



Vranch House

Annual Report & Accounts 2010 - 2011



Vranch House

School, Clinical Centre and Registered Office:
Pinhoe Road, Exeter, EX4 8AD
Telephone: 01392 468333 Fax: 01392 463818
www.vranchhouse.org

Officers & Principal Staff 2010 - 2011

Board of the Society

Chairman: Mr Andrew Barge
Vice Chairman: Mr Clive Rendle
Mr S Torlot
Mr A J Griffin
Mrs C Tailford
Mrs A Ballman
Dr G Humphreys⁺
Col G Wheeler⁺⁺
Mrs J Morgan
Mrs S Mathieson
Mrs J Tolman-May
Mr D Barnes
Miss P Hale
Mrs J Parsons⁺
Mr M Richards

⁺Ex Officio Members
⁺⁺Secretary

The persons listed above, less the ex-officio members, were the appointed Trustees and Directors of the Society for the 2010 - 2011 Financial Year

Board of Governors

Chairman: Mr. Andrew Barge
Vice Chairman: Mr Clive Rendle
Secretary: Col G Wheeler

Dr G Humphreys⁺⁺
Mrs J Parsons⁺
Mrs M Wood
Mrs J Tolman-May^{..}
Mrs R Parsons

^{..}Staff Representative
^{..}Parent Governors
⁺ Head Teacher
⁺⁺ Head of Therapy

Management Committee

Chairman: Mr Andrew Barge
June Parsons⁺
Col G Wheeler
Dr G Humphreys

Principal Staff

Chief Executive Colonel G F Wheeler MPhil., CGIA
Head Teacher June Parsons BA (Hons.) PGCE
Head of Therapy
Dr G Humphreys D.PT, MSc., MCSP

Consulting Physicians

Dr H Curtis MBBS MD FRCPCH
Consultant Paediatrician
Dr R C Smith MB BS MRCP DRCOG MRCPCH
Consultant Community Paediatrician
Mr P J A Cox MS FRCS (Orth) FRCS (Ed)
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
Dr R J Tomlinson BMed Sci BMBS MRCP MRCPCH
Consultant Paediatrician
Dr M W Quinn MD FRCPCH DCH
Consultant Paediatrician

Orthotist

Mr Jamie Pegg
Exeter Mobility Centre

Vranch House School and Centre is:
Registered under the Charities Act 1960
Registered number 1002700

A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered Number 2599511

Vranch House School is:
An Independent School approved
under the Education Act 1981

Front cover pictures:
Left to Right

Bethany - Class 2
Alex - Class 1
Leah - Class 1

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT to the 2011 AGM

This is my sixth report to an Annual General Meeting as Chairman of the Society. It's my pleasure, once more, to report that the charity and the work for which it is responsible for delivering continues to flourish in what are still very difficult times economically and amid an ever changing and shrinking public sector landscape. Indeed this year has been another monumental and indeed historic year in the history of the charity and Vranth House. This year has seen the 50th anniversary of the society and dare I say we have never been in such good health, as an organisation, as we are today. As in previous years the school and clinical centre continue to maintain their excellence in all that they do in delivering the services that our public authority partners procure from us. Indeed I am pleased to say that in these uncertain times it is testament to all that is good about the charity that we have been asked to take on even greater service delivery in the past year in the areas of specialist wheelchair assessment and provision and Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

As we know, in the period since the economic downturn in 2008 Vranth House could quite easily have been lost to the community if we had not been seen as a centre of excellence in both education and clinical care for disabled children throughout Devon. To still be here and indeed taking on new work is indeed a remarkable achievement. An achievement in which you have all played a part and I thank you most sincerely for that.

Of course to celebrate our Golden anniversary we could have quite easily held a gala event to celebrate fifty years of success. That though would have been far too easy for us here at Vranth House!

This time last year when the building of the new Children's Specialist Assessment Centre was well under way I said how this project would give us the opportunity to secure our future as a provider of first rate clinical care to disabled children in the area, so it was an opportunity we could not give up. However, this most complex of projects stretched the capacity of staff at Vranth House in a way that they have probably never experienced in their time here. The majority of the burden has fallen on the Chief Executive and it's clear to me that without his energy, excellent project management skills, diligence and foresight this centre would not have been built. My sincere thanks and congratulations go to him, his senior management team and administration staff who have all supported him with their usual enthusiasm allowing him and ultimately the charity to successfully deliver this fantastic new facility.

So it was very fitting that on our 50th anniversary the close relationship between Honeylands and Vranth House has resulted in this wonderful new building.

The new Honeylands could not have happened without the extraordinary partnership between the charitable and statutory sectors. Without the amazing generosity of Hutchison Whampoa, the Honeylands League of Friends, Lady Gillian Ford and the fundraisers, donors and project team from Vranth House there would be no building.

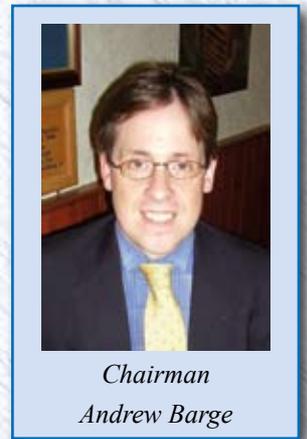
Without our statutory partners in NHS Devon, Devon County Council and the Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Trust there would not have been a project, and so we are grateful to have had the opportunity of working with them.

As I said in my speech at the official opening, the building, however magnificent, is still just a theatre for our main actors and they are the staffs of Honeylands and Vranth House and the children and families this entire campus is here to serve. They are right in the centre of the stage.

Of course we cannot ignore the current economic conditions; I've been warning of that for over three years now but we really are living through extraordinary political and economic turmoil and we are not immune to those challenges. We should not forget that we have staff working for us who in effect have taken a pay cut due to the 0% settlement from both our health and education partners for the last three years when we see rising prices in the cost of living. As I said last year, I can assure them that we deeply value their fantastic loyalty to Vranth House and the management team will continue to do everything they can to reward that loyalty and dedication. As I say every year, our ability to provide excellent services with a high value for money to the taxpayer will become ever more important. I remain, as always, confident that Vranth House will respond to that challenge.

As I finish my report, to the AGM, I am reflecting on its contents and getting a sense of déjà vu! I always seem to be able to report another fantastic year for the charity! I always say that I cannot promise the next year will be as positive. Perhaps next year will be quieter, but then again, here at Vranth House we like to challenge ourselves in the belief that only if you challenge yourself to do better will you ever improve. Well, I believe, even given the current constraints it is perfectly possible for us to gather here again in twelve months time to celebrate a successful fifty-first year!

Andrew Barge
Chairman



Chairman
Andrew Barge

Report of the Directors and Trustees for the year ending 31st of March 2011

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The organisation is a Charity limited by guarantee (Registered Number 2599511), incorporated on the 9th of April 1991, and an independent charity (Registered Number 1002700) registered with the Charity Commission on the 15th of May 1991. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Instrument of Management. Any person over the age of 18 can become a member of the charity on payment of an annual fee of £2 (for those not in work) or £5 (for those in employment). There are currently 79 members each of whom are liable to the extent of their membership fee in the event of the company being wound up. All members have the right to vote at General Meetings.

Appointment of Trustees

The number of Trustees can be set at any General Meeting but has never varied from a mean of 12 between the minimum of 8 and maximum of 16 stated in the Governing Document. Invitations to nominate Trustees are circulated every year to the membership and the senior one-third of the Trustees must resign and seek re-election every year at the Annual General Meeting. The senior officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer) are elected every year and the Chief Executive acts as Company Secretary. Employees of the charity may be members of the charity and the three senior employees are ex officio members of the Board of Trustees but no employee is entitled to vote at any meeting of the Trustees. The Executive Committee of the charity is known as the Board of the Society and the Board may co-opt any member of the charity to fill a specialist role.

Trustee Induction & Training

Trustees are briefed frequently on their obligations under charity and company law, the structure of the charity and its operating procedures as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association and in those changes in statute which bear directly on the work of the charity (principally legislation in the areas of Education and Health). A briefing document has been prepared alongside a more formal induction and training process. Trustees are usually appointed because of specialist skills but the charity will meet any identified need for specialist training.

Organisation

The Board of the Society has strategic oversight of the charity and meets three times a year. The Board establishes all policy for the general direction and operation of the charity and meets to review those policies and to hear a record of operations. The Board employs a Chief Executive to work with a Head Teacher and Head of Therapy to oversee, direct and drive forward the Board's policies for the School and the Clinic (the principal operations of the charity). The Chief Executive has delegated powers for the day-to-day operation of the Board's policies for employment, finance, contracts, legal compliance (including Equal Opportunities), buildings and acquisitions, risk assessment and mitigation, Health and Safety and business development. To assist the Head Teacher and meet statutory obligations for maintained schools, the Board has established a Board of Governors for the school. The Board of Governors has direct control of those matters bearing on the delivery of educational services; matters relating to finance, employment and resources, if not within the competence of the Governors, are referred to the Board of Trustees. The Head of Therapy is responsible to the Trustees for the full delivery of the clinical contract which includes professional and service delivery standards. In this she is assisted by the Chief Executive who retains direct control of all matters relating to the contract.

Related Parties

The Society has formal and informal arrangements and relationships with many other statutory and voluntary bodies. Principal amongst these is the Service Level Agreement with NHS Devon for the provision of NHS clinical services in Devon. The Society also has a formal relationship with the County Council Local Education Authority which allows for the assessment of potential pupils, the formulation and issue of Statements of Special Educational Needs, the placement of pupils, the review of pupil development, the delivery of clinical services and for fixed funding.

The network of national and local charities and voluntary bodies is too complex and numerous to describe adequately but the Society retains active links with DreamAway, Whizz Kids, Children in Need, CEDA, A Brighter Tomorrow, Exeter Stroke Club and the Norman Family Trust. A similar network of local groups and individuals continues to assist the Society in raising funds for children at Vranth House and this incredibly generous and loyal support provides a much-needed and indispensable resource. The charity has also forged close links with Honeylands League of Friends for reasons more fully described

elsewhere in this report. It is worth noting that the children at Vranth House School raise money each year for other charities which have included Comic Relief and the Royal British Legion.

Risk Management

As a normal part of the annual business cycle the Society reviews its Risk Assessments. These include financial management, accounting, security of cash and removable assets, insurances, fire and Health & Safety. The outcome of these assessments is reported to the Trustees by the Chief Executive. The Health and Safety and Fire Risk Assessments are translated into operating policies which are available to all employees. Employees at every level are encouraged to contribute to the continuous business of risk assessment through the Staff Meetings held every month.

Objectives and Activities

The charity's objects and principal activities continue to be those of:

- i Promoting and providing facilities for the care, education, training, treatment and welfare in their respective aspects of handicapped people.
- ii Advising, helping or catering for the needs of the parents or others having the care of handicapped people.

