



OXFORDSHIRE PLAY
ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT
2022

For the Period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

OPA is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Charity Number 1160320

OPA's Vision is to improve lives through play

OPA's mission is to champion and to support the rights of all Children and Young People to have access to high quality, inclusive Play opportunities to improve their Physical, Mental and Spiritual Wellbeing

OPA ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

OPA TRUSTEES

Chair = Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor

Hon. Treasurer = Meryl Smith

Trustees = Anne Bissell, Megan Douthwaite, Alexandra Lyons (to February 2022)

OPA STAFF

Manager = Martin Gillett

Training Officer = Wendy Boone

Finance Officer = Jade Jarvis

Oxford Therapeutic Playwork Staff = Jane Gallagher

Sessional Playworkers = Tracy Rampton and Dominique Keetley

BANKERS

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

ACCOUNTANTS / AUDITORS

SPX Oxford, Peace House, 19 Paradise Street, Oxford. OX1 1LD

OPA FINANCE – 2021/22

Income	£124,409
Expenditure	£120,608
Surplus	£3,801
Reserves	£41,010

(A full copy of our Independently Examined Accounts are available on request)

Trustees Annual Financial Report

As hoped for, following the devastating impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns and restrictions, Financial Year 2021-22 was a much better year for the organisation.

There was some disruption around the easing of the final 'lockdown' restrictions that were extended until July 2021 but overall, with some flexibility and careful planning, we were able to deliver our project work as planned.

This included a very welcome return for our Community Play & Activity Days which were postponed completely in 2020. The Communities in which we delivered these events were so very grateful for the chance to be outside and being active and meeting their neighbours again

Our Stay & Play and Saturdads sessions were also very well received as many parents / carers commented on how their children had missed the social interaction with other children and the peer support that they gained from other parents was very welcome. Our Therapeutic Playwork sessions were so very valued by both the children who attended and by the schools in which we delivered the project

We were able to extend our Outreach work during the year at RAF Brize Norton and at Ark T and were able to deliver exciting, new projects such as Street Play within Cherwell District and South Northants and a new Junior Youth Club for Faringdon

We were also very excited to be selected to be a part of the 'Science Together' project which will see us working with researchers and facilitators from both the University of Oxford and Brookes University. This will create a document entitled 'Why Play is Important in Oxfordshire' which will not only benefit our fellow Charitable Organisations in the County but will also enable budget holders and policy makers to have access to research and evidence specific to Oxfordshire

We were able to return the organisation to profit this year which will help us start to recover from the heavy loss incurred during the previous Covid

impacted financial year. This year we achieved an income of £124,409 against expenditure of £120,608 giving us a small surplus of £3,801. Our unrestricted reserves now stand at £41,010, of which at least £20,000 is designated for wind-up costs. We continue to keep very tight control over our core operational costs and for this financial year they were almost 10% lower than in the last pre Covid financial year 2 years ago in 2019-20 (£26,238 compared to £28,306)

We must say Thank You to our funders again this year who have been so very flexible with our projects and delivery due to the issues and restrictions caused by Coronavirus

And finally, as ever, a huge Thank You to the small team of dedicated OPA staff who deliver the work of many while numbering only a few – their passion and commitment never wains and it is an inspiration to see the work they deliver and the positive impact they have on the lives of Children and Young People and the benefit they bring to those Children’s Physical and Mental Wellbeing

Anda Fitzgerald-O’Connor (Chair)

OPA STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

OPA and its Trustees confirm that they have complied with the Statutory Duty in Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to Public Benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. We work on a fully inclusive basis across Oxfordshire taking into account all relevant legislation and guidelines.



Do you share our belief that PLAY is vital for the lives of Children and Young People?

Help us to make Oxfordshire the most play-friendly county in England.



Become a 'Friend of OPA' – and support us to continue our work across Oxfordshire.



Did you realise that the biggest 4% of UK Charities receive 80% of all the donations whilst the remaining 96%, some 159,169 local organisations receive only 20%!

