

# Annual Report of Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground

April 2020- March 2021    With thoughts as we go forward

## **B**lackbird **L**eys **A**dventure **P**layground

Blackbird Leys Road, Blackbird Leys,  
Oxford . OX4 6HW

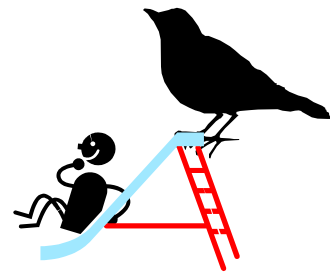
Registered charity number :273172

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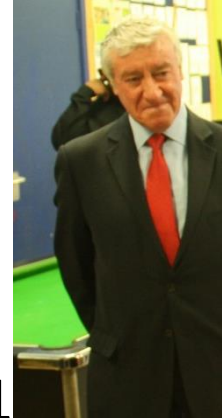


Chairperson's Report

Financial Report

Play and Project Leaders Report

Secretary's Report



## Chair's Report-BLAP AGM-21/07/21

In previous reports it has been the custom for me to thank everyone for their hard work during the year. However, this year I am going to break with that custom. This year I will begin my report by recording my thanks to you all for your efforts in what has been an extraordinary and trying year for so many.

### Sue:

Once again Sue you have led by example. Your indefatigable approach to all that you do for BLAP is truly inspirational. You have built a team of dedicated staff who themselves lead by your example. Thank you for your dedication to BLAP over the years and especially this last year, a year of an unprecedented set of challenges outside of wartime.

### Sarah:

Sarah, BLAP is fortunate to have you as their play leader. Like Sue, you are an inspirational leader. In my time in the RAF I quickly found out who were the good leaders and who were the not so good. I can say without any doubt, or fear of contradiction, you are most definitely amongst the former. Well done!

### Kayley and Tanisha:

BLAP is fortunate to have two very able and hardworking members of staff in you both. Your willingness to take on extra responsibilities and your down to earth approach to those responsibilities bodes well for the future of BLAP. Long may it continue!

Maria:

Thank you for all that you do for the BLAP family. I know from conversations with Sue and Sarah how they value your contribution to the successful running of BLAP. That contribution is recognised by everyone at BLAP.

Gail:

Being a Yorkshireman, I more than anyone pay due homage to your excellent stewardship of BLAP's finances. Seriously, without your expertise we would not be able to do (and fund!) all our activities. When you present your financial reports immediately my eyes glaze over. However, as soon as you explain things in words that we can all understand the fog is soon lifted and everything falls into place. Thank you!

Peter Stevenson:

Peter, thank you for your contribution to the financial side of BLAP. Your annual inspection of our finances and your acute observational skills means so much when BLAP present its financial report to the Charities Commission.

The last eighteen months or so have seen BLAP face many challengers. However, because we have such a dedicated and hard-working team, I strongly believe we are still in a position to offer an invaluable service to families on Blackbird Leys and surrounding areas. The future will, I am sure, offer up a fresh set of challenges but I am confident that the BLAP family will be more than able to respond to those challenges.

Best wishes to you all,

Rae.

# BLACKBIRD LEYS ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY (Final post-AGM) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

		2020-21 £	2019-20 £
<b>INCOME</b>			
Fees and hirings		6,086	17,239
Grants and donations		84,903	73,099
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME</b>		<b>90,989</b>	<b>90,338</b>
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Staff costs		56,387	51,195
Activity & property costs		17,422	22,519
ECO surface		17,280	0
Kitchen refurb, etc.		0	11,195
Support costs		2,066	1,826
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>93,155</b>	<b>86,735</b>
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET RESULT before special funding</b>		<b>-2,166</b>	<b>3,603</b>
<b>SPECIAL FUNDING</b>			
HM Government via Oxford City Council	25,000		0
JRS Support Grant for wages	<u>12,846</u>	37,846	<u>0</u> 0
<b>FINAL SURPLUS</b>		<b>£35,680</b>	<b>£3,603</b>
Fund balances b/f 1.4.20		11,863	8,260
Fund balances c/f 31.3.21		<b>£47,543</b>	<b>£11,863</b>
<b>Comprising:</b>			
Restricted	7,046		0
Designated			
emergency	20,000		10,000
Other unrestricted	<u>20,497</u>	<b>£47,543</b>	<u>1,863</u> <b>£11,863</b>