The core activities arising from these aims are the education of children with physical difficulties from the age of 2 to 12 at Vranth House School and the provision of paediatric therapy and clinical treatment to children as outpatients at locations throughout Devon. The charity has also developed Opportunity Technology, a not-for-profit service which designs and installs assisted mobility tracks and robotic vehicles throughout England and Wales.

Public Benefit – General Statement

The Trustees have established a policy to review continuously all the charity's activities and the development of services to ensure that they remain consonant with the requirements of the 2006 Charities Act, and particularly with Section 4 of the Act, (the need to demonstrate Public Benefit). The charity operates in partnership with statutory bodies under guidance from the Office for the Third Sector in order to provide expertise, treatment and enhanced services to children with physical disabilities. It does not charge fees but receives about 70% of the total cost of the services it provides from NHS Devon and Devon County Council. Referrals to the service are made by Local Authorities and all referrals are seen for assessment and the majority of assessed referrals are retained for treatment or given a place in the school. The referral process, whether as a therapy outpatient or potential school pupil, is not controlled by the charity but by NHS Devon and Devon County Council. A school placement or therapy intervention might be deemed inappropriate at the assessment stage but only for reasons that are cogent, demonstrable and compliant with benchmarked national practice. The charity is as public a body as its statutory partners and enters into no private arrangements for individual treatment. No member of the public is denied the services provided by the charity provided those services are assessed to be suitable and appropriate for the individual concerned.

Public Benefit - Aims and Strategies

In order to direct the activities of the charity in such a way that Public Benefit can be identified clearly, the Trustees have set out the following Aims and Strategies;

- **School Aim** The school is to be organised, equipped, staffed, managed and operated to the highest national standards.
 - **Strategy to Achieve Aim** The Governing Body will monitor the established Continuous Improvement Programme and the School Audit Cycle with the intention of maintaining the OFSTED grading of "outstanding" achieved in 2006 and 2009.
- **Clinic Aim** The charity's clinical activities are to be organised, equipped, staffed, managed and operated to the highest national standards.
 - **Strategy to Achieve Aim** The Trustees will monitor clinical operations with the intention of maintaining its unbroken record of meeting the targets set by the NHS and for satisfying its clients. To do this, the Trustees will use tools such as reports and standards set by the National Service Framework and quality audits conducted in alliance with our statutory partners.
- **Financial Performance Aim** The charity's financial affairs are to be conducted to the highest levels of public probity and according to the policies and procedures established for service and capital development consistent with the need to demonstrate Public Benefit.
 - **Strategy to Achieve Aim** The Trustees will consider financial Performance Indicators, other financial records and Risk Assessments at all their meetings to ensure that all our financial processes meet the requirements of both the Statements of Recommended Practice of the Charity Commission and Companies House. They will look at the record of expenditure to ensure that public monies are used exclusively for the Public Benefit.

Public Benefit - Achievements and Performance

The Trustees are pleased to note that the record of operations for the year under review complied with the aims and strategies set out by the Board and in all

respects have exceeded expectations. The Trustees approved an investment program for the year that provided for the construction of the new Specialist Children's Assessment Centre to replace the old NHS Honeylands (estimated at a total project cost of £1.8m including purchase of the freehold). An additional allowance was set aside for normal maintenance and some improvement of the main Vranth House building but the investment plan also aimed at developing a surplus for the following year.

Service delivery remained at the same levels as the preceding 7 years with an average of 26 children on the school roll and over 1,100 children on the clinical list. The uptake on provided services has been very encouraging, with growth in every area of activity and, particularly, out-reach work and training courses provided as part of our new funding arrangement for the school. The tenants of the old residential hostel at Hill Barton House are now holding over on a concluded three year lease. This is acceptable to the Trustees because it offers the charity maximum flexibility for the generation of either capital or revenue income.

The multi-disciplinary Inclusion Advisory Service continues to make a substantial and remarkable difference to the inclusion of Vranth House Pupils into mainstream schools. This service provides advice and support to receiving mainstream schools and programs of extensive training to mainstream school staff, much of which will be tailored to the specific needs of the individual child. The rate of Inclusion of Vranth House School children into mainstream schools at over 80% is the best in the country. No charge to the Authority is made for this service.

The Trustees are pleased to report the effectiveness of the charity's ongoing and significant investment in Continuous Professional Development for its staff. All the teachers are engaged in programmes leading to Master's degrees and the school is one of a very few in the country in which all its Teaching Assistants are either already qualified or training to qualify to at least GQAL Grade 3.

Optech, a non-profit making service run by the charity which designs, manufactures and installs guided mobility equipment throughout England and Wales, had its best year in 2008. The recession has contracted the education and domestic markets and activity levels have been challenging. Nevertheless, around 50% of the operating costs are being recovered through maintenance activity and some new installations.

Plans for Future Periods

The charity has operated its clinical services under a contract with the NHS for the provision of paediatric therapies in the community and this contract, is now holding over pending the negotiation of a unified contract jointly funded by Devon County Council and NHS Devon. The Memorandum of Agreement which framed the charity's service and financial arrangements with the Local Education Authority is holding over pending the same re-negotiation. The planned date for the inception of this new Service Led Agreement is now September 2011.

The charity continues to establish benchmarks in clinical and educational practice in order to meet its goal of not just meeting but exceeding service delivery standards. Preparations for the new OFSTED regime continue and the work of the NHS Heads of Professions Team – in which our Head of Therapy plays a leading role as the lead Physiotherapist for the NHS in Devon – informs the continuous development of our clinical services. The charity has been involved in the combined agency review of the local Children's Development Centre and this has led to a re-validation of centre-based expertise, novel methods for delivering this expertise into the community and new, far more integrated, ways of working.

The charity has been invited to extend its strategic partnership with the Commissioners for Children's Services (NHS Devon and Devon County Council) by funding and building a new Specialist Child Assessment Centre. This has involved the negotiation of two leases; one to regularise the status of Vranth House within its present boundaries on land transferred from the NHS to the ownership of the Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust and the other to extend that lease to incorporate development land for the new build (both leases are for 99 years and were agreed from the 27th of September 2010). Planning permission was obtained in May 2010 and the building was largely complete by the end of the period under review (31 March 2011). Finishing works, including landscaping and the repair and adoption of the hydrotherapy pool are scheduled to be complete by the end of July 2011.

The new combined contract will incorporate a range of existing and some new services. It will be drafted to permit future development to match the strategic aim of widening the range and increasing the availability of the services provided by the charity so that they encompass the whole of Devon.

The onset of the present recession and its effect on investment in public services will have an effect on this charity. The Trustees have established a conservative policy for future capital spend and for the revenue development of all the charity services. Whilst our statutory partners are actively engaged in establishing new ways of delivering services, in which this charity will play a significant part, there will be a need for retrenchment and for adopting new methods of working in order to sustain current activity levels at less cost.

Financial Review

The Statement of Financial Activities shows total income for the year ending the 31st of March 2011 of £2,006,039 (£1,255,887 in 2010). The Society's Net Current Assets stand at £764,574 (a reduction of £101,073 on the total of £865,647 for 2010 caused by the drawn-down for the build being out of phase with the funding tranches). £737,112 of the Total Funds is in Restricted Funds of which the largest part, some £667,000, is capital funding used for the build. The Society has tangible Fixed Assets of £1,653,464 (£791,118 in 2010) and Total Funds Employed of £2,418,038 (£1,656,765 in 2010). £475,000 of the Fixed Assets is the market valuation of Hill Barton House as of March 2009. Although the accounts show net Incoming Resources of £761,273 (-£7,423 in 2010) £667,000 of this figure is from a single donor for the new Assessment Centre. With the Restricted Funds discounted as spent, the Society made a cash surplus in the year of £94,273.

Important transactions in the year include the contract income of £721,598 from NHS Devon in respect of the outpatient and clinical work. Total income from charitable (not contracted) and all other sources was £138,133, (excluding the £667,000 donation mentioned above), compared with a total of £143,166 in 2010. The income from school fees developed much as predicted to a sum of £479,308 compared with £435,342 in the preceding year.

The Trustees are content that all expenditure made in the accounting period met with the Public Benefit aims and strategies as set out in an earlier section of this report.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have established a liquid reserves policy so that it is consonant with the revenue interests of a service charity. By setting the development of liquid reserves to the equivalent of annual operating costs, revenue will be developed from interest which will enable further development in our services. The forecast level of funding is such that an operating surplus is expected for the current year and the maintained reserve is such to provide a cushion in the event that either of the largest sources of income is threatened. The current recession and unprecedented low interest rates have proved the wisdom of establishing and maintaining this policy.

Investment Policy

The Memorandum and Articles provide the Trustees with the power to make investments as they choose but consonant with current Charity Commission advice. The charity's cash assets are spread between the Business Reserve and two Mutual Society investment accounts in accord with the stated policy of low-risk diversity.

Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- (a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- (b) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- (c) prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In accordance with Company Law and as the Company's Directors, we certify that:

- So far as we are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- As the Directors of the Company we have taken all the steps that we are required to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Compliance

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small company regime Section 419(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

Auditors

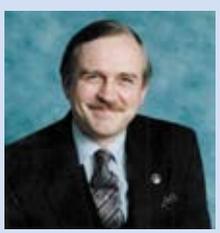
A resolution proposing Kirk Hills to be re-appointed as auditors of the Charity will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

Approval

This report was approved by the Board of the Society (the Board of Directors and Trustees) on the 8th of November 2011 and signed on its behalf.

A Barge
Chairman

November 2011



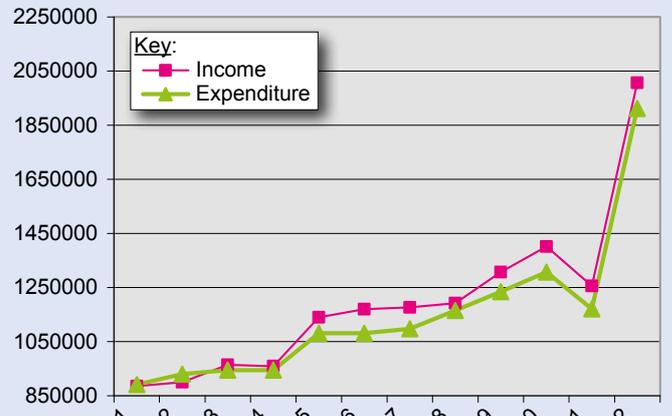
Colonel Wheeler,
Chief Executive
Joined 1993

Chief Executive's Report Financial Information

Financial Information abstracted from the Audited Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2011

The figures used in this article are taken from the Auditor's Report for the 2010 - 2011 Financial Year. The headline financial news is included in the report of the Directors and Trustees but the following financial information is worth high lighting:

- Income rose from £1,255,887 to £2,006,039 as a result of our fund-raising for the new Specialist Children's Assessment Centre project which commenced in July 2010 (£667,000 from a single donor and £83,000 from other sources). Debtors increased from £34,162 in 2009-2010 to £135,352 but much of this results from pre-payments generated by the building project.
- Net Current Assets decreased by £101,073 to £764,574 because the draw-down for the build is out-of-phase with the funding tranches, the last of which will not be received until the 2012-2013 Financial Year.
- Tangible Fixed Assets rose to £1,653,464 from £791,118 in the preceding year and Total Funds Employed rose from £1,656,765 to £2,418,038 in the same period.
- With all Restricted Funds discounted as spent, the Society made a net cash surplus over the year of £94,273. This will be used to part-fund the completion of the new building next year.
- We have maintained the high number of pupils in the school and outpatients seen by the clinic whilst continuing



Notes: The Auditor's Report for 2010/11 is available on request at a cost of £2.00 per copy but may be viewed at no cost but by prior arrangement at Vranth House or on the Charity Commission website at www.charitycommission.gov.uk.

investment in the buildings at Vranth House and in the Inclusion and IT services.