What does OPA do? We:

- ❖ Help play providers to offer high quality play opportunities for all
- ❖ Run user-friendly training on all kinds of play-related topics
- ❖ Campaign for national and local play-friendly policies and decisions

We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity Number 1160320) and have been working with, and for the Families and Communities of Oxfordshire since 1974.

For just £1 per month you can ensure that this work continues into the future by becoming a friend of OPA.

Come and play with us!

Contact us now to see how you can make a difference!

play 4 life

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>Play & Activity Days 2021</u>
FUNDED BY	<p>Oxfordshire County Council (Councillor Priority Fund) SOHA / Banbury Charities / Sovereign Housing Sanctuary Housing / Blenheim Bursary / Cottsway South Abingdon Residents Plan / Faringdon Town Council West Oxfordshire District Council / Shanly Foundation Faringdon United Charity / Witney Town Hall Charity Oxford City Council / Banbury Town Council Witney Town Council / Eynsham Parish Council Cherwell District Council – SPARK Fund Doris Field Charitable Trust / Kidlington Parish Council St Michaels & All Saints Charities Rotary Club of Abingdon Vesper / University of Oxford Abingdon Vineyard Church / Abingdon Town Council Gosford & Water Eaton Parish Council Waitrose & Partners Abingdon</p>
PROJECT DETAILS	<p>Delivery of Community Play & Activity days across Oxfordshire offering both FREE Entrance and FREE Activities to ensure an Inclusion for ALL</p>
PROJECT DELIVERY	<p>We delivered a total of 9 events in 2021 as follows; Wednesday 28th July = Banbury - Peoples Park Thursday 29th July = Eynsham Saturday 31st July = Oxford – Rose Hill Tuesday 3rd August = Berinsfield Thursday 5th August = Witney Friday 6th August = Faringdon Saturday 14th August = Kidlington Tuesday 17th August = Banbury - Princess Diana Park Saturday 4th September = South Abingdon</p> <p>These events were attended by almost 7,000 people. We worked in partnership with a wide range of local organisations in both the planning and delivery of each event to ensure that we were meeting LOCAL need with LOCAL people to including the relevant Town or Parish</p>

Council, local Housing Association and other local Charities and organisations with an interest in Children and Young People.

Each event had the following key, Aims and Objectives

For Children & Young People

- 1) Promote Positive Behaviours & Activities (reduce anti-social behaviour)
- 2) Promote Increased Levels of Physical Activity
- 3) Promote a Healthy Lifestyle (healthy choices)
- 4) Promote Healthy Weight Management (obesity reduction)
- 5) Provide information on services and activities to promote a sense of Wellbeing and Inclusion

For Parents / Carers

- 1) Provide an Event offering both **FREE** Entrance & **FREE** Activities to Ensure an Inclusion for **ALL**
- 2) Demonstrate how Play & Quality Family Time can be achieved on a Zero / Minimal Budget using Natural & Recycled materials
- 3) Provide information on services and activities available in the local and wider area

For Communities

- 1) Encourage a greater sense of belonging to promote Active & Engaged Communities – ‘Love Where You Live’
 - 2) Promote local clubs, groups and societies
 - 3) Involve local groups, communities and Children & Young People in the planning and delivery of each event
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<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>Armed Forces Play & Activity Days 2021</u>
FUNDED BY	Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust South Oxfordshire District Council (Councillor Grants) SOHA Annington Trust Didcot Town Council Didcot Rotary Club
PROJECT DETAILS	Delivery of Community Play & Activity days across Oxfordshire where there is an Army or RAF base to improve community integration between Armed Forces and Civilian families and offering both FREE Entrance and FREE Activities to ensure an Inclusion for ALL
PROJECT DELIVERY	<p>We delivered 3 events as follows; Friday 23rd July = Dalton Barracks Saturday 7th August = Didcot / Vauxhall Barracks Saturday 28th August = RAF Benson</p> <p>These events were attended by almost 2000 people and for each location we worked in close partnership with the base Welfare Team or Community Development Team</p> <p>As with our Community Play & Activity Days our Armed Forces events had the following key Aims and Objectives in addition to improving Community Cohesion;</p> <p><u>For Children & Young People</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6) Promote Positive Behaviours & Activities (reduce anti-social behaviour) 7) Promote Increased Levels of Physical Activity 8) Promote a Healthy Lifestyle (healthy choices) 9) Promote Healthy Weight Management (obesity reduction) 10) Provide information on services and activities to promote a sense of Wellbeing and Inclusion <p><u>For Parents / Carers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Provide an Event offering both <u>FREE</u> Entrance & <u>FREE</u>

