



Discover

ISSUE 11 | Summer 2025



Chailey
Heritage
Foundation



Dear Reader

With the longer days of spring and summer just around the corner, we're excited to share our newsletter packed with stories and news.

Our dedicated and hardworking team continues to do a brilliant job supporting the children, young people, and families in our care. As we look ahead, we feel united and motivated by the difference we can make - not only for those we support here at Chailey Heritage Foundation but for the wider disability community as well.

In the coming years, we will remain committed to delivering outstanding services to the young people and their families (and are proud of recently maintaining our Ofsted Outstanding rating for our school). At the same time, as part of our new strategy to increase our reach and impact, we aim to expand access to these services sustainably to reach more children, young people, and families who need help and support.

We understand that living with complex disabilities can be overwhelming and isolating. That's why we are dedicated to ensuring that no one is left behind - building a thriving community of support that extends beyond our doors.

By sharing our knowledge and expertise, and collaborating with other organisations, we can create a powerful ripple effect for the wider disability community. We are already making

progress, working closely with our colleagues in NHS Clinical Services and welcoming the Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity to our site. This partnership enables even more children to access life-changing services.

We are also committed to being a 'voice for change' - raising awareness of the challenges faced by children, young people, and their families. By amplifying their experiences, we can encourage key decision-makers, including policymakers, to better consider their needs when making crucial decisions about funding, commissioning, and local services.

At the heart of our Foundation lies a deep belief in generosity and inclusion. No one should suffer or be left in the dark. In the months and years ahead, we hope to create a lasting positive impact - not just for those we directly support, but for many others beyond our premises.

With thanks and best wishes,

Gareth Germer
CEO



4



8



10



13



15



Contents

Siblings' Day
page 4

Barn Raising the Den
page 6

Moments of Celebration
page 8

A Bright Start at Futures!
page 10

Run to Change Lives
page 12

Concerts at CHF
page 13

Update on Sustainability
page 14

Community Support
page 15

London Marathon
page 16



Siblings' Day

One of the new, exciting family offerings we've introduced as part of our commitment to increase our reach and impact is Siblings' Day, dedicated to the brothers and sisters of young people at Chailey Heritage Foundation. It's a chance for them to let loose, have fun, and connect with others who understand their unique experiences.

Jess, one of our managers, who has recently trained with Sibs, the charity for siblings of those with disabilities says, "Siblings of children with disabilities often have a different experience of childhood, growing up in a world where much of the focus is on their brother or sister. That's why we've created this day so they can have time to be themselves, make friends, and enjoy some well-deserved fun."

Our first Siblings' Day in February welcomed 16 children, from primary to secondary school age. The fun began with a lively parachute game in the Dream Centre for the primary age siblings, while the secondary aged siblings took part in an art

session where they created vibrant masking tape paintings to take home. Then came the highlight - an all-in game of Laser Tag!

After working up an appetite, Domino's pizzas were a massive hit at lunch, giving the children a chance to relax and chat.

Lauren Humphreys, Family Liaison Worker, says,

"We built in plenty of downtime so the children could bond naturally. Meeting another sibling who just 'gets it,' without needing to explain can be incredibly liberating."



The afternoon saw more fun, with football and hula hooping in the riding area. Then came a special visit from Reptylerz, bringing along an amazing collection of animals including a skunk, a tarantula and a giant snake that stretched across the classroom floor!

The day was a huge success, one parent fed back - "Thanks so much for yesterday's sibling event. My child had a great time and has been full of stories about what an amazing day it was. He loved every activity and Domino's pizza was the cherry on top! Greatly appreciated, thanks so much."

Jess and Lauren reflect, "We wanted siblings to have pure fun and we did just that! It's about building confidence, friendships, and trust. If they ever need to talk, they'll know we're here for them."



A big thank you to the team of CHF colleagues from across the foundation who kindly gave their time to facilitate brilliant activities and join in the fun.

We are excited about developing and expanding our family services offer.

Watch this space!



We wanted siblings to have pure fun and we did just that!



Building The Bradbury Den, with the community, for the community...