The Trustees agreed a programme of capital investments for the Financial Year which provided for continuing maintenance of the Vranth House estate and for the completion of the New Honeylands building. This project once completed will cost £1.8m but purchase of the freehold title of the site will mean that for the first time in the 50 years of its work, the Society will enjoy the asset value of all the buildings on the Vranth House site.

Future Plans

The charity's strategic objective for the next five years is to establish, embody and develop a new partnership with Devon County Council and NHS Devon. The immediate objective is to complete the construction of a brand new £1.8m Specialist Children's Assessment Centre to replace the old Honeylands (by June 2011) and to purchase the freehold title to the land on which this development and

Vranth House sit (by April 2012). In the interim we will complete negotiations on leases and licenses with the Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust to facilitate the new build. Negotiations with NHS Devon and Devon County Council on a new unified contract for all Vranth House services continues

with a target inception date of April 2011. This work is not simply a matter of establishing a contract for existing services but seeks to incorporate some significant future developments in our voluntary/statutory partnership.

Graeme Wheeler
Chief Executive

Profit & Loss Account

ELEMENT	2011	2010	2009
Gross Income	2006039	1255887	1401871
Gross Expenditure	1911766	1170598	1262089
Cash Gain/Loss for the Year	94273	85289	64782

Summary of Key Financial Ratios

Debtors as a percentage of	2011	2010	2009	2008
Funds employed:	5.60%	2%	4%	3.85%
Creditors as a Percentage of:				
Current Assets	17.16%	5.50%	4%	2.90%
As a Percentage of Total Assets (Funds Employed):				
Profit / Loss for the Year	3.90%	5%	4%	4.53%
Administration Costs	4.90%	2.50%	3%	3.25%
Profit if no elective spend	34.38%	9%	14%	6.35%

Notes: 1. The recommended methods for calculating Administrative Costs changed in 2005.

Headteacher's Annual Report



Jane Parsons
Head Teacher
Joined 2004

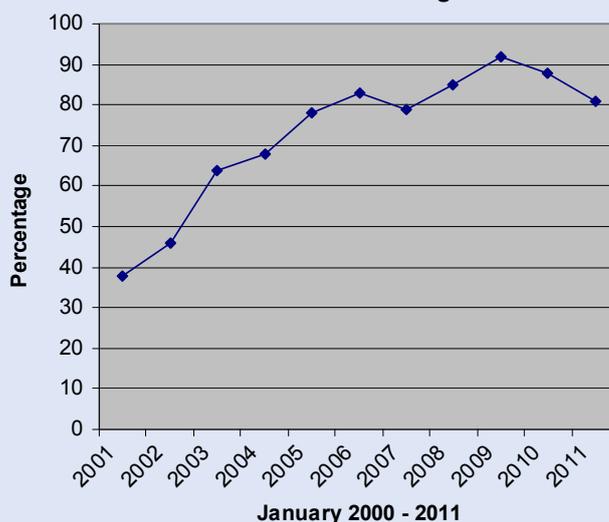
Academic Year:
September 2010
to July 2011

1) What have been our successes this year?

- The implementation of a Targeted Curriculum, designed to meet the needs of all children within school. This targeted curriculum has been carefully planned to meet a wide range of needs and abilities and continues to be further refined and developed as necessary.

- The continuing development of skills when working with children with profound and complex physical and learning difficulties. This has been achieved through training days and also via training within the school day which has included adults and children learning together.
- The school has raised funds for the Feed the Children Charity, and Breakthrough Breast Cancer Awareness.
- Via donations we have been able to fund new music equipment for our music therapist, a Soundbeam, (thanks to Music Gym Ltd. where we purchased the Soundbeam system) and a bubble tube for our sensory room.
- Preparations have begun to move our sensory room into our old resources room. Plans have been made and funding has been sourced to allow work to begin.
- The school council continues to generate ideas for improvements which include requests for more toys and minibus drivers, so the children can go on more school visits.
- Links continue between the charity Whizz-Kidz and ourselves, which has included football skills and powered wheelchair skills workshops.
- We continue to work successfully with Exeter University, Exeter College and other Special Schools in Devon to develop early years child development students and teacher training links.
- Our teachers and teaching assistants continue to pursue their professional development via a range of training and courses, in addition to our regular INSET days.
- Preparation for the introduction of a MIS (management information system) within school, to assist with administrative tasks, streamline assessment, report and IEP writing and provide support for the collection of data throughout school.
- Preparation for the introduction of MERLIN a learning platform for use by pupils at Vranth House and also in their mainstream schools. A platform that can be accessed by teachers, pupils and parents at home or either school. MERLIN is provided by SWGfL (south west grids for

Percentage of Pupils Included in Mainstream Settings



Eighty-one percent of pupils were included in mainstream schools on shared placements in January 2011. This is a slight decrease on last year's figure of eight-eight percent and this is due to the nineteen percent of pupils in school, who are not attending mainstream school at all at present, due to their profound and complex needs.

learning) a non-profit making charity which provides advice to schools on safe internet and ICT access for children.

- Class 3 children went sailing in specially adapted sailing dinghys in Teignmouth with the Even Keel Project – “empowering individuals to conquer their dream”.

2) What are we trying to improve?

Whole School Priorities for 2011 – 2012

- Develop ICT confidence and expertise across school for information, assessment and recording purposes and for providing improved ICT access for children in school
- Investigate, develop and incorporate approaches to raising the self-esteem of children within school
- Audit switch adapted and sensor toys within school and create database of products with additional guidance for adults regarding how to make best use of them for individual children. Create a list of future requirements for the purchase of suitable switch adapted and sensor toys
- Audit existing opportunities for outdoor play and explore and identify equipment and requirements to further enhance outdoor area and the playroom

3) How much progress do pupils make?

Pupils at Vranth House School make good progress when their baseline achievements are taken into account. The following section describes the results for Foundation, Key Stage 1 and 2 assessment during 2010/11. The results are compared to targets set two years previously.

	PSED			CLL				PSRN			KUW	PD	CD	Tot
	DA	SD	ED	LCT	LSL	R	W	NLC	C	SSM				
Pupil A	1	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8
Pupil B	1	2	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	10

KEY: PSED; Personal Social & Emotional Development (DA; Dispositions & Attitudes, SD; Social Development, ED; Emotional Development) CLL; Communication Language & Literacy (LCT; Language for Communication & Thinking, LSL; Linking Sounds & Letters, R; Reading, W; Writing) PSRN; Problem Solving Reasoning & Numeracy (NLC; Numbers as Labels & for Counting, C; Calculating, SSM; Shape, Space & Measures) KUW (Knowledge & Understanding of the World) PD (Physical Development) CD (Creative Development)

Review of Targets set for Key Stage 1 Assessment for Year 2010/11

Targets were set for four key stage 1 children for the academic year 2008/2009. These are shown in the table left. Since 2009/2010 two of these children have moved on to full time mainstream placements. The targets set for the two remaining children were to achieve P6-P8 for English, Maths and Science. Both children achieved this target for English and Maths. One child achieved this target for Science and one was only 1 P Level below the set target.

Future Target for Key Stage 1 Assessment for year 2012/2013

The target is based on EYFS assessment supported by data from PIVATS, Durham and teacher assessments for the three pupils who took part in EYFS in 2010/2011.

These targets represent at least one level of progress and they are considered to be challenging. It is anticipated that two of these children will remain at Vranck House School, although one or more may be in a shared placement with a mainstream setting. The third child will have moved to full-time mainstream placement before 2012/13.

Targets set in 2008/9		Target (number of children at level)						
Total Children: 3		*P1/3	P4/5	P6/8	L1	L2	L3	Total
English	2010/11	0	0	3	1	0	0	4
Mathematics	2010/11	0	0	1	3	0	0	4
Science	2010/11	0	0	2	2	0	0	4

*P levels – working towards Level 1

Total Children: 3	P1	P2	P3	P4/8	L1c	L1b	L1a	Total
English 2012								
S&L Listening	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
S&L Speaking	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
Reading	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
Writing	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
Mathematics 2012								
Using & applying	0	2	0	0	0	1		3
Number	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
Shape, space & m.	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
Science 2012								
	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3

*P levels – working towards Level 1

Key Stage 2

There were zero pupils in Year 6 for Year 2010/2011

Review of Targets set for Key Stage 2 Assessment for Year 2012/13

There were six Year 4 pupils in 2010/11. Targets are based on PIVATS, Durham and teacher assessments in July 2010.

These targets represent at least one level of progress and are considered to be challenging.

Total Children: 62	P1/3	P4/5	P6/8	L1	L2	L3	Total
English 2012							
S&L Listening	1	0	4	1	0	0	6
S&L Speaking	1	2	3	0	0	0	6
Reading	1	2	2	1	0	0	6
Writing	3	1	2	0	0	0	6
Mathematics 2012							
Using & applying	1	1	4	0	0	0	6
Number	1	1	3	1	0	0	6
Shape, space & m.	1	2	3	0	0	0	6
Science 2012							
	1	1	4	0	0	0	6

*P levels – working towards Level 1

4) How have our results changed over time?

At Key Stage 1 pupils achieve a range of scores from P Levels through working towards, and up to Level 1.

At Key Stage 2 there has been an overall decline in the levels achieved. This is because pupils who achieve higher levels at Key Stage 1, have by year 6, often been fully included in their local mainstream schools. The remaining Key Stage 2 children have been typically working at P levels or Level 1.

5) How are we making sure that every child gets teaching to meet their individual needs?

