

Discover



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Registered Charity No.
1075837 and Company
limited by Guarantee No.
3769775 (England)

Foreword by New Director of Social Care, Dee Anand



We are delighted to welcome our new Director of Social Care, Dee Anand. Dee was previously Chief Operating Officer for Together for Mental Wellbeing and prior to this, Director of Criminal Justice for the same charity. Dee brings a wealth of experience across the charitable sector and we're very pleased to have him on board.



I am excited to be part of such a vibrant place as Chailey Heritage Foundation. I am humbled by the amazing young people who create joy and warmth around them with their daily achievements, and I am thrilled to be part of a team that helps them progress and creates a nurturing, safe and welcoming home in our residential bungalows.

Coming from a background working in health and social care, I hope to bring my experience to Chailey Heritage to ensure the lives of our young people are happy, safe and that they continue to enjoy all the wonderful experiences we can offer.

Every day I have seen colleagues working with children and young people to help them realise their potential, to never give up, and to empower them. I will live and work by these values too. It's what drew me to the organisation in the first place and I am already proud to see it in action. I will be getting to know the young people and their families as well and will harness and develop all of the amazing things that happen here.



In this month's edition of Discover magazine, we share some of the stories and news that make Chailey Heritage such an inspiring place, including a wonderful story about Henry on page 4 which explains the journey he and his family have been on since he started living full time here. You can also find out about plans for our new 'Den' at Patchwork Farm on page 6 and please do get in touch if you'd like to help. Lastly, this year we are taking a little break from the Focus 10k but offering the opportunity to our supporters to take on a new challenge: Mud Monsters! (see the back page). So for those of you who don't mind getting dirty for a great cause, please do get involved!

I am looking forward to the future, to meeting more parents and families, and working together to achieve the best for the children and young people who are the very heartbeat of the Chailey family.

Dee





Living full time at Chailey Heritage Foundation

Henry, who is 12 years old, has been coming to school at Chailey Heritage Foundation for nine years and living full time in Brambles Bungalow for the last two years. His Mum, Caroline, and Support Worker, Hannah, tell how easily Henry settled into living full time in one of the Foundation's residential bungalows, and how reassuring it is when, with amazing support, a child adapts to living away from home.



Henry certainly looks happy and is incredibly smiley and engaging, but that can sometimes mask the severity of his disabilities which include Multicystic Hydrocephalus, Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Autism, and a visual impairment. Caroline has noticed a huge improvement in his wellbeing now that he lives full time here. With his days being structured and everything being accessible on one site, Henry is less anxious and irritable as he has a routine and is very familiar with his surroundings. He loves to swim in the hydrotherapy pool, horse ride in hippotherapy classes, and drive his powered wheelchair around the site and school. His vocalisations have improved too - he is now uttering two syllable words and is able to articulate the names of his whole support team. His family can enjoy quality time with Henry, unconstrained by the significant emotional and physical challenges they faced daily when he lived at home.

Promoting independence and choice is an ambition Chailey Heritage Foundation has for every young person and each day Henry gets to choose what he wears, what he eats for breakfast, activities, and games. His Mum loves the fact that he has so much variety in his diet and has seen his appetite increase since living here full time.

With encouragement from his support team, Henry's confidence has increased too. He now enjoys regular visits to Patchwork Farm where he drives his wheelchair around the accessible pathways and loves to visit the pigs! Being extremely active, Henry enjoys time outdoors, so the on-site farm is a wonderful way to connect with animals and nature.

Hannah feels that Henry's support team have won the family's trust, knowing that Henry is in safe hands and receiving the best support and care. Caroline echoes this saying, "Visiting Henry regularly and seeing how settled and happy he is, is extremely reassuring. We feel like we are able to live life again, whereas before it felt like we were just existing. We have time to breathe, have a social life, and we have even been able to go on holiday. The staff at Chailey Heritage are amazing and we feel so blessed that he's able to live his life to the full there."



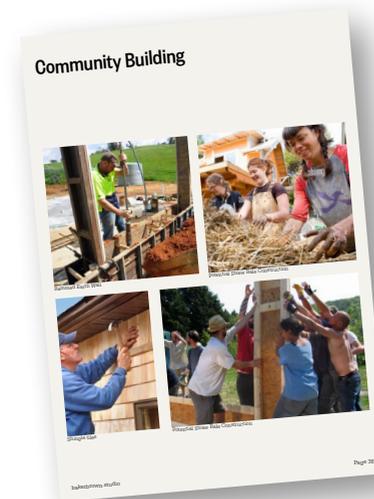
Increasing capacity and links with our community

Patchwork Farm is one of Chailey's best loved and effective Specialist Services. It gives the pupils an exceptional multi-sensory experience to help them achieve the "My Next Steps" of their personalised curriculum and provides the teachers and therapists with an incredible range of tools. Young people from Futures and the LSC also benefit from using the farm, caring for the animals and enjoying the wide range of sensory experiences.