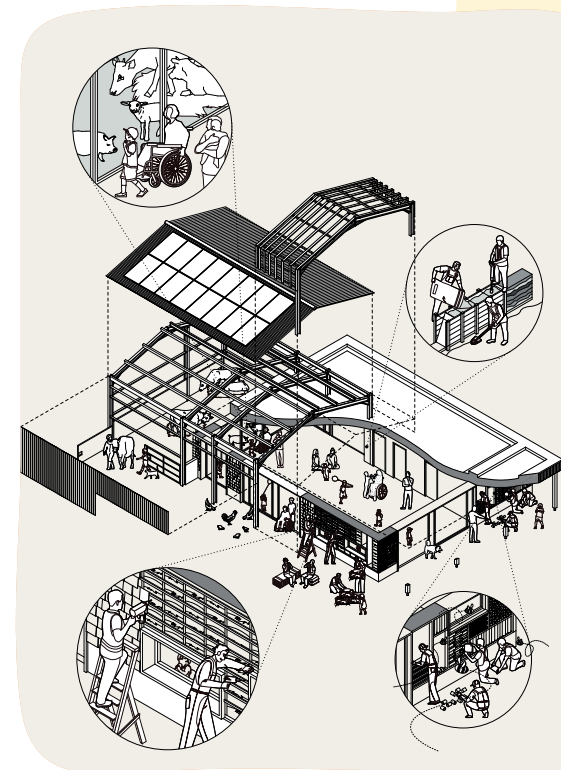


Patchwork Farm is a well-used and much-loved facility at Chailey Heritage Foundation, created as one of the specialist services which helps the children and young people supported by the charity to achieve their next steps in education, communication, physical therapies and wellbeing. The farm was also conceived as a wonderful opportunity to engage with the wider community through farm visits, volunteering and work experience.

Everyone at Chailey is excited that we are now embarking on the next stage of the farm's evolution by creating a unique learning and community space, called "The Bradbury Den." This sustainably designed, low-carbon facility will be built using locally sourced materials and provide a year-round resource for both the young people at Chailey and our community. It will maximise the positive impact that spending time with the animals and plants on the farm has for all of us.

We have already consulted with a range of community and wildlife stakeholders on the design of the building, which will include a huge habitat wall, straw bale construction, a rammed chalk wall and a green roof that will mirror the grass meadows of the South Downs.

As we move into the construction phase of the project, we will be continuing to ask our community to get stuck in. The Den building process will involve "Barn Raising" style opportunities for local groups and individuals who fundraise for us to roll up their sleeves and assist with elements such as the straw bale insulation, wooden shingles and the rammed chalk wall.



Once the building is complete the Den will:

- ★ weave indoor and outdoor spaces together, bringing the local habitat into the building and connecting directly with the existing barn
- ★ reduce the number of timetabled farm sessions the children and young people at Chailey miss due to the weather, which is up to 50% in winter months
- ★ provide a unique community resource for local schools, charities, community groups, businesses and even for children's birthday parties.



Help us "Barn Raise" The Bradbury Den!

You can help us create this amazing, sustainable and habitat-friendly resource. Visit fundraising@chf.org.uk to find out how you can get involved and make a real difference for the children and young people at Chailey Heritage Foundation.



Moments of Celebration





These trips help young people connect with peers and staff while sharing fun moments, like takeaway evenings. Dom's mum praises the team at Futures:

"CHF has far exceeded our expectations. The staff are fantastic - when Dom could no longer use a standing frame, they immediately arranged for him to try a standing sling, which he loves because he can move around."

Dom lives with several complex health conditions, including Myofascial Pain Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Global Development Delay, a visual impairment, seizure disorder, and Sleep Apnoea. Yet, he approaches life with enthusiasm, always finding joy and connection in every experience.

Dom has made many friends and attended the Futures Winter Ball, enjoying the disco and looking sharp in his party attire. Amy, his activities coordinator, says, "He's a real social butterfly who brings humour and joy to every moment."

His family say knowing Dom is happy has given them peace of mind. "We are so confident in his care that we even holidayed abroad, which wouldn't have been possible without the Futures team."

His journey at Futures began with a sunny welcome party attended by family, friends and support staff in the garden of Nightingale Bungalow, where he now lives. Dom has quickly immersed himself in the wide range of activities available at Futures and the Leisure and Skills Centre (LSC) including gym sessions, swimming, cooking, art, music, yoga, sensory activities, and rebound therapy. His support team reflect, "It's such an achievement to see him so happy and relaxed so soon after joining Futures."

Dom has enjoyed a residential trip to London, visiting a Winter Wonderland, the zoo, and an immersive art experience.



A Bright Start at Futures for Dom

Dom, a lively and outgoing 22-year-old, joined Futures, our residential provision/service for young adults at Chailey Heritage Foundation last summer after attending Treloar's College. His mum recalls, "When Dom left Treloar's, there wasn't anything suitable nearby. Then I learned about Futures, and I knew it would be the perfect stepping stone into the wider world for him."



We are thrilled to see Dom flourishing at Futures and look forward to his continued journey!



Changing lives together – one run at a time!



James Cocks, father of Edward, who comes to school here, is taking on the North Dorset Village Marathon this Summer to raise money for Chailey Heritage Foundation.