	<p>Activities to Ensure an Inclusion for <u>ALL</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Demonstrate how Play & Quality Family Time can be achieved on a Zero / Minimal Budget using Natural & Recycled materials 6) Provide information on services and activities available in the local and wider area <p><u>For Communities</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Encourage a greater sense of belonging to promote Active & Engaged Communities – ‘Love Where You Live’ 5) Promote local clubs, groups and societies 6) Involve local groups, communities and Children & Young People in the planning and delivery of each event
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Playday is the annual celebration of the Childrens Right to Play in the UK.

The 2021 theme, Summer of Play, recognised the challenges children and young people faced over the past year and the need to enjoy time for play with their friends, having fun.

www.summerofplay.co.uk / www.playday.org.uk

- Playing is essential for children’s mental health and wellbeing.
- Playing helps children cope with stress and anxiety and fosters resilience, enabling children to better deal with challenges.
- Playing gives children the opportunity to have fun, laugh, take time out, relax, and build friendships.
- Playing outside allows children to appreciate nature, the environment, and feel part of their community.
- Playing is fundamental to children’s happiness, and happy children lead to happier communities.



<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>OXFORD THERAPEUTIC PLAYWORK</u>
FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY	 <p>Supported by</p> <p>Children in Need</p> <p>Oxfordshire Community Foundation</p> <p>Christ's Hospital of Abingdon</p> <p>Almshouses - Education - Relief in Need - Albert Park</p>
PROJECT DETAILS	<p>To support Children & Young People faced with challenges to increase their resilience, develop a positive sense of self and improve their self confidence</p> <p>Developed in partnership with the late, Internationally renowned Playwork Theorist Gordon Sturrock</p>

Following our initial 3 year project funding from Children In Need OPA was successful in securing continuation funding from both the Oxfordshire Community Foundation and Christs Hospital of Abingdon to continue our Therapeutic Playwork project at both Windale School in Oxford and Thameside School in Abingdon. Both of these schools are situated in wards which suffer from issues when measured using the Indices of Multiple Deprivation

- We worked with 6 Cohorts of 6 x Children to deliver 10 x 1 hour Therapeutic Play sessions within School Hours, each over 1 Full term
- 36 Children in total – 24 from Windale School and 12 from Thameside School
- The Therapeutic Play sessions were delivered by 2 Therapeutic Playwork specialists from OPA with extensive experience of working in this environment
- The Therapeutic Playwork sessions offered a safe and secure, Child led Play Environment with an empathetic approach to Play that centred around clear and consistent boundaries to enable Children to express and act out emotions in a safe way

KEY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1) Children and Young People are Emotionally Well – They can Play through and express their emotions in a safe, non-judgemental way
- 2) Children and Young People are Empowered through Child Centred and Child Led activities / sessions
- 3) Children & Young People enjoy Positive Relationships with their Peers and Adults



WHO

- We worked with Children with additional needs who currently fall below the Oxfordshire County Council 'Threshold of Need' (those at Level 2 / early Level 3 on the County Council 'windscreen')
- The project was not designed for those Children with multiple / complex needs
- Children suffering Lack of Confidence, Social Skills etc

Following meetings with key staff at the school the Children were chosen and referred by the school. Feedback from staff showed sincere appreciation of the positive impact that our sessions had on these children.

