



TRANSFORMING
YOUNG LIVES
SINCE 1922

IMPACT REPORT 2019



INSIDE:

Thousands of lives impacted through The Rock UK Bursary Fund

Trainee instructors tell their stories

Improving our facilities

THE ROCK UK BURSARY FUND

We are **immensely grateful** to our supporters who donate into our Bursary Fund. In recent years we have received generous grants from Trusts, donations from individual supporters and gifts from schools taking part in Rock UK fundraising events.

■ ***More than one in four children in the UK are growing up in poverty. Poverty impacts education, childhood and life-chances.*** ■

- cpag.org.uk

For many children the prospect of being left behind from a trip to Rock UK is real. Parents can find themselves having to choose between paying for a school trip, buying food, or paying an essential utility bill.

Through the kindness of our supporters, children who otherwise might not have been able to afford a trip to Rock UK, have been given the chance to enjoy adventurous fun in the great outdoors with their friends.



When a young person receives a bursary, we ask their group leader to let us know what difference it has made to the life of that young person. Sometimes we hear from the children and parents too. Each story tells us how a child's life has been transformed through the bursary fund. **Your support really is making a difference** in the lives of disadvantaged young people.

Thank you.



Here are just a few of those stories which we have received over the past few months. The Bursary Fund is such a blessing to families in need.



“ I really wanted my child to go on the residential trip and I was trying to get the money together but it was also my youngest son's birthday and I had promised him a cake. I thought the only way I could do both things was to not eat for a while, but the bursary meant that things didn't ever get that bad. I'm so grateful. ”

Parent of a child who received a bursary award.

“ The residential trip gave Anna and Billie respite from their home situation and an opportunity to be worry-free children for the duration of the trip. It was clearly visible how both children relaxed and rested during the trip, but also improved their rapport with other students and staff and had opportunities to talk to the staff about their dreams and their future. ”

Beata Watson, Insights School.

* names have been changed to protect the identity of the children.

Thank you for giving children, worried at missing out on a residential trip, the chance to enjoy adventurous fun in the great outdoors with their friends.

THE ROCK UK INSTRUCTOR TRAINING PROGRAMME



We are passionate about providing an excellent outdoor adventure programme run by instructors who uphold our ethos and values. We have made this happen through our Instructor Training Programme (ITP). Since 2011, **this programme has helped over 130 young people** gain qualifications in outdoor adventure activities. The course offers a good mix of faith, learning and adventure over one or two years.

New Beginnings

In September 2018 **Sarah started at Rock UK as a trainee instructor**. She wrote a blog to tell friends and family how her life has changed during the first few months at Whithaugh Park. **Sarah wanted to share her story with you too**, you can read an excerpt from her blog on the next page.





Now several months into my training, I can see that Rock UK has changed me. Yes, I have learnt new skills and met people who have shaped me but the changes go much deeper than that, I have come out the other side a different girl: I believe in myself again. I have honestly had the time of my life and have never been happier.

I am so grateful to my friends, family and my church, who pray for me and support the work of Rock UK. Their love and encouragement keeps me inspired. Thank you.



Sarah Goodman, Trainee Instructor (2018-2020)



Thank you for providing our trainees with the chance to learn new skills, grow in confidence and strengthen their faith in God.



JEZ PARKER

Jez, aged 20 from Kent, is a second year trainee instructor having joined Rock UK in September 2017.

Whilst at Rock UK, Jez's friends and family have **supported, prayed and encouraged** him throughout his training. They too have seen Jez benefit from the Instructor Training Programme at Rock UK.

“ *We are so grateful for all that Rock UK do for both the trainees and for groups that visit. We have watched Jez develop into a strong Christian man, over time. We are so glad that he chose Rock UK for his gap years, it has given him a much firmer footing for going on to University.* ”

Brian and Sheila, Grandparents of Jez Parker, Trainee Instructor (2017-2019)





Jez took time-out from his busy schedule at Carrotty Wood to tell us more about the impact of Rock UK on his life.

How has this experience changed you?

Before joining I thought I was a fairly confident guy, but over the last year I've come out of my shell when I didn't even realise I had a shell! I have become more confident in working with children and young people, public speaking and in my walk with God.

What was the best part?

I thoroughly enjoyed the amount of **amazing new opportunities** we've been given. We've learnt so many new outdoor activities from archery to kayaking. If I had to choose one, it would be learning to abseil.

What are you planning to do when you finish the programme?

I am going to university to study primary education to be a teacher. Something that I feel working at Rock UK has greatly equipped me to do. After two years of teaching in the outdoors, I hope I can bring that same enthusiasm, energy and excitement to the classroom.



How has the programme helped you in your faith?

It's not only the physical training that we focused on but the spiritual training as well. **We all witnessed God move amongst each other and within ourselves.**

THE PROVISION OF EXCELLENT FACILITIES

SUMMIT CENTRE

After years of planning, praying and preparing for the redevelopment of our centre in South Wales, in May 2018 we finally **welcomed our first residential group** from Priory Church Primary School, Brecon.

Since that first residential visit in 2018 we have enjoyed welcoming hundreds of guests through the doors of Summit Centre, including HRH The Prince of Wales!



