
Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground

Annual Report 2020



Charity no:273172 OFSTED EY474853 01865 236646

blap76@yahoo.co.uk www.blap.org.uk

Supported by: Blackbird Leys Parish Council, The Sarah Nowell Educational Foundation.



Blackbird Leys Rd Oxford OX4 6HW

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CHAIR PERSON'S REPORT .

Of all the reports to various AGM's I have had to write over the last few years the BLAP AGM report is probably the easiest! That is because I get to pay tribute to all those individuals who work so hard to make BLAP the success it is.



Let us start with Sarah, our indefatigable play leader. I for one am often left feeling physically drained from Sarah just talking about play-leading, let alone seeing her in action!

Then we have Kayleigh and the team of junior leaders. So inspirational!

There is someone else I would like to thank. As it involves money, and I being a Yorkshireman, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank Gail for her due diligence and excellent stewardship of BLAP's finances.

Finally, there's Sue. Sue's enthusiasm and passion for all that BLAP stands for within the Blackbird Leys Family is legendary. I for one have learned so much from Sue's commitment to the

well-being of the younger members of our community. It gave me great pleasure to recommend Sue for a High Sheriff's award earlier this year.

Covid-19 has cast a shadow over all our lives and has led BLAP to initiate innovative ways to deliver our services to the young people in our community.

Earlier this year (albeit pre-Covid-19) BLAP welcomed a visit from The Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Tim Stevenson OBE. Tim expressed to me how much he enjoyed his visit to BLAP.

Tim wore his full uniform, minus his spurs and three feet long sword. The spurs were ditched, as in Tim's own words,

"They keep falling off"! The sword was omitted in deference to our anti-knife crime initiative on Blackbird Leys.



Watching and listening to Tim explaining to the children his role as the Queens representative in Oxfordshire will remain with me for many a year

So, my friends, that is it for another year. For the AGM I shall be a hundred and fifty miles away in Sheffield. However, I hope to join you via ZOOM! Stay safe. Together we WILL get through this. Best wishes to you all, Rae

Play and Project Leader's Report

After School Club (ASC)

As I have said many times in the Committee meetings the ASC just gets better and better. The numbers are increasing and the behaviour has improved so much. I put this down to our great team work. We are all very consistent in the way we tackle any behaviour issues and the children have great relationships with all the team.



I hope once this pandemic is over we can continue to do a great job and the numbers continue to rise.

Play Schemes



We have had successful and happy play Schemes. The numbers were still not as high as we would have liked but we are working on this.

Staff

I am so proud of the team we have here. They are all so compassionate about what they do. They all have different strengths but the one strength they share is showing so much care to our children. Kayley recently became Assistant Play Leader and I could not do without her. She is so reliable and is very consistent, the children love her. Tomi and Mariah have become fantastic play workers; they bring so much energy to BLAP. Tanesha has been doing some temporary work and is amazing at art; she has been a real asset to us.

As always Sue has been relentless in the time she gives to BLAP. I do not have enough room on the page to say how thankful I am to her. Thanks Sue. A big thank you to Russell he is always on hand for any jobs we need doing and for letting us have Sues' time.

Covid 19 has really impacted on us, as social distancing is very hard to do in a play environment. We closed on March 20th. During this period of closure Sue has worked really hard behind the scenes to ensure we kept in contact with our children and families. She encouraged staff to use their strengths in making it possible to reach out to them in various ways. Sue gave out seeds and encouraged the children to grow their own sunflower. Tomi has been doing fitness challenges and keeping our website up to date. I made a couple of

cooking shows and kept in contact with the team via meetings with Sue and several phone conversations. Kayley contacted the children who attend on a regular basis via phone calls and also visited homes and delivered art packs with various things to keep them busy. Mariah had been furloughed but also kept in contact with the team via meetings and phone calls.

Over the past few weeks we have been working hard to make it possible for BLAP to open for the Summer Play Scheme, as you can imagine there were lots of things we needed to change and implement. As a team we sat and discussed risk and how we could keep in line with the strict sanitation guidelines. We have adapted the Covid 19 generic risk assessment to fit in with BLAP. Sue put a lot of time into it as it was quite a lengthy document. Please request a copy

We are only allowed to use the outside premises which are going to be a challenge to keep the children occupied. We have put a lot of thought into various activities to keep the children busy outside. I think we have a strong team so we should manage it well. Good Luck to our team!!!