The sessions were delivered on a Tuesday – 'Tuesday Club', Wednesday – 'Wednesday Club' and Thursday – 'Thursday Club'



PROJECT	<u>Street Play project in South Northamptonshire</u>
FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY	 <p>LONDON MARATHON CHARITABLE TRUST </p> <p>Northamptonshire Community Foundation Giving back to our county</p>
PROJECT DETAILS	Street Play events based on the Playing Out model developed in Bristol and now delivered nationally

Working with our partners at South Northants Youth Engagement (SNYE) we delivered a series of Street / Community Play events across South Northamptonshire. Like our Playday project this also enabled us to work in partnership with a wide range of other local organisations.

We delivered sessions / events in Brackley, Towcester, Kings Sutton and Deanshanger



This project offers 'Doorstep Opportunities' and brings Communities together to reclaim their Streets for Play, Activity and to improve Community Bonding

Research shows that playing out on a street near their homes is vital to children's health and wellbeing. Play England research has found that 71% of adults played in the street or area near their home everyday when they were a child, only 21% of children do so today.



PROJECT	Street Play project in North Oxfordshire
FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY	
PROJECT DETAILS	Street Play events based on the Playing Out model developed in Bristol and now delivered nationally

We also secured funding to deliver a Street Play project within Cherwell District Council which saw us deliver events / sessions in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington. Again we worked in close partnership with a range of partners including Sanctuary Housing, Cherwell District Council, A2 Dominion, Kidlington Parish Council and others, in total we delivered 8 events / sessions with the remainder to be delivered in the next financial year.

	Number of Dwellings	Attendance
McKeevor Place, Banbury	17	20
Elmsbrook Phase 1, Bicester	157	33
Elmsbrook Phase 3, Bicester	100	38
Bramley Close, Kidlington	38	15
Croxford Gardens, Kidlington	95	19
Osborne Close, Kidlington	50	11
South Street, Banbury		7
Sage Street, Bicester	100	51
Morello Close, Bicester	157	37



<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>Cherwell District Council – Play Infrastructure</u>
FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY	
PROJECT DETAILS	Supporting Play Infrastructure, Projects and Services across the Cherwell District Council Area

Within Cherwell District Council we co-Chair the Cherwell Young People, Play and Wellbeing Group and are also involved with the ‘Grimsbury Network’ working in the ‘Brighter Futures’ areas of Banbury.

This work also includes attending Outreach events (such as Winter & New Year Wishes) which looks to consult with local residents as well as working with other partners in the District to plan and deliver large scale Community events.

This work has also expanded to incorporate ‘All About YOUth’, the initiative designed to disrupt County Lines drug gangs and ‘OX5 Better Together’ which will introduce a ‘Healthy Town’ approach to the whole Community in Kidlington and surrounding areas.

All of this work involves large numbers of local stakeholders and act as a focus point to co-ordinate service delivery, reduce duplication and share best practice as well as increasing delivery capacity across the whole district.

Our work in these areas will link into the main themes of the Cherwell Play Strategy which include;

Increased Participation / To Improve Play Spaces / Community Cohesion / Inclusivity / Develop Play in both Urban & Rural Areas / Promote Managed, Risky Play / To Introduce more Play into, and out of School



Better together

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>Armed Forces Support Project</u>	
FUNDED BY	ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST	
PROJECT DETAILS	Deliver project work at both RAF Benson and Dalton Barracks to include a Weekly Stay & Play session and a Bi-weekly Saturdays sessions at each location	

Oxfordshire County Council was the first local authority in England to sign up to the Community Covenant and through its network of Childrens Centres delivered Outreach services to all of the Armed Forces bases across Oxfordshire.

However due to budget cuts Oxfordshire County Council has reduced many of its services across Oxfordshire and its Children & Young People directorate will now only work with Young People in the most need.

All of the County Council run Childrens Centres were closed in April 2017. They no longer deliver any 'Universal Services'. This means that there were no outreach services being delivered by any 3rd party provider at either RAF Benson or Dalton Barracks.

Following initial 2 year funding from HM Treasury we secured 2 year continuation funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Trust to continue delivering this project which works with Armed Forces Children & their Families to not only provide Open Access, Play based sessions but to also provide guidance and services across the local area so that they are able to participate fully in local activities.

