



Annual Report 2012-13

Newark Play Association

Registered charity number: 1026751



**Holiday and Afterschool Play Sessions • Additional Childcare
Play Support Service • Preschool Playgroup • Group Visits
Parent & Toddler Group • Birthday Parties • Volunteering**

**At New Ark we learn how to manage risk.
We don't mind getting messy.
We value our world.**



Educational and group farm visits

New Ark Play



Adventure Playground,
City Farm & Eco Centre



- Care for domestic and farm animals on our city farm.
- Group teaching spaces outdoors or under shelter.
- Explore our woodland/sensory play area or adventure playground.
- £3.50 per child in term-time (2 hour visit) or £6.50 in holidays (4-5 hour visit).
- Ideal for schools, preschools, special needs groups, holiday clubs, parent and toddler groups, cubs and brownies and other children's groups.



**Find out more at www.newarkplay.co.uk
or call Carolyn 10am-12pm on 340605**

Introduction to New Ark Play

New Ark is a special place where children of all ages are encouraged to play in ways that are creative, adventurous and explore the world

We are an independent charity, officially called Newark Play Association. We aim to provide stimulating play opportunities for all children no matter what their age and background. Our facilities include a traditional adventure playground, an eco garden and a city farm.



We are run by a Management Council of local volunteers. Many are parents whose children play at New Ark; some are local businesspeople with valuable management skills.

Many of the structures in our traditional adventure playground are handmade on site

We employ professional play and child care workers, several of whom are Forest School trained. About 100 volunteers help with all kinds of jobs in the adventure playground, eco centre and city farm, plus admin and fundraising.

We are registered with Ofsted and were rated “outstanding” in our last two inspections, most recently in May 2013.

We keep charges as low as possible and try to ensure that lack of money does not prevent children from enjoying our facilities. We are partially grant-aided by Peterborough City Council. We are also supported by grants, fundraising events and appeals.

We support the right to play, which is enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Play is a child’s natural way of learning about the world, themselves and other people. Children need play opportunities that encourage exploration, adventure and enterprise. Having enough time and space for play increases health and happiness. Play makes life more interesting and fun!

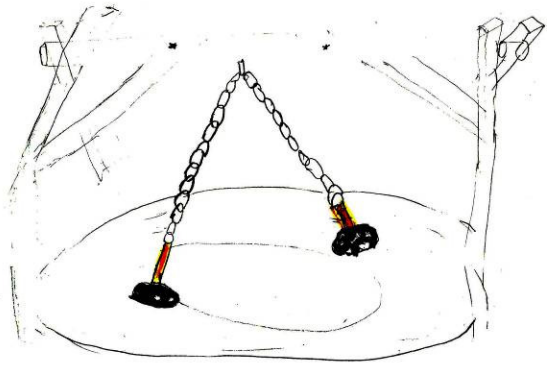
We hope you enjoy reading our Annual report and seeing the children’s artwork which is scattered throughout these pages.

Outdoor facilities at New Ark

At New Ark Play children can enjoy all kinds of play, safely under adult supervision, indoors and out, all year round. Our outdoor facilities include...

Adventure Playground

Many of the structures in our traditional adventure playground are handmade on site, using traditional building materials and discarded industrial parts. Children can ride our aerial runway, swing on a tyre, and play tag on our huge American swing. Alternatively they can climb frames, roll down our hill, or join a den-building team.



American Swing, by Mary-Jean aged 10

Playground-goers explore risk in a controlled environment while supervised by professional playworkers, who know when to help and encourage and when to step back to let children work things out for themselves. They get heaps of exercise, fresh air, contact with the natural world and all the benefits of play!



New Ark Farm, by Neave, aged 9

City Farm

New Ark is the only City Farm in the Eastern Counties. Children can see, touch and help to care for small pets, poultry and some larger farm animals. They learn about nature and enjoy the responsibility of caring for animals. Many of our animals were rescued from owners who could no longer care for them, and we try to rehome some of them.

We receive no Government funding and rely on donations to help us pay for food, bedding and veterinary care. We encourage families to sponsor an animal and/or volunteer for animal care duties outside of our normal opening hours.

Eco Centre

With its woodland area, sensory garden and small orchard, children can observe the life cycles of wild creatures. They also learn to appreciate the colours, shapes and scents of plants. The area contains both purpose-built and loose natural play structures, which are generally suitable for younger children. We run a weekly toddler group in the eco centre and playgroup children attend a session every week. Sessions for older children are offered in school holidays.