**AGM Play Leader's Report for AGM 2021** WOW what can I say, what a year it has been!!

Through all the challenges everyone has had in the last year, BLAP was fortunate enough to open for the majority of the Pandemic. With lots of hard work and dedication to stay open our team worked relentlessly to ensure we could run in a Covid safe way.

I know it has been tough for lots of people, for me personally I found the first lock down incredibly tough, I am a creature of habit and the change really affected me. In turn this helped me to imagine what it was like for the children and their families that attend BLAP.

As a team we came together and were able to offer activity packs, a chat on the phone and offer support.

Thankfully we were able to open for the Summer Play Scheme but for a reduced amount of children. The children that did attend had a fantastic time. We were unable to go on any trips but we kept them entertained with a variety of outdoor activities and lots of water fun.

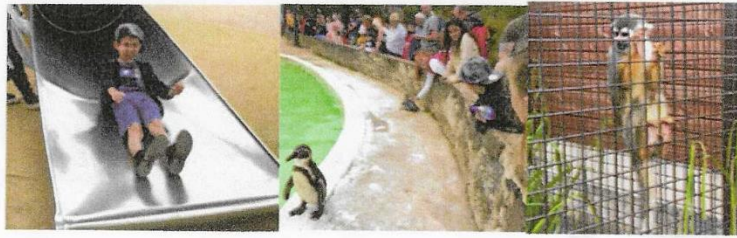
We had some lovely feed back from parents in our end of holiday evaluation.

Gradually BLAP was able to run more consistently, we kept on top of the forever changing Covid rules and restrictions. The After School Club re-opened for the children that needed it the most. Having had lots of work done at BLAP the children loved returning and seeing how lovely BLAP is looking.

We have been fortunate to have the Marcus Rashord funding, this enabled us to open for the easter Play Scheme, also the summer Play scheme starting next week.

I have so much to say about the past year so I have put together some pictures to highlight some of the wonderful things we have been doing

I have so much to say about the past year so I have put together some pictures to highlight some of the wonderful things we have been doing,



In June we spent a glorious day at Cotswold Wild Life Park



At Easter we walked to Shotover and had an amazing if tiring day



We missed out on our Christams dinner but had it at Easter!



Hot or cold play cotinues at the after school clu



This year could not have happened if it wasn't for the total commitment and dedication from our team. They really do go above and beyond. We all work so well together; it is a pleasure coming into work each day. Thank you Team.

As always, I would like to say a MASSIVE thank you to Sue who still tirelessly puts so much work into Blap, every single one of us really appreciate what you do.



## Secretary's Report for year April 2020 until March 2021 , a year never to be forgotten!



A big thankyou to the committee for working via Zoom for the whole year

We had some teething problems with our zoom meetings especially the first when I managed to have set up two meetings and sat in isolation! However over the year-with a few further hiccups most meetings have gone well and allowed us to continue to monitor the work and add some very helpful suggestions.

Last year we reported some massive improvements:

to the inside of BLAP including the kitchen, hall, quiet room

and the new multi weather surface that has made such a difference to the use of our outside playing area.



This year inside the back room also had its ceiling and new lights fitted. And we have recently added cupboards to the back hall. We thank Barbara Posner whose bequest in memory of her mother has made the back area so much more useable for children who prefer a quieter space, especially when the majority are engaged in noisy outside activities.

Outside saw some big changes too. With the help of two very able furniture design graduates. Jack and Ella we were able to restore the Blackbird.



We took down the hanging bars and for a while left the slide but this finally came down and we look forward to a new Jumbo Jungle climber that is due to be installed late July.