BLAP Renovation

One positive thing to come out of this pandemic is that we have been able to give BLAP some well needed attention. The ceiling is much lower and the walls are no longer brick. This will be very cost effective in the long term due to heating less

space and will hopefully bring in some extra revenue through hall hire. It looks amazing and we cannot wait for the children to see it. Hopefully we will be able to use the indoors soon.



A big thankyou to Michael for an an impressive job.

(Sarah also did an amazing job when she laid the new floor tiles in our hall)

Future

With all that is going on at the moment it is hard to look to the future. All going well we can use the internal building soon. Hopefully our numbers will keep rising. The building looks amazing and I cannot wait for the children to start using it.

Sarah July 2020

SECRETARY TO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

It is not surprising that in this year's report we refer also to work after March 20th when we closed but tried to keep in contact with our children and young people . It is so good that we can report that we are re-opened as an "outside only" playground on July 27th

COMMITTEE

Cllr Rae Humberstone (Chair)
Rowena Smith (Vice chair)
Gail McLintock (Treasurer)
Sue Price Secretary
Cllr Debbie McIlveen
Stacey Sinnott (parent)
Mary Park (parent)
Maesun John (past worker)
Justine Oakman (co-opted teacher from Orchard Meadow)

A big thankyou to the committee who come regularly to discuss issues that arise and make useful suggestions. Sarah's reports are especially welcome The committee meets most months from 6 -7 pm. Maybe because it is a short meeting we do manage to cover a lot of ground.

Thanks also to Peter Stevenson our Financial Examiner for his patience.

Last summer, after the playscheme, Ricardo, a local friendly builder .gutted our old kitchen and replaced old with shiny white shiny white new cupboards, sink and cookers.



The money (reported in last year's report) came from the Oxford Funding Network. Cllr Linda Smith added some money from her fund and enabled us open a wonderful new kitchen in October 2019

The new kitchen was used every day and on Fridays two children invited their families in to enjoy a meal they have cooked for them. Our Young Leaders have helped with this. We are grateful to the local food bank for providing some good fresh food and also the Big Lottery for helping provide further funding to make this happen and enable Sarah to be free to chat with the parents.

Sarah and her mum and sister also cooked the whole of BLAP an amazing Christmas dinner



The Dragon School PTA also wanted to help renovate the building and decided the Quiet room needed a make-over. Two of our top juniors helped design the changes in the room and have continued to be involved in the way the room is used



It now has a lowered ceiling with sparkly lights and the walls are all lined. It feels like someone's home living room and is complete with some lovely new comfy furniture. It is well used as a place to "chill out", chat and play games.

We quite often ask parents to evaluate our work and this October one parent made it very clear her son did not mind but she was beginning to notice how muddy he was every day.



This picture shows how constant games of football had destroyed any grass and the children were playing on mud!



We now have an eco friendly mulch surface for football, hockey and whatever else we want it for and also a similar surface under the zip wire.

We are so grateful to the Tambour Trust and Blackbird Leys Parish Council for funding this and for The City Parks Department for laying the surface in difficult circumstances.

Clearly fund raising is always difficult and it was a special delight when CAF Tourle Foundation Fund kindly let us use the money that was to be spent on training young leaders for the refurbishment of the hall in the lock down.



Our Young leaders continue to add a great deal to our service. Here Demi who re-organised our art area was collecting pumpkins for October's playscheme.



Some of last year's cohort graduated but those recruited this academic year missed out on their level two training. We did however have two "in-house" training sessions to introduce Play Principles.

Raising funds to run a playground is always going to be tricky and we are grateful to all our funders. In particular to Children in Need whose funding helps pay salaries. We are also grateful to the city and for local charities, the Parish Council and local churches for their funding.

What of the future?

We asked Oxford Hub to conduct some research into our work in the spring. We wanted to find out a little about the feelings on the estate towards us and whether our charges were too high. They thought we should sell ourselves better.

"What was seen to be most significant is the fact that parents are very positive about the work that BLAP is doing and their feedback suggested that BLAP is currently generally fulfilling its mission of providing a safe place where children have the chance to have fun and make and develop friendships and relationships. Parents find BLAP convenient and generally safe, while for children it provides both a sense of community and opportunities for personal development."

I would love to think that In the coming year BLAP will be able to appoint an overall manager to do some strategic thinking as well as be in charge of the fund raising and financial side of our work.