“Our son Edward has been with CHF for almost 10 years, and the charity has had an incredibly positive impact on his development and quality of life. We’ve seen first-hand the incredible things the staff across the organisation achieve with the children every day.

Edward will be leaving Chailey this year and I wanted to do something to acknowledge this and to say thank you.”

Inspired by James?

Why not take on your own challenge for Chailey Heritage Foundation?

Running is a fantastic way to achieve a personal goal while having a positive impact on the lives of children and young people at CHF.

We have spaces in the following runs -

- ★ The Big Half 2025
- ★ Mud Monsters – June 2025
- ★ Brighton Marathon 2026
- ★ Some highly sought-after places in the London Marathon 2026!

To sign up or find out more about our running events head to www.chf.org.uk/runningchallenges.html or email fundraising@chf.org.uk



Concerts at Chailey Heritage Foundation

We have some exciting musical performances coming up, so grab your tickets to enjoy the show!



Book now before they sell out!



Maytime Melodies

Thursday 15th May, 7pm



The talented trio from Coro Nuovo voices are returning to St Martin’s Chapel to perform an evening of Maytime Melodies.

They will be performing popular pieces from the likes of Gilbert and Sullivan, opera classics and some favourites from musical theatre.

Join us for a lovely, Spring evening of music. Tickets include a glass of prosecco available here



Jumbo Ensemble – ‘You Raise Me Up’

Friday 12th September, 7pm

Saturday 13th September, 2pm & 7pm

Following last year’s fantastic show, Jumbo Ensemble are back for their third year in The Dream Centre at Chailey Heritage Foundation. Featuring favourites from well-loved musicals, their shows never disappoint!

There are two evening shows and a relaxed Saturday matinee performance. There is a licensed bar and a fundraising raffle.

All funds raised will support the children and young people at Chailey Heritage Foundation.



Get your tickets here

Host your own fundraising concert!



Did you know that St Martin’s Chapel and The Dream Centre are available to host your own fundraising concert or event?

If you’re interested in using one of these incredible spaces, please get in touch fundraising@chf.org.uk

Brighter Days Ahead



– our commitment to sustainability



We're taking a big step toward a greener future!

As part of our sustainability journey, we've installed 520 shiny new solar panels across our site. Each panel is a little powerhouse, capable of generating up to 440 watts of clean, renewable energy.

On a sunny day, this system could produce over 200kW of electricity - that's a lot of sunshine working in our favour! Over the course of a year, we expect these panels to generate around 220,000 kWh, which is about the same amount of electricity used by 82 UK households.

Even better, this means we'll be cutting down CO² emissions by 43 tonnes a year - equivalent to taking 21 cars off the road - great news for the future of the young people here and for the environment!



Volunteer with us!



Volunteering is a fulfilling way to give back, learn new skills, make friends, and boost your well-being.

With flexible roles to match different interests and schedules, there's something for everyone -whether it's caring for farm animals for an afternoon or cheering on marathon runners. Every contribution makes a difference!

Take the first step today and reach out to Sharon Attfield-Davis, our Volunteer Coordinator, and find the perfect opportunity for you.

volunteering@chf.org.uk



Community Support



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mark Dickinson for generously volunteering his time and skills to create 12 therapy benches, and to Cheyne Charity for funding them.

These specially designed benches provide vital physiotherapy benefits, helping to strengthen core muscles, promote better posture, and improve spine health for children and young people.

Mark, an army veteran, was inspired to start making therapy equipment after witnessing the high cost of essential items for his granddaughter, Nathalene, who has cerebral palsy. Determined to make a difference, he founded Katnat Disabled Equipment, charging only for materials to ensure affordability.

Last month, Mark visited Chailey to test a prototype, and Seymour pupil Louis eagerly volunteered as the first to try it out! His mum, Jody Bishop, shared: "It's so nice to see Louis with some freedom and not strapped into his wheelchair. The physical benefits he gets from using the therapy bench are so important for his health, comfort, and wellbeing every day."

Following this visit, Mark made custom modifications to ensure the benches are truly bespoke - something that would not have been possible with off-the-shelf alternatives.



Mark reflected:
"Chailey is an amazing place, and I felt so inspired being part of the children's journey—I smiled all the way home."

We are always seeking volunteers and support from the community.

Please contact fundraising@chf.org.uk if you can help



Only 4 spaces, apply now!



Dreaming of running the London Marathon?

Chailey Heritage Foundation is fortunate to have 4 spaces in the 2026 London Marathon !

Apply now for your chance to run the London Marathon and help change the lives of children and young people at Chailey Heritage Foundation.



Changing lives together – one run at a time!

Chailey Heritage Foundation
Haywards Heath Road, North Chailey, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 4EF
t: 01825 724444 e: office@chf.org.uk www.chf.org.uk



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