This year, we are working on an exciting project to transform the farm with the addition of 'The Den', a unique sustainable, learning and community space, that will integrate a weatherproof classroom/activity centre with the farm and the local habitat.

Among the many benefits of The Den, the two primary impacts will be the weatherproof classroom almost doubling the number of farm sessions available to the young people at Chailey Heritage Foundation and having a facility where local schools, community groups, charities and businesses can access Patchwork Farm.



We are involving the community at every stage of the project:

- We are consulting with local stakeholders including schools, wildlife groups, other charities and visitor attractions on the design and habitat integration of the building.
- We are working with award-winning local architects, BakerBrown, to design a building which has a positive impact on the biodiversity, using sustainable local materials.
- We are choosing building techniques that will engage the local community in the construction of The Den, with opportunities for both skilled and non-skilled volunteers taking part in a "barn raising" style build.
- We are forming a volunteer team from the local community to help operate The Den once it is up and running.

The project is moving forwards, with full planning permission pending and fundraising already well underway.

Can you help?

We would love to hear from you if you would like to offer your support for this exciting project in any of the following ways:

- Fundraising to help us reach our target of £500,000 – sponsored activities, raffles, cake sales, etc. What could you do to raise funds for The Den?
- Helping with the construction phase – calling all local tradesmen, builders' merchants or anyone else happy to muck in when we get to the build!
- Volunteering - if you would be interested in a volunteering role at The Den, please let us know or click on this link: https://www.chf.org.uk/Farm_Volunteer.html

If you or anyone you know can help, please contact fundraising@chf.org.uk



World Book Day



Support for parents and carers

Many parents and carers share with us how challenging their journey can be – from navigating the day-to-day care and decisions of caring for a young person with disabilities, through to the stress of undertaking legal tribunals. One of our values is commitment – every day we strive to make a positive difference for the children, young people, and their families. Most recently we have created two new Family Liaison Worker roles, both funded by a separate linked charity, and a partnership with IPSEA, to commit to better support parents and carers every day.



New Family Liaison Worker

We are delighted to welcome Lauren Humphreys who will help to support parents and carers of any child who attends school at Chailey Heritage Foundation. The Family Liaison Worker acts as an intermediary between parents and the professionals, to advocate on their behalf, or help them to advocate for themselves. Lauren can also help parents who may not have English as their first language, or those who are not confident using a computer.

Lauren can help parents and carers in many ways, including:

- Helping new families to settle into the school
- Support at EHCP and health reviews
- Future placement planning and transition to adult services
- Help with benefits and charity applications
- Information on respite and out of school activities
- Respite support
- Continuing care and continuing healthcare
- Emotional and mental health support
- Advice on sibling support
- Signposting/ referrals to other services



Lauren will be available at the Breakfast Mornings at Chailey Heritage Foundation, giving parents and carers the opportunity to meet in a safe, non-judgemental space. Her door is always open to meet with parents and carers to listen to their concerns and provide support and advice. Her office is based in the St. Martin's department, so anyone is welcome to pop in at any time including school drop off/ pick up to say hello! Alternatively, contact **01825 724 444 (ext.204)** lauren.humphreys@chf.org.uk

We are also currently recruiting a second Family Liaison Worker whose role will be focussed on supporting families and carers through admissions, referrals and transitions as well as tribunals. We recognise that the tribunal process can be an extremely stressful and challenging time for those involved, so this role will focus on advice, guidance on the legal processes, as well as emotional support throughout the tribunal journey.

Please email the People Team on careers@chf.org.uk if you are interested in this role.

“As Mum to a child who has complex health needs and disabilities, I understand the emotional and bureaucratic challenges parents and carers face every day. I’m here to listen, support, advise and advocate on behalf of parents and carers and I’m looking forward to getting to know the families of children who come to school here.”

Lauren Humphreys



Support for parents and carers continued...



New partnership with IPSEA



We are also pleased to announce a partnership between Chailey Heritage Foundation and IPSEA to provide further support for parents and carers through two helplines which operate on a call-back basis and a call-in helpline service.

The Advice Line provides support on educational issues, home to home school transport, disability discrimination and the process for obtaining additional support for a child or young person.