Sue Price

Secretary to the Management Committee

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BLACKBIRD LEYS ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

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5	Balance Sheet
6	Notes to the Financial Statements

Registered Charity No: 273172

BLACKBIRD LEYS ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees present their report for the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Charitable Status

Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground (generally known as BLAP) is a charity, registered in England, number 273172.

Trustees

The Trustees who have held office at any point during the year ended 31 March 2019 and to the date of this report are as follows:

Mr Rae Humberstone	(Chairman)
Mrs Sue Price	(Secretary)
Mrs Gail McLintock	(Treasurer; resigned as Trustee 14 January 2020)
Cllr Debbie McIlveen	
Miss Helen Shilton	(resigned 16 July 2019)

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is governed via a Constitution adopted 29 March 1976 and subsequent variations.

All new Trustees are recruited on the recommendation of organisations and people with whom the charity works, or by existing Trustees; they are given an induction pack and offered appropriate training in order to fulfil their role.

Objectives and activities

The objective of Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground is the provision of play and recreation facilities and other leisure time occupation for children resident in and around Oxford.

Achievements and performance

The charity continued its programme of play and project activities, with a part time staff team comprising one Play and Project Leader one assistant Play Leader and two play workers for the after school work. During play schemes it is sometimes necessary to appoint extra sessional workers. The charity also relies on a dedicated team of volunteers.

Public Benefit

The Trustees of the charity have had due regard both to the objectives of the charity, as set out above, and also to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties. All activities are carried out in pursuance of the charity's objects.

Financial Review

The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020 show a surplus for the year of £3,603 (2018/19 £4,654), resulting in total reserves of £11,863 (2018/19 £8,260). A total of £16,567 advance funding has been carried forward to next year (2018/19 £4,560).

As the majority of expenditure is covered by restricted fund grants, the trustees consider that the current level of reserves is adequate. No cash flow problems are envisaged in the short term, as cash at bank at year-end was 27,929.

BLACKBIRD LEYS ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (continued)

Plans for Future Periods

The charity plans to continue to provide the existing services in furtherance of its core objectives, but recognises that the raising of funds for its work is becoming increasingly challenging.

The trustees believe that, taking into account the deferred income already raised, and its future fund-raising plans, the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of the charity as a whole.

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future, and have therefore continued to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. They regularly monitor the impact that Covid-19 is having on current operations, and are taking steps to minimise the long-term effect on reserves.

Risk management

Apart from the effects of Covid-19 referred to above, the principal risks the charity may face are perceived to be inadequate future funding and the possibility of safeguarding issues arising in the children's activities. To mitigate these risks, sufficient future funding has been secured, and appropriate safeguarding measures have been put in place.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity 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 of the receipts and payments of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

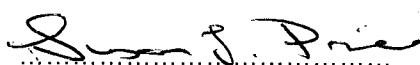
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent examination

The independent examination of the charity's accounts has been undertaken by Peter Stevenson, Chartered Accountant.

Approved by the Trustees on 29 July 2020

And signed by order of the board by



Mrs Sue Price
Secretary

Independent Examiner's Report to the Management Committee of Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2020, which are set out on pages 4 to 6.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to state on the basis of Procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Peter J. Stevenson

Peter J. Stevenson
Chartered Accountant

8 Harbord Road
Oxford OX2 8LJ

Date: 29th July 2020

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

	Notes	2020		2019	
		Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £
INCOME					
Voluntary income:					
Grants	3	71,190	1,000	48,645	6,000
Donations		500	409	0	35
Activities for generating funds:					
Fees and hirings		0	17,239	0	17,292
TOTAL INCOME		71,690	18,648	48,645	23,327
EXPENDITURE	4				
Charitable activities					
Staff costs		45,767	5,428	31,806	15,666
Activity and premises costs		14,728	7,791	16,839	1,608
Kitchen refurb & Quiet Room		11,195	0	0	0
Support costs		0	1,826	0	1,399
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		71,690	15,045	48,645	18,673
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		0	3,603	0	4,654
Funds b/f at 1st April 2019		0	8,260	0	10,937
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2020		£0	£11,863	£0	£15,591

The notes on page 3 form part of these accounts.