- Individual IEPs linked to statement of special educational needs and annual review, with a focus on personalised learning, individual needs and life skills development.
- Formative and summative assessment including: Pre-entry assessment, Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum profiles, assessment for learning Key Stage 1 and 2 assessment, annual assessment of National Curriculum and P Scale levels, annual school report, annual and interim review reports.
- Annual monitoring of pupil progress using PIVATS data analysis and Durham data analysis.
- Moderation of individual pupil assessment, including links with mainstream schools.
- Regular meetings between staff to ensure children's needs are met.

- Targeted curriculum.
- Visits from Educational Psychologist and LA Advisory Teachers.
- Personal Education Plans for children with additional and complex medical or physical needs.
- Music therapy.

6) What have pupils told us about the school, and what have we done as a result?

- Pupils enjoying activities, such as school discos, repeated at both ends of a week, to ensure that the maximum number of children can be involved.
- Pupils have enjoyed the interactive displays in the corridors and we are continuing to develop an interesting indoor environment.
- Pupils have the choice of school meals or bringing packed lunches.
- There is a school council through which pupils have an opportunity to contribute towards ideas and decisions. For example the school council chooses the Christmas Play each year and helps to plan the Christmas Party.
- School Council Members take turns to show visitors around school.
- We have been encouraging pupil voice across the school community.

7) How do we make sure our pupils are safe and well-supported?

- School nurse on duty at all times.
- Good levels of staffing.
- Audit aim to improve PSHE support and raise the self-esteem of the children.
- Pupils are encouraged to let staff know if they have any problems.
- Regular clinics held at school: paediatric, orthopaedic, orthoptic, audiology and wheelchair clinics.
- Children's diets monitored.
- Effective links between home, respite, transport and shared placements to ensure up to date knowledge on dietary, behavioural, medical or communication needs are shared.
- Effective induction of new staff.
- Provision of healthy snacks at break times.
- Good standard of moving and handling, including regular updates and training.
- Comprehensive health and safety policy with regular premises checks.
- Closed circuit security cameras outside the building.
- Good security procedures – registration of visitors, car parking permits.
- Regular fire drills.
- High levels of investment in buildings and equipment and regular maintenance.
- Safeguarding policies in place and a high level of staff awareness.
- Regular child protection updates.
- Liaison with mainstream schools regarding issues such as attainment, moderation and attendance.
- Secure boundaries around school.
- Visitors to school informed re policy on use of mobile phones in school.
- Monthly support staff meetings to raise concerns or issues.
- A Staff Governor who provides an easily accessible link between staff and management. The Staff Governor represents the views of everyone at support and governors meetings.

8) How do our absence rates compare with other schools?

- Total number of pupils of compulsory school age on roll for at least one session - 19.
- Percentage of pupil sessions (half days) missed through authorised absence – 9.5% and through unauthorised absence – 0.0 %.

The authorised absence figure is higher than for the previous year (5.1% authorised and 0.1 unauthorised). This reflects the complex medical needs of some pupils and represents a second year of increase. The overall absence rate for pupils (excluding one child with severe and complex health needs, who attends for a reduced timetable) is 5.5%. This figure compares more favourably with those given by DFE for special schools i.e. 8.58% authorised absence and 2.14% unauthorised absence. (National Statistics published March 2010).

9) What activities are available to pupils?

- Broad and balanced curriculum.
- Music therapy sessions for individual children.
- Outdoor nature trail and classroom including tracker mobility device.
- ICT – children individually assessed and given full access to ICT with fully accessible Learning Resource Centre.
- Swimming / hydrotherapy.
- P.E. and Swimming badges/certificates (as appropriate).
- Holiday wheelchair workshops and swimming groups
- Range of educational visits off-site e.g. Northcott Theatre, St George V Inclusive Playpark, Odeon Cinema, Donkey Sanctuary
- Links with Whizz-Kidz Charity
- Lunch play activity groups – attended through pupil choice

10) How are we working with parents and the community?

- Parent representative on the Governors.
- Signing and moving and handling courses and Therapy Open Weeks.
- In school training opportunities and workshops to encourage parents to try out equipment and ask the experts for advice.
- Wheelchair workshops during holidays.
- Therapy sessions provided during holidays.
- Fund raising activities for charities by the children including Feed The Children and Breast Cancer Awareness.
- Christmas Fayre.
- Student placements from local colleges and universities.
- Sailing in Teignmouth.
- Arts week with Devon Guild of Craftsmen.
- Visits to and from West Town Farm, Ide, to ride in specially made chariots.
- Support from local businesses and associations e.g. Visit from a local vet who brought along a colleague and her dog for the disabled
- Parents and families invited to school events e.g. school play, Easter Bonnet parade, Achievement Awards assembly, Harvest Festival.

11) What do our pupils do after leaving this school?

Most of the pupils continue their placements in their mainstream partner schools, if they move to full inclusion before Secondary age. Some pupils go on to secondary mainstream or special schools depending on what is the most appropriate provision for the child's individual needs.

12) What have we done in response to Ofsted?

Extracts from Ofsted report in May 2009: Green print is additional for 2010. Blue print is additional for 2011.

'Vranch House School provides an outstanding quality of education.'

'Teachers, therapists and support assistants form a very strong team and create a very strong team and create an extremely caring environment where pupils are encouraged to try their best.'

'Pupils make outstanding progress and their personal development is outstanding.'

'Excellent Early Years Foundation Stage provision'.

What the school could do to improve further?

- Ensure that the timetable for pupils on part-time placements includes sufficient balance between subjects.
 - *New school/school/home diaries have been established, timetables and IEPs are shared. The inclusion service maintains regular liaison between both schools. **Paying particular attention to writing skills development whilst maintaining reading, and numeracy.***
- Make pupils' targets more precise to enable small steps in learning to be recorded.
 - *Training in writing SMART targets, close liaison between education, therapy and medical staff, sharing targets with pupils.*
 - Provision mapping of staffing levels linked to individual pupil targets for curriculum and independent living skills acquisition*
- Make better use of the outdoor space to promote learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage.
 - *Improve provision for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties by staff and pupils undergoing Soundabout training and implementing a sensory curriculum at regular intervals as appropriate.*
 - Implement new policy regarding children with exceptional additional medical needs, necessitating periods of time absent from school to ensure links are maintained and children are supported educationally, socially and physically. To include regular liaison with parents/carers and a personal education plan.*

Beverley Simcox - School Secretary - Joined 1988



Yet another year has flown by and during that time we have seen some changes to the staff as some very long serving colleagues have retired. We wish those retirees a long and happy retirement and hope that all the new staff joining us will enjoy working at Vbranch and remain with us to become equally long serving members of staff.

Five children left the school at the end of the summer term to transfer full-time to mainstream or other special schools. It has been great getting to know them all and to see the children progress throughout their time in the school and I wish them all well in their new settings and in due course look forward to hearing news of how they are getting on.

Once again staff and the Family Network combined to organise another successful Christmas Fayre in December 2011 and a big thank you is extended to all the organisers and helpers for making it a very successful event and to all the children and their families who were able to come and support it. It was great that the new sensory room was open for parents to see on the day thanks to the hard work of our technical staff who pulled out all the stops to get the room finished in time.

Since joining the school in 1988 I have seen many improvements not only to the services offered at the Centre but also to the fabric of the building and site itself. Of the latter the most dramatic has been the completion early last summer of the new Vbranch House building which the Honeylands Children's Assessment Centre now occupies. The completion of this building and associated ground works has transformed the whole site and if you have not visited Vbranch House for some time you will certainly see a big difference.

Finally a warm welcome to all the new children, their families and staff members who have joined the school during the year – I am enjoying getting to know you all.



Millie has fun in the pool

Sue Phillips - Finance Officer - Joined 1992

I started work at Vbranch House School in 1992 and have held various positions within the school. In 2003 I became the Finance Officer. I am responsible for all the daily financial functions, salaries and record keeping of the school.



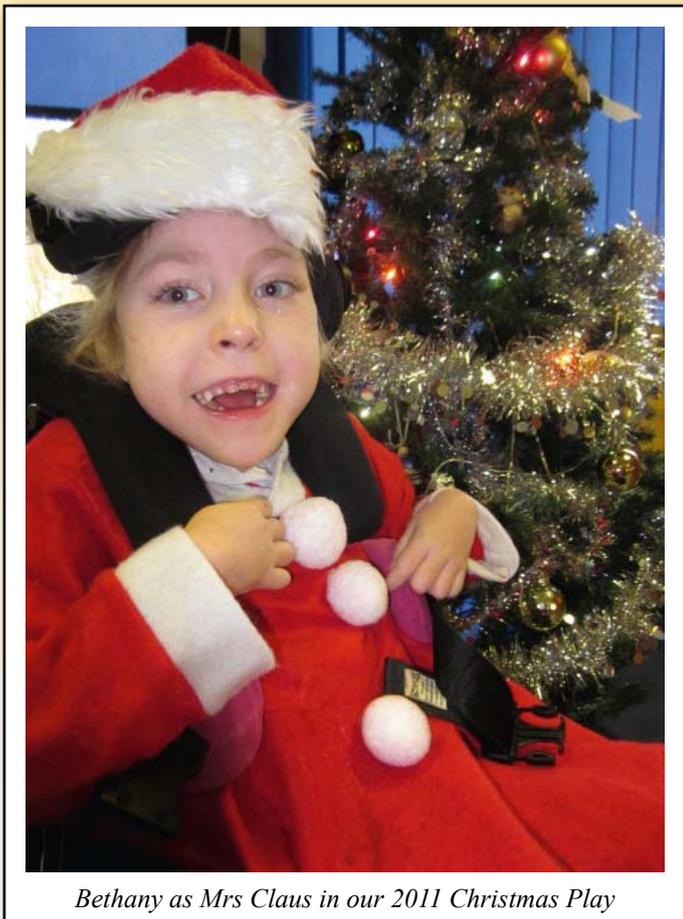
I enjoy my work but I also enjoy working in an environment where there is always something going on, it may be listening to the children singing or laughing whilst they are having a therapy session or it could be watching their delight as they take part in a school play. Whatever is happening you can guarantee each day will be different and that's a good thing.

Tracey Ward - Receptionist/Secretary - Joined April 2005



I can't believe that I have been working here for 7 years - I honestly don't know where the time has gone!

Some of the children that started around the same time I did have now left Vbranch House to either attend mainstream on a full-time basis or High School. It has been lovely to see these children grow and mature over the years and I look forward to their visits when they come into Vbranch House for Paediatric Clinics.



Bethany as Mrs Claus in our 2011 Christmas Play



Maximus nurtures a plant

Having spent some time volunteering at Vranh House, I was very excited last year to be joining the school as Class 1 teacher. I have really enjoyed the past year, being able to use my Early Years teaching experience and gaining new insight and knowledge into working with children with varying needs. This year I have started my Masters in Learning Disabilities - Severe, Profound and Complex and I am hoping this will give me new ideas to use with the children.

The children in Class 1 are always happy and determined to succeed. They make my job very rewarding and enjoyable. I am looking forward to all the future challenges the children and Vranh House may offer!