We have been very fortunate to have Vicky and her team of “volunteers” from the Thames Valley Probation service who have helped with so much around BLAP. They have fitted skirting boards to much of the building and painted them.. They have also helped to keep the gardens weed free, during times when the children were not in BLAP. Recent work preparing the ground for the new Jungle climber was probably their toughest assignment and we want to record our thanks for all they have done for us.



We have to thank the many funders and the Government who have helped us during this strange year. The Government paid 80% of our furlough costs and helped with a substantial grant to keep us afloat. Some funders willing to be flexible in the way we used our funding during the pandemic helped us to create a better base from which to work. Young Leaders funding has been carried forward for this year.

We continue to work on resolving the lease situation and hope that we will make a final decision in the autumn. The choice is whether to let the County take on the building (though we still have to maintain it) or keep it ourselves and be responsible for taking it down and returning the land to its original state.



I believe Sarah has enjoyed taking on more of the work load from me and feels ready to continue this work. I appreciate her delight when she has conquered a new task and her willingness to do more.

We knew Sarah to be an excellent cook and the children have always enjoyed her cooking. She has taken on the challenge of providing healthy food during playschemes. We were unable to have the normal Christmas dinner at BLAP because of the pandemic so she produced it during the Easter playscheme.

Thank you Sarah. It has been a privilege to work with Sarah. Her enthusiasm and genuine concern for all the children and their families is evident to all.



Tanisha is a real asset to BLAP. It is hard to realise she has been working for us for just over the year. She is an excellent play worker and her role as trainee administrator has been superb. We secured funding for the administrator role from 2 sources this year and have carried forward enough for the first half of the coming year. We are actively working on further funding so she can take over much of the work I have been doing. Her IT knowledge has been especially useful during recent work with the county in registering free school meals children for play schemes.



Kayley has grown in to her role as Assistant Play Leader and it was because of her abilities that we appointed her to head up the work for the new initiative of the monthly Family Saturdays, funded by the South East England People's Health Trust with further help from the Blackbird Leys Parish Council,

We expect families to begin to take on some of the responsibility of running this as time goes on. The first pilot day was a huge success and parents were so appreciative of the new venture, loving the food Sarah cooked and the activities that were organized by Maria.



Maria is a very active sports person and coped amazingly when she had to have a hip replacement. We thank others, especially Maggie Simon and Kimberley, who helped out during her absence. Maria is enthusiastic and during the after school club and during the holiday programmes she is never happier than when she is involved in the children's games. She can put her hand to many activities and regularly walks with the children from Pegasus School across the park on the walking bus.

Gail, our treasurer, continues to work tirelessly for us and I am always impressed with the care she takes to share accurate details with the committee. We thank Peter also for his examination of our financial affairs and his careful reporting of these.

We are looking at trying a new system of accounting that links the income and expenditure with the funding requirements. Lekh from CDI and Sean Smith (who used to come to BLAP as a boy and now runs his own IT company) are both keen on the new package and assure us it works well. Lekh has offered further help in setting it up for us.

We are delighted that Laura, the new CDI Charity Manager is working with us on bids for some funding and especially a joint lottery bid.

I will continue to help with funding applications for the coming year but as I know less and less about the children and families we work with, my ability to make relevant applications diminishes.

We have an amazing team of workers and a good range of people on the committee who share their ideas and expertise.

I have seen the change in the children who come to BLAP. They grow in confidence, and learn how to think of others as well as themselves. They have fun and have space to enjoy being children.

We started in 1976 and trust BLAP will still be offering the same challenges and care of children and young people in 2076 when the regeneration of Blackbird Leys will seem a distant memory.

Sue Price



**BLACKBIRD LEYS ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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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 2021.

#### **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 2021 and to the date of this report are as follows:

Mr Rae Humberstone	(Chairman)
Mrs Sue Price	(Secretary)
Dr Hosnieh D Marbini	(Elected 29 July 2020)
Cllr Debbie McIlveen	
Ms Hollie Tuckwell	(Elected 8 December 2020)

#### **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 and advice about relevant Charity Commission publications 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**

Despite the pandemic, the charity was able to continue a reduced 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 show a surplus for the year of £37,580 (2019/20 £3,603), resulting in total reserves of £49,443 (2020 £11,863). Advance funding of £1,900 which could not be spent in the year has been carried forward to next year (2020 £16,567).

