

Annual Report of Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground

April 2020- March 2021 With thoughts as we go forward

Blackbird **L**eys **A**dventure **P**layground

Blackbird Leys Road, Blackbird Leys,
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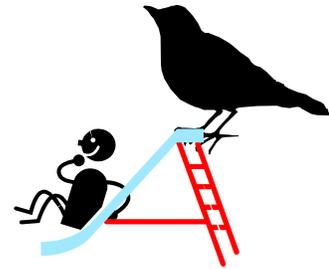
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Chairperson's Report

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 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	2020-21 £	2019-20 £
INCOME		
Fees and hirings	6,086	17,239
Grants and donations	84,903	73,099
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	90,989	90,338
	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE		
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/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	93,155	86,735
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NET RESULT before special funding	-2,166	3,603
SPECIAL FUNDING		
HM Government via Oxford City Council	25,000	0
JRS Support Grant for wages	12,846	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	37,846	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
FINAL SURPLUS	£35,680	£3,603
Fund balances b/f 1.4.20	11,863	8,260
Fund balances c/f 31.3.21	£47,543	£11,863
Comprising:		
Restricted	7,046	0
Designated emergency	10,000	10,000
Other unrestricted	30,497	1,863
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£47,543	£11,863

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.

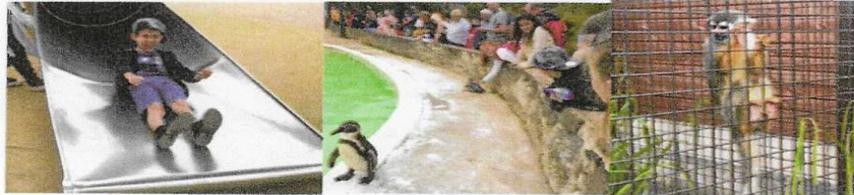
Thankfully we were able to open for the Summer Play Scheme but for a reduced amount of children. The children that did attend had a fantastic time. We were unable to go on any trips but we kept them entertained with a variety of outdoor activities and lots of water fun.

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.

This year could not have happened if it wasn't 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 Christmas dinner but had it at Easter!



Hot or cold play continues at the after school club



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