Michelle Woodgates
Teacher ~ Class 1
Joined 2010



Alex on a tractor

**Tammy Brown - Teaching & Lunchtime Assistant -
Joined 2008**

I have been a staff member at Vranh House since 2008 and find it a really rewarding place to work. I love working in Class 1 and especially enjoy welcoming the children into school on their first day and watching and helping them to settle in, develop and then see them progress through the school.



I feel very lucky to work with great children and staff and enjoy being part of Vranh House's workforce.

**Helen House - Teaching & Lunchtime Assistant -
Joined 2004**

I work with the other staff helping the children reach their full potential in their learning, social and personal skills. I also help with some of the physiotherapy swimming sessions.



Each day is varied and brings something new. The children are great to work with and are full of fun.

**Sandra Selley
Teaching Assistant
Joined 2007**

I started working here at Vranh House as a lunch-time assistant and I am now happily working full time as a teaching assistant. It's the children that make my job enjoyable and rewarding and I look forward to coming into work.



Joshua explores outdoors



Poppy in her Easter Bonnet



Deborah Down (Dee)
Teacher ~ Class 2
Joined 2002

I have been working at Vranck House since 2002. Up until July 2010 I worked as the nursery teacher in class 1 working with children during the Early Years Foundation Stage. Previous to that I worked in a mainstream playgroup and I have also had 10 years experience of working for the NHS in a care role. I now work as a teacher in class 2 and I am enjoying my new challenge of working with an older age group and delivering a different curriculum to that of the early years. I thoroughly enjoy working at Vranck House and being amongst a great multi-disciplinary team. Every day is different here at Vranck House and seeing the bright and cheery faces of our pupils and their determination to succeed is not only an inspiration to me but to all who visit our school.



Debbie Prout
Teaching Assistant - Joined 1991

Although I have worked at Vranck House since 1991 and seen a lot of changes, the one thing that has remained constant is the children. They continue to delight and surprise me with their achievements. I believe that in this job we never stop learning. I feel very privileged to play a part in that process.

Ronnie Parsons
Teaching Assistant - Joined 1995

Since I joined Vranck the school has seen many changes. The positive difference in each child however, can be subtle to dramatic but always wonderful to see. I have always felt very privileged to be part of that process. Personally I find it very rewarding being part of such a caring and intuitive team.



Joel and Bethany meet a horse from Ide Farm



Joshua celebrating Sports Day

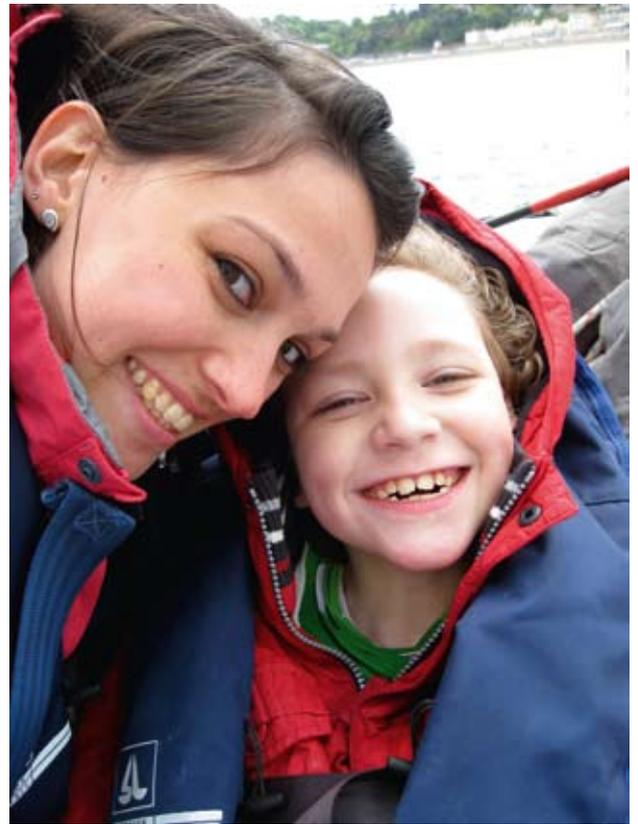


Ronnie, Debbie and Dee as Christmas Elves



Chloe Bond
Teacher - Class 3
Joined 2011

Prior to joining Vranth House as the Class 3 teacher I had been teaching supply at mainstream schools in and around Exeter and also had experience working with children in special school settings. I have a strong interest in PE and sport and look forward to getting to know all the children and staff.



Chloe and Brody have fun sailing

Julie Lobb Teaching Assistant - Joined 2005



I started at Vranth House School in 2005 as a lunchtime assistant. I have worked in all three classes, swimming and being in the crèche. In September 2010 I commenced in class 3 as a teaching assistant which I am really enjoying, everyday is a new experience and I have learnt so much already.

Carol Crabtree - Teaching Assistant - Joined 1985



I have worked at Vranth House for 25 years and have been part of its steady evolution from a good school to a fantastic one. This development has not always been easy – change often brings feelings of insecurity and confusion – but throughout this long period of growth and maturation, one constant has remained – the children. They have provided the motivation for all our achievements as a school, and have given me personally a huge amount of joy. I would not wish to be anywhere else.

Chelsea Armstrong - Lunchtime Assistant - Joined 2010



I first came to Vranth House to do work experience during my studies. After completing my diploma in childcare, learning and development, I started volunteering as I enjoyed it so much. I now work everyday as a lunchtime assistant and also one day a week as a teaching assistant.



Amiee tries her hand at tennis



Grace making friends with the police dog & trainer



Brody tries his skills as a fireman

Head of Therapy's Report



*Ginny Humphreys
Head of Therapy
Joined 1987*

The clinical team employed by Vranch House comprises physiotherapists, occupational therapists, therapy assistants and nurses working closely with our NHS speech and language therapist and the school teaching and support staff.

As well as being based at Vranch House the physiotherapists provide services at Ellen Tinkham, Millwater, Pathfield and Southbrook Special Schools and the

Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education. They also travel across Eastern and Northern localities of Devon providing services to children as far flung as Axminster, Lynton, Bude and Okehampton.

The North Devon Children's Physiotherapy Team based at Barnstaple Health Centre has seen two retirees this year. Anne Barrett, the longest serving employee at 36 years retired in April and Val Haydon in February. Their hours were combined and Michelle Yandell has capably picked up and carried on their good work.

At Vranch House Rosemary Pavitt, my deputy, retired in October 2011. The loss of her wise calm presence, knowledge and experience will be very much felt in the

therapy department. Her replacement is due to start at the end of January 2012.

The NHS children's physiotherapist based in Honiton also retired in 2011 and her post has come to Vranch and her caseload is now covered by the Vranch team.

With the transfer of Honeylands Children's Assessment Centre staff to NHS Devon from the RD&E in April this year, management of the physiotherapists came to me. This has enabled a 'virtual' merging of physiotherapy staff in an endeavour to reduce waiting times for the youngest and most vulnerable children referred to the team at Honeylands.

The occupational therapists within Vranch House have been reorganised and Susan Mitchell has been promoted to lead the team. The services provided to outpatients, mainstream schools and within Vranch House are really excellent.

Exciting new services have been commissioned. We are currently setting up a Specialist Wheelchair Service which will be ably led by Clare Webber, OT and a Specialist High Technology Communication Aid Service yet to be recruited to. A programme of work to train teachers and support assistants how to run 'Fun Fit' motor skills groups within primary schools has now been agreed. This will hopefully be operational from February 2012.

So, as usual, it is busy times and my thanks go to all the therapy team for their hard work over this last year.



The newly completed Children's Specialist Assessment Centre at Honeylands

Physiotherapy

Kathryn Esau - Physiotherapist - Joined 1990

I continue to enjoy my role supporting children with a variety of physical difficulties who attend mainstream schools full-time. This involves assessing and reviewing the children's physical needs and offering advice to staff and carers to enable the children to participate as fully as possible in all aspects of school, home and community life. I see the children either at Vranth House, their schools or homes.



I feel very privileged to have such a varied and stimulating job, working with such lovely children, their carers and such a great team.

Lucy Wills - Physiotherapist Joined November 2009



I provide physiotherapy to all of the children in Class One and some of the children in Class Two. I also have a few outpatients. My role consists of assessing and treating the children, assessing, ordering and adjusting equipment, reviewing their physiotherapy and hydrotherapy programmes, setting physiotherapy goals and contributing to their IEPs and Annual Reviews. I visit the children at home and in their mainstream settings to advise their parents and teaching staff. I am also part of the multidisciplinary assessment team for prospective pupils. I thoroughly enjoy working with my colleagues, the children and their families. The children work so hard and are so pleased with every achievement they make, whether large or small.

Maria Margato - Physiotherapist - Joined 2009

My name is Maria Margato and I was born in Portugal. I graduated in 2005/2006 and since then I have been working as a physiotherapist. I moved to the UK in June 2007 looking for new experiences. I started to work for Vranth House in November 2009 and I love it!! I am the physiotherapist for children in class 3 at Vranth House and children in the Tiverton area and at the Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education; I have some out-patients as well. For me, physiotherapy is helping/supporting the children to achieve the maximum function possible with fun.



Di Staves - Therapy Assistant - Joined 1987



I started at Vranth House School as a lunchtime assistant and then went on to become a physiotherapy assistant. I am now a therapy assistant which involves leading group swimming sessions with the school children, power mobility and also seeing individual children for physiotherapy sessions. My work also involves taking individual outpatient swims and helping with outpatient groups. My work is challenging, enjoyable and rewarding.

Louisa Hetherington - Physiotherapist - Joined 2004

It is lovely to be back amongst friends following my return from maternity leave in October 2011. I am now working part-time with children in the East Devon Area. This often involves travelling to schools and homes for assessment, treatment and to offer advice to children, their families and school staff.

I am enjoying another new challenge and getting to know some new children, families and colleagues.



Jackie Rowe - Therapy Assistant - Joined 1989

As a Therapy Assistant you get to meet all the children in different aspects of the school day. Helping with physiotherapy, power mobility and swimming (just three things from a long list). I also help in groups attended by mainstream children, to help with the improvement of fine and gross motor skills. Many things have changed over the years but the children still make me feel it's an enjoyable and rewarding job to do.



Hanna McFadden - Physiotherapist - Joined 2012

I'm Hanna and I'm one of the newest additions to the Vranth team. I have been working as a children's physiotherapist for the past two years and am proud to say I really feel like I have found my calling in life! My role is split between outpatient clinics where I see children with a range of developmental co-ordination disorders and I have also taken on the East Devon community caseload. Taking over the roles of two very experienced and highly respected therapists, I have got big boots to fill, but I am a hard worker and ultimately dedicated to fill them. I really believe that for those children who do need therapeutic support, it is imperative that they have a positive experience. Therefore, whilst staying true to my profession and ensuring to address the child's needs, I always strive to make my therapy fun!