The Tribunal Helpline provides next step advice on appeals and disability discrimination claims to the SEND Tribunal. The Tribunal's role is to resolve disputes between parents/young people and local authorities where they are unable to agree on the support that a child or young person with SEND requires.

IPSEA also provide a call-in service designed for people to access on the spot advice if they haven't been able to book an appointment on the Advice Line or Tribunal Helpline. All information can be accessed at <https://www.ipsea.org.uk>

Could you, or someone you know, become a Helpline Volunteer?

- All training is provided by IPSEA and volunteering takes place from your own home.
- You will provide crucial, legally based information, support, and advice to parents of children with SEND and your dedication and compassion will empower families to advocate effectively for their children's educational needs.
- Volunteering with IPSEA can count as qualifying work experience for those looking to qualify as a solicitor in the future.

<https://tinyurl.com/Ipsea-volunteer>



Join our community!

At Chailey Heritage Foundation, we've recently undergone an exciting transformation led by our newly named People Team, creating a workplace brimming with energy and optimism to attract top talent!

We're thrilled to announce that we are now an accredited UK Living Wage employer with a minimum salary of £12 per hour. This solidifies our position as one of the most competitive employers in the region. But that's not all! We've introduced a comprehensive Rewards & Benefits programme to incentivise employees to save money through discounts at a wide array of supermarkets, retailers, and travel companies. Additionally, the programme provides financial tools and advice to help employees save money, and wellness programmes for mind and body.

In our commitment to fostering a culture of open communication and continuous improvement, we've launched an Employee Forum. This platform empowers our employees to share feedback and have their voices heard, driving positive change in our work environment and culture. Additionally, our newly established Social Committee offers employees the opportunity to unwind and have fun outside of work, further enhancing our vibrant community.

Whether you're seeking a career opportunity or interested in volunteering, we invite you to explore our current vacancies and volunteer opportunities on our website!

Join us at Chailey Heritage Foundation, make a real difference to the lives of children and young people and be part of truly special.

<https://www.chf.org.uk/careers.html>



A special tribute to Ann Jones

We would like to pay this special tribute to our dear friend and Chair of the Friends of Chailey Heritage, Ann Jones. Her unexpected and untimely death following a car accident has left not only her husband, Chris, and her family in a state of shock, but also everyone at Chailey Heritage Foundation.



The Jones family has a long association with Chailey Heritage Foundation. Ann's daughter, Jo, was a pupil at the school in the 1980s, and her husband Chris was a Trustee for many years, joining the Board in 2000.

A lovely service of thanksgiving for the life of Ann was held on Monday, 29 January at St Peter's, Chailey Green, and the huge congregation, with standing room only at the back of the Church, spoke volumes about the love and esteem in which she was held. Listening to the eulogy given by Chris, Ann's husband of 57 years, the over-riding memories of those who knew her are of how she always put others before herself. Ann will be greatly missed by so many people.

The Friends of Chailey Heritage is a separate charity and supports Chailey Heritage Foundation with various projects for the children and young people including the annual Celebration Day and the Leavers' Ball.

Events timeline

- Best of British Brighton Lunch | Fri 31st May
- Mud Monsters Run – East Grinstead | Sat 22nd Jun
- Burgess Hill Community Fair | Sun 23rd Jun
- Food, Drink & Makers Festival
East Sussex National | Sat 29th Jun
- Music for a Summers' Evening
Dream Centre | Thurs 18th July
- The Show That Goes Like This – Jumbo
Ensemble Show in Dream Centre | Fri 13th
Sat 14th Sep
- Coro Nuovo Carol Concert | Thurs 5th Dec

Any queries about our events or if you are able to volunteer, please contact Joy. Dyson jdyson@chf.org.uk 01825 724752 / 07923 233195

Mud Monster

Sunday 22nd June,
East Grinstead

A muddy, fun course that will not disappoint!

Whether you choose the 7km or 14km route you will be taken on an amazing fun journey across muddy fields, through woods, washing off in water sections, navigating through mud craters, laughing your way through muddy bogs, with plenty of obstacles and many more muddy surprises along the way!

There are so many obstacles, both natural and manmade, that you never have to run or walk very far before taking on a new challenge.

People of all abilities and experience are welcome, whether you regularly participate in obstacle races or are thinking of making this your first one, come and join in the fun.



As tough as you make it!

7km £56 / 14km £66 / Kids 2km £25

Fundraising? We suggest a minimum of £50 - make getting muddy worth it!

Anyone from the age of 12+ can run and 12-15 years olds must run with an adult.

https://www.chf.org.uk/mud-monsters-24_.html



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