As the majority of expenditure is covered by restricted fund grants, the trustees consider that the current level of reserves is adequate for future purposes.

## **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 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 at least 12 months from the date of signing this report, 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, and are regularly monitored.

#### **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.

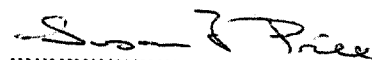
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of 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 21 July 2021

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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, 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: 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2021 Totals £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2020 Totals £
<b>INCOME</b>							
Voluntary income:							
Grants	3	79,903	25,000	104,903	71,190	1,000	72,190
Donations			5,000	5,000	500	409	909
JRS Support grant			12,846	12,846	0	0	0
Activities for generating funds:							
Fees and hirings		0	6,086	6,086	0	17,239	17,239
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>79,903</b>	<b>48,932</b>	<b>128,835</b>	<b>71,690</b>	<b>18,648</b>	<b>90,338</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>							
Charitable activities	4						
Staff costs		40,935	15,452	56,387	45,767	5,428	51,195
Activity and premises costs		17,422	0	17,422	14,728	7,791	22,519
Major projects		12,500	4,780	17,280	11,195	0	11,195
Support costs		2,000	66	2,066	0	1,826	1,826
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>72,857</b>	<b>20,298</b>	<b>93,155</b>	<b>71,690</b>	<b>15,045</b>	<b>86,735</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>							
Funds b/f at 1st April 2020		7,046	28,634	35,680	0	3,603	3,603
		0	11,863	11,863	0	8,260	8,260
<b>Total funds c/f at 31st March 2021</b>		<b>£7,046</b>	<b>£40,497</b>	<b>£47,543</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£11,863</b>	<b>£11,863</b>

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 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors and prepayments	5	0	1,709
Cash at bank		49,657	27,929
Petty cash		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
		49,757	29,738
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors and deferred income	6	<u>2,214</u>	<u>17,875</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>47,543</u>	<u>11,863</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>£47,543</u>	<u>£11,863</u>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>			
Restricted funds		7,046	0
Designated emergency reserve	7	20,000	10,000
Other unrestricted funds		<u>20,497</u>	<u>1,863</u>
		<u>£47,543</u>	<u>£11,863</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 21 July 2021

Chair of Charity

Councillor Rae Humberstone

*R. Humberstone*

Treasurer of Charity

Gail McLintock

*Gail McLintock*

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

## 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.

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>3. Grants</b>		
<b>Restricted</b>		
Oxford City Council	10,830	16,000
Blackbird Leys Parish Council	5,000	1,770
Children in Need	23,286	21,487
National Lottery Awards for All	1,667	8,333
Tambour Trust	12,500	0
'I Will' (OCF)	0	9,530
Oxfordshire Funding Network	3,620	7,339
Wiltshire Community Foundation	4,900	2,668
Charities Aid Foundation	5,000	0
Postcode Neighbourhood Fund	9,100	0
Local councillors	3,000	2,915
Other restricted under £1,000	1,000	1,148
	<u>79,903</u>	<u>71,190</u>
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Oxford City Council	25,000	0
Other unrestricted (2020 Iffley Church)	0	1,000
	<u>£104,903</u>	<u>£72,190</u>

## 4. Expenditure

Expenditure includes the Independent Examiner's fee £250 (2020 £250); no trustees were paid or committee expenses reimbursed (2020 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 (2020: 3.5).

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>5. Debtors</b>		
Debtors: other	0	0
Insurance prepaid	0	1,709
	<u>£0</u>	<u>£1,709</u>

## 6. Creditors

Deferred income: grants	1,900	16,567
HM Revenue & Customs	0	0
Other creditors	314	1,308
	<u>£2,214</u>	<u>£17,875</u>

## 7. Designated emergency reserve

This represents the minimum amount required in the event of the charity being wound up.

## 8. 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.

## **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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, which are set out on pages 4 to 6.

### **Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

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Date: 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021