Kate Moss - Joined 2000

I went on maternity leave in October 2009. My husband works for our armed forces and was drafted to Scotland so we moved as a family during this time. I was extremely lucky to be supported by Vranth House during this period and was able to return to work when we moved back to Devon. I arrived back in Exeter at the beginning of April 2011 and returned to work 2 days later. I had missed work and Vranth House so much during this time I was eager to start back as soon as possible.



I returned to join the main team at Vranth House rather than as part of the special schools team. With the increasing size of the team I am now supporting Ginny as Assistant Clinical Lead. A large part of this role has been supported by participating in a 9 module course designed by the NHS Institute of Innovation and Improvement. The course is designed to give clinicians and teams strategies to evaluate and amend their practice to become more effective and efficient with the end result improving face to face contact with patients. The team has been extremely positive and responsive to the modules and we are working our way through the first 3 modules.

I carry a varied clinical caseload working with children with neuromuscular conditions and general outpatients working with the children and their families at Vranth House, in schools and at their homes.

It is a privilege to work with such hard working and dedicated staff who produce the best possible outcomes for the children and their families that we work with.



Nicky White - Physiotherapist Joined 2010

I qualified from Nottingham School of Physiotherapy in 1992. I worked at Airedale General Hospital, then St James' University Hospital in Leeds where I had the opportunity to specialise in Paediatrics.

After a career break and four children, I returned to work at Vranth House. I have had a varied caseload since returning to practice. I love working with children and their families and enjoy being part of the supportive therapy team at Vranth.

Karen Sparks - Clinical Administrator For The Therapy Team - Joined 2002

Days and weeks pass in a flash, therapists whizz in and out of the office faster than the speed of light (or so it seems). In between organising consultant paediatrician's clinics and booking orthotics clinics, liaising with colleagues in Health and Education, and with parents of our pupils and of more than 600 children on the therapy department's caseload, I try to fit in offering some support to our fantastic team of therapists.



When I tell people I work at Vranth, sometimes they say, 'oh, it must be really sad working there, all those poor little children in wheelchairs' – but I can honestly say I have never worked in a happier, more positive environment, where every child's tiniest achievement is celebrated by all of us.

I am proud to be part of such a great team, united in our respect and genuine caring for each child who comes to us, either as a pupil or for therapy treatment. We continue to do all we can to try to enrich the lives of the children, each to the best of our ability, just as they do for us.



Rebecca Wheeler - Assistant to the Clinical Administrator - Joined 2012

I started at Vranth House at the beginning of 2012, as assistant to Karen Sparks in the Therapy Department. I have had some previous experience of the wonderful atmosphere at Vranth House through undertaking work experience and spending time as a volunteer at various points during the last 10 years. I really enjoy the variety of the job, and being able to work with the enthusiastic and hard working team that is Vranth House.

Steven Rowe - Clerical Assistant - Physiotherapy Department - Joined 2000

I was a pupil at Vranth House from 1978 until 1985. Since leaving I have maintained my association with the school through regular visits and also because my mother is a staff member.

In November 1998 I was asked if I would like to do some voluntary work for the physiotherapy department. Following a one month trial period, my voluntary work continued for nearly two years until, in February 2000, I was fortunate enough to have my position made permanent and I became employed as a part-time clerical assistant to the physiotherapy department on a Thursday afternoon.



I feel very lucky to have been given the opportunity to work at the school and to experience life in a busy working environment. I can now go into the Staff Room to eat my lunch and I don't even have to knock on the door to go in!

The Ellen Tinkham Team

Gill Scott – Physiotherapist

Claire Harradine - Technical Instructor

Helen Beamish – Assistant

Carly Hutchings - Assistant

We work as part of the wider team of Vranth House School and Centre from our base at Ellen Tinkham School.

We offer rebound therapy, hydrotherapy, group work or individual programmes depending on their therapeutic needs. We also take one group of children to Exeter Gymnastics Club for a gross motor and sensory processing session.



News from North Devon

Vranth House has provided the only children's physiotherapy service in North Devon for over 50 years. This community based service is commissioned on behalf of North Devon by NHS Devon, and is based at Barnstaple Health Centre.

Since January 2010, a Service Level Agreement with North Devon Health Care Trust has funded up to 3 hours a week for neurological assessment, treatment and management advice. This allows us to provide valuable support on the Special Care Baby Unit. When babies are discharged home, continued follow up care in the community is greatly appreciated by families of these babies.

The team in North Devon comprises 3 WTE Physiotherapy posts shared between 4 therapists, and 1 WTE Administration/Therapy Assistant post. Sally Bunney leads the team, supported by Physiotherapists Rob Shaw, Sarah Stone and Kelly Leonard.

Kelly joined the North Devon team in 2011. However she has been known to us as a college student interested in Physiotherapy as a career, an undergraduate on placement, and on graduating, working at Vranth for a year before moving to North Wales with her family.

Kelly may also be recognised by the wider public, since taking part in the 'Military Wives Choir', under the direction of Gareth Malone. Their development has been televised, culminating in a performance at the Royal Albert Hall, 'Service of Remembrance'. We await the release of their recording, which may make the Christmas charts!

Michelle Yandell, Clinical Administrator, is another new member to the team. She has taken on the joint roles of Val Hayden, our previous Administrator of 12 years, and Anne Barrett Technical Instructor of 36 years experience. Val and Anne are greatly missed for their skills, dedication and friendship. However Michelle's energy and enthusiasm taking on this daunting role and steep learning curve has allowed us to cope with this major change in the team.

Charlotte Grigg holds the role of Therapy Assistant. Her fulltime post is shared between Pathfield Special School, and the Physiotherapy Department at Barnstaple Health Centre. Charlotte successfully runs the two Hydrotherapy groups we hold for children under 5, and our older, mainstream children. This is in addition to running most of the Hydro sessions held within Pathfield.

Further changes to names on the team are expected in 2012, as Charlotte is due to get married. We look forward to 2012 and this happy event.



(From left) Michelle Robinson, Kelly Leonard, Rob Shaw, Sarah Stone, Charlotte Grigg and Sally Bunney.

Orthotics

Orthotics is the branch of medical science dealing with the rehabilitation of injured or weakened joints or muscles through artificial or mechanical support by orthoses or what used to be called orthopaedic appliances, for example Ankle Foot Orthoses. The meaning comes from 'orthos', the Greek for straight.

We take a plaster cast of the limb, arm or torso - whichever part needs support and make the orthosis using the cast to give an accurate fit. This is worn either all day, just part of it or during the night.

Muscle and bone grow at different rates and the tendons can sometimes get very tight. When there's spasticity (stiffness) in the muscle it can pull the joints into awkward positions and reduce the amount of motion. We are trying to maintain the length of the tendons so that the joints can work properly. Intervention while the child is growing is very important. Outpatients are seen 3 or 4 times a year and the pupils in school more regularly. The children have to be monitored as they grow.

The Nurses

Ruth Whitthorn - Nurse - Joined 1983

I have been a nurse at Vranth House for many years. I am on duty throughout the week. There is always nurse cover here.

We have excellent contact with parents and encourage them to pop in for a chat or to ring us. Between us we have gained several years experience in helping children with disabilities and their families, all of whom have individual and sometimes complex needs.

No two days are ever the same. We never know what may crop up next. Whatever the problem, we are equipped to deal with it. The team here at Vranth is a tremendous support to us; they have a wealth of knowledge and skills in different areas.

One of our objectives is to keep a good link between home and school and to liaise with other schools and respite units and, of course, other professional bodies in the community plus hospitals.

I am also part of the Munch Bunch Team, our aim is to maximise each child's potential independence with their feeding skills, promote good nutrition and of course good manners within our friendly dining hall.

We have paediatricians from the hospital who have their individual clinics here for Vranth House pupils and outpatients from the community. Other regular clinics include: Orthopaedic, Audiological assessment and referrals, Orthoptists and optician input, Dental check-ups and treatment. We have also started a gastrostomy review service which is held 3 monthly with the Hospital dietician coming in.

All our clinics are well attended and families and children benefit from advice from our multidisciplinary team.

We have year 4 Peninsula Medical Students regularly on a Thursday morning. It is a pleasure to see them getting involved with the children in class and they find the experience so useful as part of their learning about children with special needs.

Ellen Prouse - Nurse - Joined 2006

Everyday brings a new challenge at Vranth House School since starting work here in February 2006.

Vranth House has a full team approach to endeavour to help our children and their families with their complex needs.

The ongoing support for our families is all part of the daily ethos of Vranth House School and our daily aim to involve and encourage in the challenge to take our standards higher.



Jamie Pegg
Orthotist



Occupational Therapy

Susan Mitchell - Senior Paediatric Occupational Therapist - Joined 2003

Occupational therapy at Vranth goes from strength to strength. The children being referred have become increasingly challenging - all have problems with motor co-ordination in some way but many also have additional problems relating to perceptual, sensory, behaviour or emotional needs.

We continue to strive to run a child-centred therapy service - tailoring each therapy programme to the child and family circumstances. We focus strongly on 'occupation' and 'participation' in local activities where possible. If children have support at school - we try hard to liaise with the Special Needs teachers and TA's, often setting joint school/therapy targets.

Although the majority of children attend mainstream primary schools, many children come to see us at transition times. Secondary school children often have problems with organisation, routines, recording, keeping up with their work. We have had considerable success with many of these children.

What we offer does not seem like rocket science but there does seem to be some value in being an 'objective observer' or a facilitator in improving quality of life.

I continue to give some presentations to other professional groups including post-adoption social workers, parents, teachers, educational psychologists and recently presented 2 papers at a national conference. This gives me plenty of feedback about what we are doing and is a good stimulus for reflective practice. I count myself very fortunate to work with such a good team.

Anna Findlay - Occupational Therapist - Joined September 2010

I joined Vranth House in 2010; my role is working with out-patient clinic appointments and groups. For me, Occupational Therapy includes building independence and confidence skills using a child centred approach. This involves using meaningful and purposeful activities alongside having as much fun as possible!

I enjoy working with a very supportive team and spending time with the children and their families.



Whizz Kidz help Aimee with her wheelchair skills

Therapy support for children in mainstream schools

The Inclusion Team

Most of the children at Vranth House School now also attend their local mainstream school or Pre-school.

The role of the Inclusion Team, (Viktoria Pavlics, Inclusion Advisory Teacher and Clare Webber, Occupational Therapist) is to set up and support the shared school placements, by liaising with parents and teachers and making sure that adequate facilities and equipment are available, and that various appropriate training is in place for the staff at our partner schools. We visit the children regularly in their mainstream settings to offer ongoing support and advice, and to discuss any issues arising. Vranth House School based Physiotherapists and the Speech and Language Therapist are also involved in this outreach service. Our aim is for each child to be fully included in their local school, whether that is for half a day each week or ultimately full-time.

