empty. Even when the travel bans were lifted the conditions requiring tests and inoculations and stuff made it in practicable to take the children to our beloved cottage in Finland. However at the beginning of November both The Finnish and British Governments made changes to travelling and arriving that look like it *may* be possible to once again resume visits. We are thinking of taking a single group of 7-10 boys in February 2022 to experience Finland in the winter! Providing climate change allows us we intend to show them what a Finnish winter looks like; frozen sea and minus temperatures and all the snow they can chuck at each other! Hopefully next years report will contain many photos of both winter and summer activities at our cottage. We really hope so.

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 centre. Many of you know that charities are nationally exempt 80% of their council tax bill and the local authority have the discretion to allow the further 20% as well. Working as we have done over the years with hundreds of children in their catchment area and not charging them a penny for our services we thought there would be no problem with them granting us that discretionary charge. We estimate each child we work with saves PCC around £50,000 a year. However over the past 2—3 years they have reduced that discretionary relief each year to an almost non existent situation. We have protested the unfairness of this scenario but each time it falls on deaf ears. As mentioned elsewhere we are experiencing a shortfall of about a third of our normal income this year so we wrote to them explaining that we did not have any money and asking their advice. There response was to say we had to pay anyway but they would let us pay it in 4 instalments. We were going to argue the toss on that one but before we could reply they took us to court and demanded £7,000 plus expenses!



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



continued over...

We have had to borrow money from the building fund in order to avoid a court order. We don't think that's exactly friendly for an authority that we have saved millions of pounds for over the years. It's especially unfair in that although they say they cannot afford to be discretionary we know of dozens of other charitable organisations in the city that don't get charged. Although the City Council tell us they are charging other charities we don't actually know anyone who is being charged! We house, free of charge, another charity in the city and would not dream of charging them or passing a charge on.. Do unto others and all that! Hence the headline about biting the hand that feeds it. We wonder if it would be better to pull out of Portsmouth and just transport the children we are working with to our Rural Centre where Winchester City Council honour and help us.



Second Chance House in Portsmouth. Portsmouth City Council have decided to charge us for not charging them!

House of Lords ...



We tried but... 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 needs despite our work amongst the vulnerable actually increasing as a response.

The problem with this year is that dividends and investments have not done as well as they might in normal times and the trust funds and companies that relied on the performance of these to donate to us have had diminished returns and therefore they have been unable to pass as much or anything on to our work this year. It looks like we might be as much as £150,000 down on our expected income this year. This is not disastrous because as you will see elsewhere in this news letter we have not spent as much because of the



Cheque Presentation for £509 from South East Hampshire Masons Festive Board.

pandemic. None the less it has meant budget trimming in order to survive and there are things we either wanted or needed to do that we haven't been able to (not helped of course by Portsmouth City Councils bill).

We hope as the effects of the Pandemic recede we will get back to normal next year and we can forge ahead with some new plans and activities for our children and young people.



Our Local Co-Op Stores Raised £5,415. Here is the presentation in The Highland Road store in November.

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

Dates for Your Diary 2022
House of Lords: Friday 18th March
Dever Springs Fishery:
 Wednesday 15th June
 and Sunday 2nd October



Social and Emotional Education ...

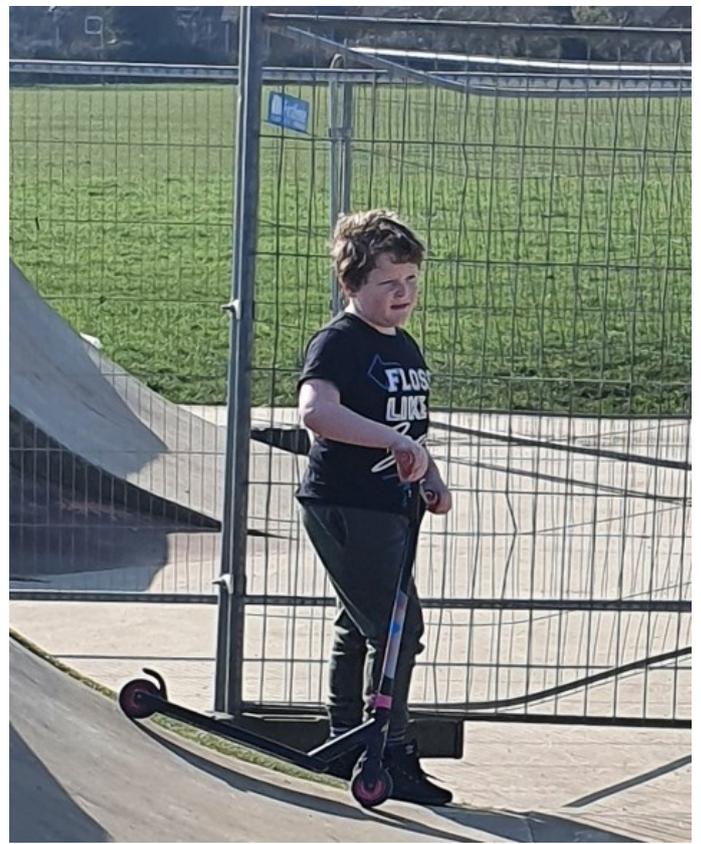
Many of our children will leave school without any meaningful qualification (indeed that is if they went to school at all). This is not to say that most of them lack any intelligence, far from it. So we aim to teach them or help them discover qualities that will make them highly employable. Social skills 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.