All activities are continuing. There are no gains and losses other than those recognised through the Statement of Financial Activities.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	5	1,709	3,103
Cash at bank		27,929	9,069
Cash at Credit Union		0	798
Petty cash		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
		29,738	13,070
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and deferred income	6	<u>17,875</u>	<u>4,810</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>11,863</u>	<u>8,260</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>£11,863</u>	<u>£8,260</u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Restricted funds		0	0
Unrestricted funds		<u>11,863</u>	<u>8,260</u>
		<u>£11,863</u>	<u>£8,260</u>

Trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the results for that period. In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and to apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. 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.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 29 July 2020

Councillor Rae Humberstone

R. Humberstone

Chair

Gail McLintock

Gail McLintock

Treasurer

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

1. Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and with the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

2. Accounting policies

(a) Income is included in the SoFA when:

the entity becomes entitled to the resources, it is probable that the income will be received, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(b) Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the entity to pay out resources.

	2020 £	2019 £
3. Grants		
Restricted		
Oxford City Council	16,000	16,325
Blackbird Leys Parish Council	1,770	1,424
Children in Need	21,487	10,500
National Lottery Awards for All	8,333	6,641
'I Will' (OCF)	9,530	8,655
Oxfordshire Funding Network	7,339	0
Dragon School	2,668	0
Local councillors	2,915	3,550
Other restricted	648	1,550
	<u>70,690</u>	<u>48,645</u>
Unrestricted		
Iffley Church	1,000	0
Other unrestricted	0	6,000
	<u>£71,690</u>	<u>£54,645</u>

4. Expenditure

Expenditure includes the Independent Examiner's fee £250 (2019 £250); no trustees were paid or committee expenses reimbursed (2019 NIL), and there were no related party transactions in either year. No employees' emoluments exceeded £60,000 in either year; the average number of employees was 3.5 (2019: 2).

	2020 £	2019 £
5. Debtors		
Debtors: other	0	1,480
Insurance prepaid	1,709	1,623
	<u>£1,709</u>	<u>£3,103</u>

6. Creditors

Deferred income: grants	16,567	4,560
HM Revenue & Customs	0	0
Other creditors	1,308	250
	<u>£17,875</u>	<u>£4,810</u>

7. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. The Trustees continue to monitor the impact that Covid-19 is having on operations, and are taking actions to minimise their effect on the long-term reserves of the charity. Under all scenarios reviewed the charity has sufficient reserves to continue operating as a going concern, so has adopted this basis in preparing the accounts.

BLACKBIRD LEYS ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

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BLACKBIRD LEYS ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

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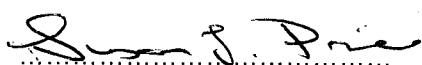
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		<u>£11,863</u>	<u>£8,260</u>

Trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the results for that period. In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and to apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. 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.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 29 July 2020

Councillor Rae Humberstone

R. Humberstone

Chair

Gail McLintock

Gail McLintock

Treasurer

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

1. Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and with the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

2. Accounting policies

(a) Income is included in the SoFA when:

the entity becomes entitled to the resources, it is probable that the income will be received, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(b) Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the entity to pay out resources.

	2020	2019
	£	£
3. Grants		
Restricted		
Oxford City Council	16,000	16,325
Blackbird Leys Parish Council	1,770	1,424
Children in Need	21,487	10,500
National Lottery Awards for All	8,333	6,641
'I Will' (OCF)	9,530	8,655
Oxfordshire Funding Network	7,339	0
Dragon School	2,668	0
Local councillors	2,915	3,550
Other restricted	648	1,550
	<u>70,690</u>	<u>48,645</u>
Unrestricted		
Iffley Church	1,000	0
Other unrestricted	0	6,000
	<u>£71,690</u>	<u>£54,645</u>

4. Expenditure

Expenditure includes the Independent Examiner's fee £250 (2019 £250); no trustees were paid or committee expenses reimbursed (2019 NIL), and there were no related party transactions in either year. No employees' emoluments exceeded £60,000 in either year; the average number of employees was 3.5 (2019: 2).

	2020	2019
	£	£
5. Debtors		
Debtors: other	0	1,480
Insurance prepaid	1,709	1,623
	<u>£1,709</u>	<u>£3,103</u>

6. Creditors

Deferred income: grants	16,567	4,560
HM Revenue & Customs	0	0
Other creditors	1,308	250
	<u>£17,875</u>	<u>£4,810</u>

7. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. The Trustees continue to monitor the impact that Covid-19 is having on operations, and are taking actions to minimise their effect on the long-term reserves of the charity. Under all scenarios reviewed the charity has sufficient reserves to continue operating as a going concern, so has adopted this basis in preparing the accounts.