Clare Webber, Occupational Therapist (Joined 2003)



I have worked at Vranth House since 2003, and I work with all the children and all the staff! My main role is with the Inclusion Team. I am also part of the team which assesses potential new school children, as well as assessing and advising on postural management and development of independence skills in activities of daily living throughout the school. I am a Moving and Handling trainer for Vranth House and mainstream school staff, and we also regularly offer training to new parents.

I have close links with the Joint Agency Occupational Therapists, and I run the wheelchair clinic here with Exeter Mobility Centre staff twice a term. Vranth House is full of opportunities for children and adults to develop new skills and friendships.

Viktoria Pavlics, Inclusion Advisory Teacher (Joined 2005)



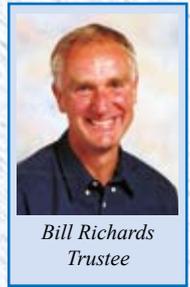
I joined Clare in the Inclusion Team in 2005. I also teach at Vranth House in the absence of the class teachers and take my share in the process of updating the curriculum policies.

I am seconded for one day a week to the Physical Difficulties Team of the Support and Advisory Teacher Service, covering Exeter, Mid and East Devon. I support mainstream settings where pupils with physical difficulties are included full time.

In 2011 I celebrated the birth of my little boy and the completion of the Masters in Special Educational Needs.

School Development Plans

Vranth House has an excellent reputation locally, regionally and nationally and I have been privileged to work with the school in different roles since 2001.

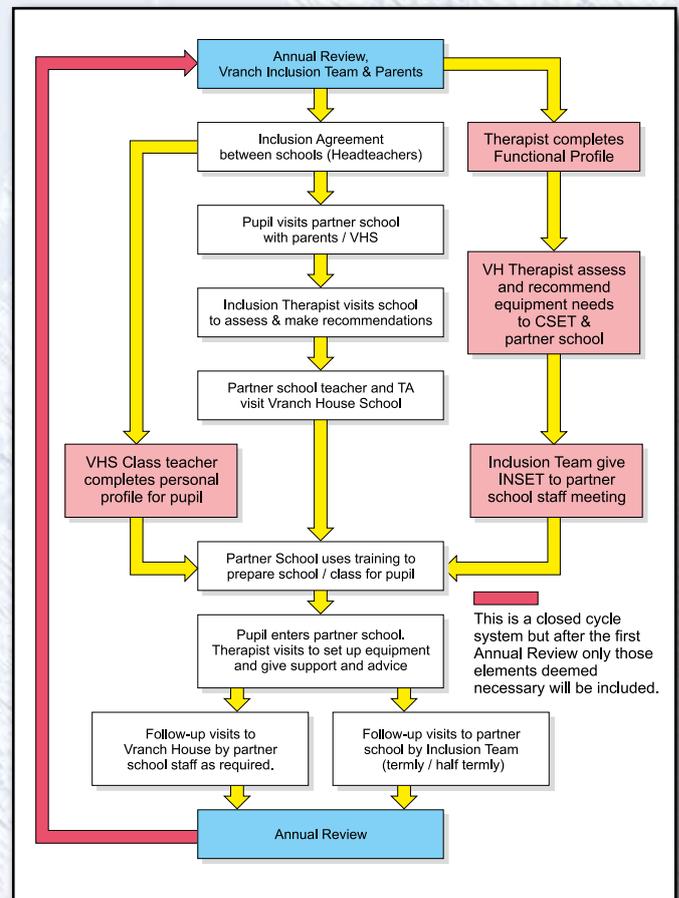


Bill Richards
Trustee

A central reason for this well-earned reputation is the forward thinking vision of the senior management team in supporting the continual improvement of the school in all respects. This is especially important at a time of significant change in the educational climate, as currently the government is committed to developing a new relationship with schools.

At the heart of this relationship is the process of self-evaluation leading to school improvement. Our current initiatives are designed to ensure that the school continues to stay focused and is innovative in meeting these new challenges.

The school development plan and continuing professional development of the staff will ensure that we can utilise the huge level of expertise that all our staff possess. We will build on current best practise and individually and collectively move forward with confidence.





*Catherine Ward
Speech & Language
Therapist
Joined 2006*

SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN'S COMMUNICATION NEEDS

It's been another busy year for Speech and Language Therapy, with a few changes throughout the year. Denise (Speech and Language Therapy assistant) came back from maternity leave and it's been great to have her back. She works two days a week and does fantastic work developing the children's communication skills on a 1:1 and group basis. I'm now working two days / week at Vbranch and two days in another special school in Exeter. I've also been seconded by the NHS for 1 year (June 2011 – June 2012), to do 1 day / week with children with feeding difficulties in the community. This work also supports the 'munch bunch' team at Vbranch House. The team (Cat, Clare OT and Nurse Ruth) continue to endeavour to promote independent eating and drinking skills and good communication at lunchtimes.

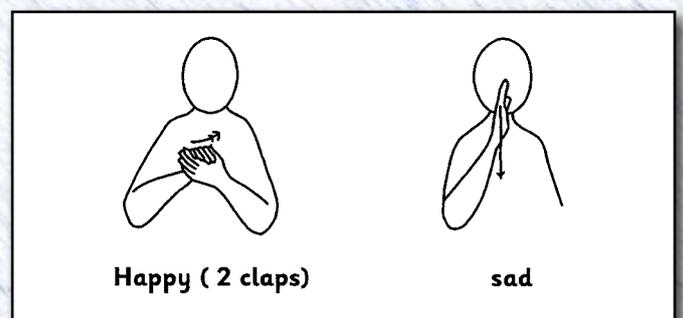
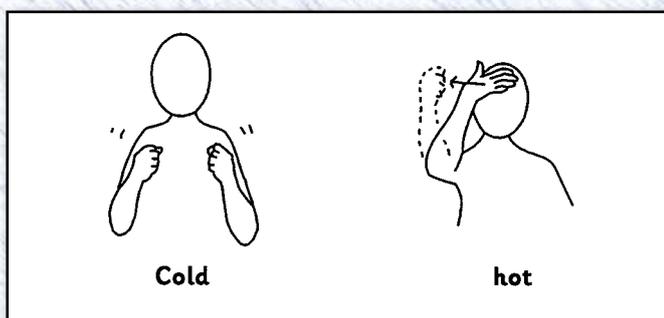
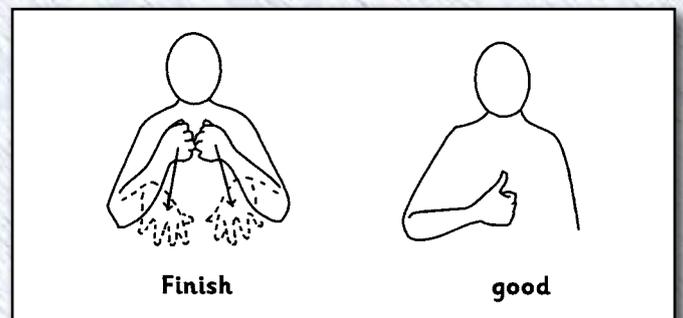
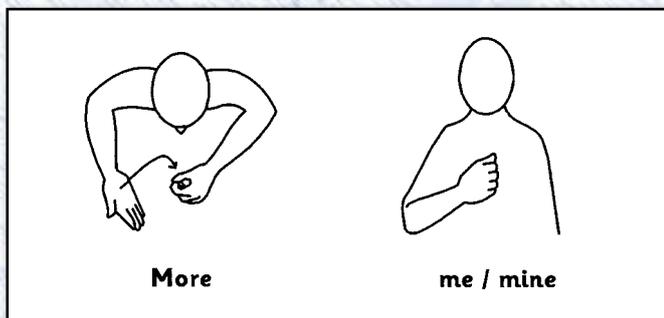
a b c d e f g h i j k l m

Please don't keep on.	past	future	opposite		not	+ ing	
I'm joking	I'm sorry	where	I/me Matty	he, him	is	feel	wait
I don't know	please	why	Mum	she, her	am	wash	write
I'm telling the truth	Hello	what	Dad	it	are	play	sit
It's not on my board	Goodbye	?	Laura	you	was	help	ride
I'm lying.	next	who	man	we, us	were	work	drive
I don't understand	first	when	boy	they, them	have	music	read
I want to talk about something else now	last	?	girl	Speech and Language	had	do	hug
talking book please	before	how	baby	have	had	do	hug
may I go to the toilet	after	?	teacher	Physio	has	want	like
	morning a.m.	yesterday	teacher	Physio	has	want	like
	afternoon p.m.	?	helper	friend	maybe	draw	paint
	day	today	helper	friend	maybe	draw	paint
	night	?	helper	friend	maybe	draw	paint
	now	tomorrow	helper	friend	maybe	draw	paint
	about	?	helper	friend	maybe	draw	paint

Everyone at Vbranch continues to work hard to develop the children's communication skills, creating opportunities for them to communicate, socialise, make choices and express themselves throughout the day. We continue to encourage a 'Total Communication' approach throughout the school, with staff using whatever methods are most effective for each child, including using signing, speech, facial expression, vocalisation, eye-pointing, communication aids, symbols, photos and objects.



*Denise Hutchinson
Speech & Language
Teaching Assistant
Joined 1989*



Lunchtime Assistants

Dawn Street - Lunchtime Assistant - Joined 1999



I work at Vranth House in the kitchen and in class as a lunchtime assistant. I really enjoy coming into class and helping the children. It is nice getting to know them all. After lunch we go back to class. I love this time with the children and have learnt how special they all are and what different needs they all have. This is a lovely place to work, staff and children are great and I love coming to work every day.

Georgina Herbert - Lunchtime Assistant - Joined 2008



I started working at Vranth House in September 2008. I help out in Class 3 as a lunchtime assistant everyday and I also help out in the therapy groups. I find the work I do at Vranth House with the children very rewarding.

Michala Smith - Lunchtime Assistant - Joined 2010

I work in Class 1 at lunchtimes. I have also worked in Class 3. I help with swimming sessions on a Wednesday and enjoy my work so very much at Vranth. The staff are very friendly and working with the children is very rewarding.



Trudy Wells - Lunchtime Assistant - Joined 2011



I started working at the School in June 2011 as a meal time assistant. I've really enjoyed getting to know the children and all the staff have made me feel really welcome.

Kitchen Staff

Lunches are delivered from the hospital. We then sort them out for the children, some of them need to be mashed, others need cutting up, some have special diets. We get it all ready then they come into the hall for lunch. We really love our work.



Lorraine Chapman - Lunchtime Assistant - Joined 1993

I come in each day and help the children with their lunch. We then go back to class or the playroom for some fun activities or stories. I find working with the children enjoyable and rewarding.



