

SEND A CHILD TO HUCKLOW

How to condense into a few words 57 years of Send a Child to Hucklow?

Set in the village of Great Hucklow is the Nightingale Centre. Built in 1931 the current building replaced a Men's home built after 1918 as a memorial to those who had died and, as a convalescent home for injured service-men. The new building also provided better accommodation than the wooden and corrugated iron hut which was the original holiday-home for children from the inner cities of Manchester and Sheffield, established in 1900 by two Unitarian Ministers.

By the 1950's the original purpose of the home had declined but in 1961 my father, Reverend Peter Godfrey and another Unitarian Minister, the late Reverend Glyn Preece, wrote a letter to the national Unitarian magazine, the Inquirer, to raise funds to provide holidays once more for needy children from the cities. The first appeal raised £61! In 1962 the first holidays were provided by the new charity Send a Child to Hucklow.

Fast forward 57 years, the charity is still providing much needed breaks for children from towns and cities throughout the country. Children who would otherwise not have a holiday are given an opportunity to explore the beautiful Peak District, transported to various local activities by Andrews Coaches of Tideswell, who have been involved since the beginning.

It costs £350 to provide a holiday for one child. In recent years the fund has been providing around 12



holidays a year for groups of up to 25 children at a time. The children come from schools and youth/community groups and the Centre provides a welcoming base from which they can participate in all sorts of local activities, as well as having fun at the Centre and enjoying plenty of hearty food. Some

children are not used to more than one meal a day. Still in this day and age there are some children who never get to see a cow in a field!

The experience is best summed up by the children themselves. "I love that we had lots of adventures and we got time for playing". "The cable cars were scary

at first..." "even if the weather's bad the rooms are lovely".

The leaders feed back that the children make memories and the experiences they have and things that they see have such an impact on their lives.

*Sarah Benfield
Chair of the Trustees*

"FORGOTTEN VILLAGE FINDS ITS VOICE"