At Summit Centre we can now offer ensuite accommodation for 104 guests, bedrooms equipped to support visitors with disabilities, a large dining room, meeting rooms, café and a fun outdoor children's play area to complement our existing climbing centre.

We are delighted to have the support of **Welsh Government**, who **invested £2.3m** into Summit Centre's development through the EU funded Tourism Attractor Destination programme, as well as financial support from the Ffos y Fran Community Fund, the Big Lottery Fund People and Places Programme and various Trusts and individuals from across the private sector.

"We are thankful to our funders who, through their generosity, enabled the redevelopment of this site into a smart, first class climbing and activity centre. Every day we see young people overcome fears and learn new skills."

Rachel Allen, Centre Director



UNDEB EYROPEAIDD
EUROPEAN UNION



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**Cronfa Datblygu
Rhanbarthol Ewrop
European Regional
Development Fund**



FRONTIER CENTRE

If you've got a head for heights then the new, 12m high, state-of-the-art, adrenalin-filled **Aerial Adventure course**, which **opens autumn 2019** at the centre, is just for you! The Aerial Adventure course includes high ropes, abseil tower, abseil slope, wheel-chair hoist for less-abled participants, climbing wall, twin zip wire and several thrilling team building challenges.



We are really excited at the opportunities this new inclusive facility is creating at Frontier Centre for all our participants. Young people and people young at heart will have the chance to build their confidence, learn better communication skills and overcome fears, plus much more.



**Rich Sewell,
Centre Director**



ARTIST IMPRESSION



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:

Europe investing in rural areas



This project has received generous funding from the **Rural Development Programme for England, Peter Harrison Foundation and the Northamptonshire Community Foundation.**

WHITHAUGH PARK

We continue to improve and make plans to develop Whithaugh Park, our residential centre situated in the unspoilt landscape of the Scottish Borders countryside.

In the future **we have planning permission to build 15 new fully ensuite guest lodges, four new communal day lodges and two new staff lodges** on our scenic site! This ambitious vision will develop a centre to meet the needs of the next generation. We seek God's provision for the funds to complete this project which is **expected to cost around £6.5m**. We are very excited about the plans and cannot wait to get started on it all!

In the meantime, it is business as usual for our team at Whithaugh Park as they seek to bring life-changing outdoor adventure to young people visiting the centre.



ARTIST IMPRESSION OF NEW DEVELOPMENT



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“ *Just recently we were thrilled to receive a grant towards the replacement of our Sports Hall floor, from the National Lottery Community Fund. We are keen to provide excellent facilities for our visitors and for those living in the local community. This new floor will be a blessing to our local youth, who will now have a safe, warm and dry place to meet and play team games during the darker, colder and wetter months of the year.* ”

Lee Musson, Centre Director



CARROTY WOOD

Our Carroty Wood centre, situated in the heart of the Garden of England (near Tonbridge, Kent) continues to bless visitors with lots of opportunities for outdoor adventures.

Church groups, families and school groups visit Carroty Wood throughout the year. **Your support helps us** to manage our 58 acres of woodland and maintain our facilities, which include residential accommodation, outdoor adventure facilities and a heated indoor swimming pool.

“ *Living in London many of the young people in our group rarely leave the inner city and several of our young people live in small flats in big council estates. Thank you for making the camp such an incredible place - it is a small piece of paradise - for our children and teens it is a place where they come and find Jesus.* ”

**Jo West, Children's and Youth Leader,
New Life Church North London**



Your generosity makes it possible for existing facilities to be updated and new facilities to be planned for the future. Thank you.

Our newly appointed Centre Director, Linden Sanders says:

“ *We have a beautiful site and some great facilities here at Carroty Wood. I am looking forward to meeting visitors and supporters over the coming months, to understand how Rock UK impacts their lives and to learn how we can develop our site to ensure we continue to meet the needs of our visitors in the future. We must be good stewards of all that God has given to us.* ”

HOLIDAY CLUBS

We have welcomed hundreds of children into our holiday clubs, providing them with adventurous fun in the great outdoors and a chance to explore stories in the Bible. Here, young people can make new friends, meet up with old ones whilst trying out a wide range of outdoor activities at our centres. Our holiday clubs create a fantastic opportunity to share God's love with hundreds of young people. **We are grateful to God for the wonderful facilities at Rock UK, which provide such great backdrops for our holiday clubs.**



“ It has been the best week of their summer holiday - our three children will certainly be coming back. ”

Sarah and Richard

FINISHED WITH YOUR COPY?

Pass it onto a family member or friend to enjoy and invite them to sign up here to learn more about Rock UK: rockuk.org/support-us

We love keeping in touch with you, but if you would like to change how you hear from us, simply write to us or email supportus@rockuk.org

FRONTIER CENTRE

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

01933 654120

SUMMIT CENTRE

SOUTH WALES

01443 710090

WHITHAUGH PARK

SCOTTISH BORDERS

013873 75394

CARROT Y WOOD

KENT

01732 361361



CREATING
CONFIDENT KIDS
SINCE 1922