Donna Henderson - Lunchtime Assistant - Joined 2003

I am a Lunchtime Assistant. My job is to help feed some of the children, also I help them with some personal care and we have a lot of fun playing games.



Heather McBain - Lunchtime Assistant - Joined 2010

I started at Vranth House in September 2010 as a lunch-time assistant, however due to other work and family commitments I resigned from that position in 2012 but have continued to assist Vranth House whenever required as a relief assistant to cover staff absences. I have an NVQ level 3 in Health and Social care that I completed whilst working in a residential home for adults. I enjoy working with the children and look forward to any new challenges ahead.

Di Brooking - Relief Assistant - Joined 1982



I decided to retire from work at Vranth House in July 2008 but be available as a voluntary swimming helper and as a relief if required. It is lovely seeing all the children from Class 1, when they are learning to adapt to school and all the changes, right through to Class 3 when they are experienced in school life and all its opportunities.

I will continue to help Vranth in all capacities whenever I can.

FAMILY NETWORK

The Family Network aims to provide an informal opportunity for families of school children to get-together for meetings, to offer them a chance to get to know each other and to be able to exchange ideas and share experiences. Sometimes guest speakers are invited. Younger siblings are always welcome.



PC Leah

Various Roles



Adrian Chown - Technician – Joined 1995

To do my job I need to be a jack of all trades and master of none. Unfortunately for Vbranch House I am neither and I am afraid they are stuck with me. I call myself Billy Bodger. I make/adapt/repair things for the children/teachers/support staff/physios./occupational therapists/dinner ladies, etc.

The type of job that gives me the greatest satisfaction is when I am asked to make something (but they don't know what) that will do a specific task, or fulfil a certain function. This means that I have to employ the old grey cells to design and subsequently make a piece of equipment (that all sounds a bit grand but you know what I mean) to do the job. As the children's needs are constantly changing it is important that turn around time for anything I make is kept to a minimum i.e. whatever I make has to work but does not necessarily need to look pretty (bit like me really).

There is so much care and goodwill at Vbranch House but I think they are lucky to have me here to add a touch of balance and reality. After all every school needs a grumpy old man. I joined Vbranch House on the 1/4/95 'April Fool's Day'. I think that says it all.

Over the years I have obviously become more efficient, as I now only have to work 3 mornings to achieve what used to take me 5 mornings. So at this rate I should be able to retire when I reach 83 years.



Dave Clark - Driver/Handyman - Joined 2005

I am very pleased to be a member of staff at Vbranch House although this is somewhat of a diversification for me, having been involved with sport and leisure management all my life.

My role here is one of school maintenance, driving the children on their school trips and generally helping to assist in the smooth operation of the school within the parameters of my post.

Simon Batstone - Groundsman/Technician - Joined 2011

Having spent 28 years at Vbranch House as a subcontractor groundsman, in 2011 I had the pleasure of being offered a full time job as Groundsman/Technician at the school. It is a pleasure to work in such a caring environment with the children's needs at heart.



Tom Warren - Mobility Project Manager and Engineer - Joined 2005

Many people will be aware of the black tape on the floor which runs through the school corridors, and some will have seen Vbranch children seated on a the powered platform vehicle which electronically drives along the line of the tape when the child presses a switch. This 'tracking system' allows a child to experience independence and potentially develop mobility skills, and has proven to provide a powerful motivation for learning in many cases.

Essentially my job is to supply these systems to schools, children's centres and individuals in England and Wales, and provide technical support to users (there are currently nearly 100). It is varied work, involving everything from concept and development, mechanical and electronic manufacture, to embedding wires into the floors of newly built schools. Although the work tests me to my mental and physical limits at times, there is no doubt that it is all worth it, if only to see the look on the face of a child experiencing independent motion for the first time!

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to continue this valuable and almost unique work as part of Vbranch House, and am looking forward to taking on its new challenges in the next few years.



Phil Gater - Technical Assistant

I have been involved with the Centre since 1972 when I started organising the PA system for the annual fêtes and fayres. My role now is that of technical assistant doing electric repairs, installations and IT work (including trouble shooting problems with computers, installing software, fixing toys, etc.).

During the year I have project managed the new Sensory Room ready for it to be up and running by the end of 2011, installed a new 60 inch TV and two touch screens in the Board Room over the summer holidays, fitted a webcam to a bird box so that the children and staff could watch events unfold and have on record baby blue tits born in the summer half term. I also fitted a webcam outside the school building which recently captured a fox running around the grounds - perhaps we should call this our 'Foxcam'.



*Doug Steer
Caretaker -
Joined 1978*

Marketing Manager's Report



Fly Fishing Biggest Bag Final at Temple Fishery. Individual Winner Robert Gale, with trophy 5th right. Team winners Keith & Mary Ratcliffe middle front row also won the Fundraisers' Final. Top Fundraiser John Hern 4th from right has raised £8,022 since 1995.



Jailbreak - Baskerville Experience team David Brookes, Sylvia Agnew, Christine Stiff, Sandra Brookes & Jeff Savage with the hound in a bath chair.



Jailbreak - Abbeyfield Society, Torpoint dressed in flapper costumes - Dawn Norwak, Jackie Britzman, Bugsy the blow up dummy, Helen Hargrave, Jane Thorn & Cheryl Thorne.



Jailbreak - Dawlish Udders of Barton Lodge Care Home - Driver Lisa Bryant, Diane Pearse, Hayley Carew & Trina Bryant



Sue Gould, Marketing Manager Joined Scope 1985, Vranh House 1995

A growing number of people have contributed to the school's success in raising funds and in raising public awareness of the wonderful work carried out by our highly professional, enthusiastic and dedicated staff. On behalf of the school, I would, therefore, like to say a mighty 'Thank you!' to the following individuals and organisations: -

- Volunteers Julienne & Arthur Phillips, David Robertson, June Gamett, Theresa Phillips and Tina Rabbitts for all the funds they raise at various fairs
- The Management, staff and parents for supporting the variety of fundraising events
- The companies and trusts who respond so generously to our appeals
- The various organisations and institutions that have nominated us as their charity
- The press & radio for their extensive coverage.
- The wonderful children who featured in so many excellent press photographs and their parents for giving permission for publication
- The companies who annually donate £2,500 worth of prizes in our Charity Challenge Fly Fishing Competitions, in particular BVG Airflo
- The fly fishery owners and fishing club chairmen for their enthusiasm and for encouraging anglers to enter these Competitions
- The anglers who raise such considerable sums
- The Governor of Dartmoor Prison for giving us permission to hold the Jailbreak each April - an event that has raised over £610,000 since 1984
- The celebrities who come along to give their support on the day and on the way
- The armed forces, Police, Fire & Ambulance Service, hospitals, councils and companies who circulate information to help recruit teams
- The many 'escapees' who take part annually
- The hundreds of companies, organisations and individuals worldwide who help these participants by providing free transport, accommodation and sponsorship
- The Management Committee and the Chairman for their trust and encouragement
- The Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club & Wooden Spoon for their great generosity

Without doubt, Vranh House is a centre of excellence with a very kind heart and it is a privilege and joy to work here.

**Sue Gould
Marketing Manager**



Fly Fishing at Temple Fishery - Top fishing fundraiser Richard Lister who has raised £10,705 since 1999, with his wife Gillian & daughters Niamh & Tegen. 10 year old Tegen personally raised £121.80 through walking 22 miles in 2 days.

Fact Sheet

What problems do they have?

Pupils all have significant physical difficulties, most have cerebral palsy (spasticity). Outpatients have a wider range of conditions, some comparatively mild.

What causes cerebral palsy?

It is caused by an injury or malformation to the part of the brain that controls movement, this injury often occurs at the time of birth.

What are its effects?

Messages from the brain get jumbled up on route to the muscles, causing stiffness, jerky or unwanted movements. This makes it hard, sometimes impossible for children to walk, use their hands and speak.

Can cerebral palsy be cured?

No, but its effects can be greatly reduced by appropriate treatment at an early age.

Do the children have other problems?

Yes, many do. They include:

- * Learning difficulties
- * Speech & language difficulties
- * Problems with sight & hearing
- * Feeding & swallowing difficulties
- * Emotional & behavioural difficulties

What treatment do you provide?

Teaching is integrated with intensive yet sensitive physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, occupational therapy and speech & language therapy.

What services do you provide outside the school?

Our physiotherapists treat pupils with disabilities in mainstream schools and specific special schools in Devon. A team of 5 physiotherapists operate exclusively in North Devon.

We have a growing number of innovative projects in the community, many in partnership with bodies such as schools, universities, Community Trusts and Health, Education and Social Services.

Opportunity Technology Centre

Optech is a new centre to provide assessment, review and training programmes for computer access to the curriculum, early mobility, multi-sensory activities, communication and toys and play.

Who provides funds?

No fees are charged to parents. The Local Education Authority provides funds for basic schooling and the Health Authorities provide core funding for salaries for our professional staff.

We supplement this funding to give the finest education and treatment possible. The buildings, contents and equipment of the school are our responsibility.

What does Ofsted think of you?

The last two reports in 2006 and May 2009 report graded the school OUTSTANDING! "Vranch House School provides an outstanding quality of education. Teachers, Therapists and support assistants form a very strong team and create an extremely caring environment where pupils are encouraged to try their best. As a result, pupils make excellent progress and their personal development is outstanding."

What is Vranch House School & Centre?

An Independent Day School in Exeter for children with significant physical difficulties, mostly with cerebral palsy.

A Centre for the treatment of outpatients with all forms of physical difficulties.

A provider of various therapies in other schools in Devon.

In North and East Devon we are the principal provider of paediatric therapy to all children with physical difficulties and the major provider of therapies for children with cerebral palsy.

Who owns and runs it?

Vranch House School & Centre, a registered charity, number 1002700, which started in 1960. The school opened in 1969.

How many children do you help?

We have day places for up to 28 children and treat a further 1,200 outpatients each year.

What ages are they?

Pupils are aged from 2 to 12 years, outpatients are mostly under 17 years.



Landlords & locals of the Dolphin Inn, Kenton receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for helping to raise over £10,000 since 1992 in support of Keith & Mary Ratcliffe in the flyfishing competitions. Keith & Mary won both the Biggest Bag Final and the Fundraisers Final this year. Front row: Receiving Certificate Landlady Sara. Middle row: 3rd left Landlord Buster, Keith & Mary Ratcliffe.



Jailbreak - Kevin Clarke collected £1,760 in one week in pubs. He has raised £28,040 in 11 escapes.



Jailbreak - Torbay Police

*Shane Robertson, Adam Clarke, Mike Griffiths & Dick Scagell disguised as Toy Story characters.
The team led by Mike has raised £37,050 in 12 escapes.*



Vranch House

Pinhoe Road, Exeter, EX4 8AD

Telephone: 01392 468333

www.vranchhouse.org