Team Bowling. A very popular activity, especially if it includes lunch at the alley!

Arcades are not normally thought of as 'educational' but we can afford to be a bit off the wall. It's surprising the learning experiences you can find in any activity!





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



'Slime' making!

Other Activities include...



Cooking In Our Kitchen!

Independent Living Skills are an important and forgotten art it seems!



Mini Bus ...



The pandemic has put many things on hold and again this year we are still spending undue amounts of money keeping our aged mini buses on the road.

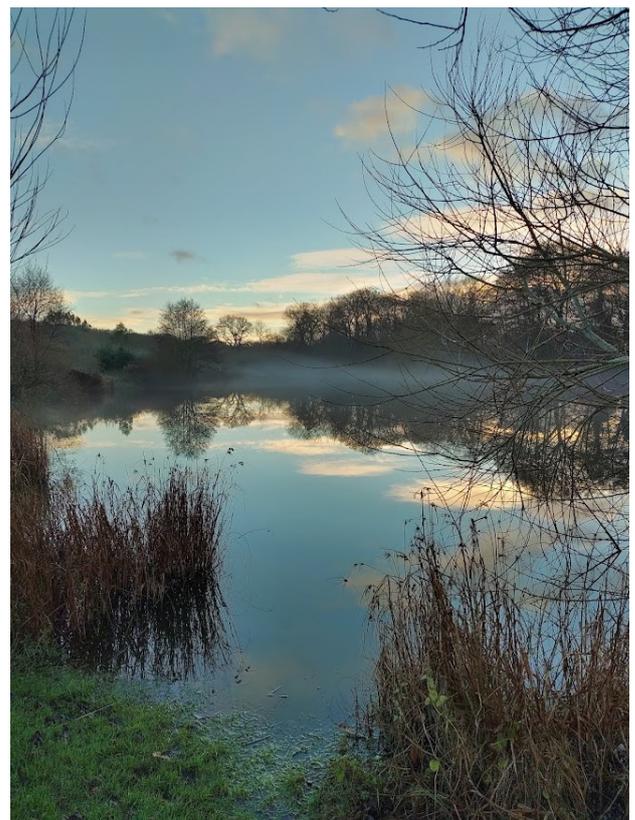
We need a sponsor to replace one or both with a low mileage second hand replacement 17 seater. Preferably a reliable Mercedes.

'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
- 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





Our flock of Wiltshire Sheep . . .
They shed their own coats so that saves one job!

The Farm ...

has continued to be an oasis for our children who mainly come from inner city areas and think cows lay cartons and chickens wear cellophane jackets.

The sheep give biological and life lessons, the chickens, cows and other animals all contribute to a valuable life experience for the young people and allow us to work on their social skills too.



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.



Alan Fleming Memorial...

Our CEO Doug Hulme was pleased to attend the memorial of Alan Fleming at Heron Lake, in October this year. This was Alans own lake in Cambridgeshire where, for many years, the charity children enjoyed fishing and camping holidays. Alan was, for many years, a founding trustee and even Chairman for a short while of the charity. His ashes were interred on an island in Heron Lake and a lovely bench with a suitable plaque was sited in his favourite spot. Rather appropriately the newest generation was the first to use it and here we see Doug's grandson Percy, the first to sit on the bench watched by Linda - Alans always supportive wife... Thank you Alan for many years of loyal and hard working service to the charity—your legacy (and you) live on in the lives of the next generation.





PGS

We built this fishing shelter next to one of our lakes this year.

Working Parties...

We rely so much on volunteers coming in and doing 'work parties' to get maintenance and new projects off the ground, often incorporating the young people too. However the Covid pandemic has robbed us of all but **one** working party this year! **Portsmouth Grammar School** brought their (at the time) Lower Sixth form to the Rural Centre. There were over 100 of them and they worked so hard, it was a real boost for our maintenance and building programme. From pulling Himalayan Balsam weeds to painting our newly built store they worked valiantly - and went a long way to making up for the inability of others to come as they would have liked. Anyone up for a working party in what must soon be a Covid free world then you would be most welcome... we will find you jobs that need doing - that's for sure!



PGS

Painting Our Store Building
With 'Creocote'



PGS

Benches Painted



PGS

Have Wheel barrows - will landscape!

Thankyou...

We hope you have enjoyed this small glimpse into some of this years activities of the charity. It is impossible to show the social work and the educational work we do with the children and their families. We don't just treat the symptoms, we hope to offer a permanent solution to all who need our help. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all who have supported financially, practically or morally. We need you all and we are so grateful to you.

Journey into 2022... Travel with us ...

A young boy with freckles is sitting on a tree branch, smiling at the camera. He is wearing a dark t-shirt with 'ROCKY' visible and dark jeans. To his left is a wooden birdhouse with a circular entrance hole. The background is a dense canopy of green leaves.

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!

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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