Following the Coronavirus lockdowns and restrictions we were able to deliver almost a full year of sessions and Parents / Carers were so grateful that their Children were able to socialise and play with others (many for the first time) and the Peer support networks were back in place to help support them.



PROJECT	Faringdon Junior Youth Club
FUNDED BY	 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 
PROJECT DETAILS	A Junior Youth Club delivered weekly for Children aged from 10 to 13 in School Years 6,7 and 8

Following consultation with our partners and with Young People and Thanks to funding from Faringdon Town Council and Oxfordshire County Council we launched our 'Faringdon Junior Youth Club' in November 2021.

The project is aimed at supporting Young People aged 10 to 13 as they transition to secondary school (school years 6,7 and 8) and is a mixture of Playwork / Youthwork

Faringdon Town Football Club kindly host the sessions and these take place for 2 hours on a Monday evening.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



FARINGDON JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB

MONDAY EVENINGS – 5.45PM TO 7.45PM

**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 10 TO 13
YEARS (SCHOOL YEARS 6, 7 AND 8)**



**MONDAY NIGHTS FROM 5.45PM TO
7.45PM AT FARINGDON TOWN FC,
TUCKER PARK, PARK ROAD,
FARINGDON, OXON. SN7 7BP**

FREE ENTRANCE AND FREE ACTIVITIES

Tuckshop / Snacks available to purchase
Contact = 07436 270267 / martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk /
www.oxonplay.org.uk

This project is funded and supported by:



Friends of OPA are now able to support the Charity via the local Council Lotteries in South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, Cherwell and Oxford City




WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE

Buy Your Tickets From Our Page - We Get 50%

- We now have a SO Charitable Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other good causes in South Oxfordshire!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To Start Supporting, Visit:
www.SoCharitable.co.uk
And Search For:
OPA



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older




WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE

Buy Your Tickets From Our Page - We Get 50%

- We now have a Cherwell Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other local good causes!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To Start Supporting, Visit:
www.CherwellLottery.co.uk
And Search For:
OPA



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older




WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE

Buy Your Tickets From Our Page - We Get 50%

- We now have a Oxford Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other local good causes!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To Start Supporting, Visit:
www.OxfordLottery.org
And Search For:
Play Association



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older




WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE

Buy your tickets from our page - we get 50%

- We now have a White Horse Community Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other local good causes!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To start supporting, visit:
www.WhiteHorseLottery.co.uk
and search for:
Oxfordshire Play



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>Science Together Project</u>
FUNDED BY	 
PROJECT DETAILS	<p>Science Together is a new collaboration between the Public Engagement Team and Researchers at both the University of Oxford and Brookes University and local Oxfordshire community groups.</p> <p>We were very fortunate to be chosen for the project and be able to work with a team with the world class skills, knowledge and resources of the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University researchers?</p> <p>SCIENCE TOGETHER is a brand new, grass-roots programme that harnesses the power of community-led collaborative research projects to overcome challenges and seize opportunities for people who live and work in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>We are working with a team to produce a document entitled ‘Why Play is Important in Oxfordshire’ which, when finished will be sent to our partners, funders and decision makers across the County.</p> <p>When finished the report will provide evidence from academic and non-academic sources highlighting the importance of play and the importance of supplying resources to support play across Oxfordshire. Play positively impacts children's lives, including their physical and mental wellbeing and within their communities.</p>

PROJECT	Outreach (RAF Brize Norton & Ark T)
COMMISSIONED BY	Ark T AND RAF Brize Norton Community Development Team
PROJECT DETAILS	<p>Ark T - We deliver a monthly Stay & Play session on the first Monday of every month as part of their FREE Community Hub days</p>  <p>At RAF Brize Norton we delivered monthly Stay & Play sessions to support the Community Development Team with their Coffee mornings offering support to Families</p>





OXFORDSHIRE PLAY ASSOCIATION

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 www.oxonplay.org.uk

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