Our innovative teaching methods include Eco Centre sessions and making full use of the City Farm, to engage children in learning about the natural world and living things



Support Garden

The garden behind our play support building contains a vegetable patch and provides an ideal enclosed area for gentler outdoor activities. It is often used by small groups of children.

What's on

At New Ark there is something for children of all ages

Afterschool playground Alongside adventure play – such as digging, building, ball games, swinging and climbing – we provide a wide range of creative art and craft activities. The children visit the City Farm and help to care for our animals.

Holiday playground Similar activities to afterschool activities plus baking, outdoor cooking, den-building, water slides, messy play and more. By prior arrangement we can offer childcare between 8.30am-6pm. During summer holidays we run forest school sessions for under 8s.

One-off visits We welcome a limited number of visitors - contact us first.

Play Support Service Specialist staff support for individuals and small groups with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Parent and Toddler Group Children aged 0-4 can explore our eco centre and city farm.

Preschool Playgroups Children develop through play, using both the adventure playground, farm and eco centre. In the summer term we offer Eco Baby sessions for children due to start preschool in September.

Group visits and parties Schools, clubs and community groups can organise visits to our city farm during the week, and at weekends we are available to hire for birthday parties.

We believe that....

Play is the child's natural way of learning.
Play makes life exciting, interesting and fun.

So we...

Provide stimulating and exciting play opportunities for children of all ages, at affordable prices, always meeting Ofsted requirements.

Here we are in action...



*Encouraging responsibility
on the city farm*



Exploring nature in the eco centre



*Enabling fun on a hot day
in the playground*



*Experiencing the rain as playgroup children
build their own water features*

A review of 2012-13 at New Ark

By Bill Purdon, chair of the Management Council

New Ark Play has completed another year providing children with a great place to play, create and taste the outdoors.

Our excellence throughout 2012-13 was recognised by Ofsted who, during an inspection in May 2013, rated us as outstanding for the second time in a row. We are very proud of this, particularly given recent changes to the way that childcare and preschool providers are assessed.



Children make their own choices about how they play with our equipment

Staff came in for particular praise from Ofsted – we are fortunate to have such a dedicated and enthusiastic team who have many years of experience. This year they have continued their professional development and most are now level 3 qualified (the minimum requirement for our setting is level 2) in either childcare or playwork—some with additional forest school qualifications.

On the financial side, you may know that New Ark Play nearly closed in 2011. We were saved by a generous donation from our Secret Millionaire and a huge fundraising drive by parents, staff and volunteers.

Raising money has continued to be a challenge during 2012-13, but we are lucky to have a hard-working team of fundraisers who have run many events and written funding applications. Our amazing reunion in May 2012 raised close on £4,000, and throughout the financial year many small fundraisers have raised a few tens of pounds each.

Both large and small fundraiser are vital to help us stay afloat. The high level of support given to New Ark from parents, local businesses and the general community continues to delight and amaze the trustees.

One of our more difficult financial decisions, made in spring 2013, was to change our playground fees to parents. A good deal of research and debate went into this, and we believe we have a fair and sustainable system that does not exclude anyone from enjoying the New Ark Play experience.

This year the committee that manages New Ark has recognised that we need to plan more for the long-term. We have reviewed our objectives, how we monitor finances, and worked closely with staff to understand issues. We have started to review policies, develop better communication systems, and set up a separate fundraising committee. But we know we still have a lot of work to do in all these areas...

The number of volunteers who help run New Ark Play – called our Management Council – is small and we are keen to recruit more members, especially anyone with HR, IT, marketing and fundraising skills.

As always, we owe huge thanks to those who give us free help with fundraising, animal care, and property maintenance. We have worked hard to renovate our main building this year, with new electrics and repainting, and this could not have been achieved without the kindness of local businesses. We are now saving to install new heating in the main building.

A highlight of the year was receiving funding from Vivacity which led to the unveiling of our history boards at the



A lot of work has been done on our renovating our main building

Summer Fete in June 2013. These show how New Ark has developed since 1974. We are, of course, glad to still have the inspiring support of Elisabeth Buck MBE, who has been at the heart of New Ark all along.

Financial summary 2012-13

By Charlotte Griggs, Operations Manager

Income is down £26k this year, but bear in mind that last year’s figure included the generous ‘Secret Millionaire’ donation of £50k so we are still on the right track and raised a grand total of £15,351 through fundraising in 2012-13. The Reunion event held in May was our biggest event raising nearly £4K, and the farm raised a similar amount through the year—see pages 10-11 for more details.

Our Play Support Service saw a significant increase in revenue last year. Following funding cuts several years ago we have put a great deal of hard work into building this area up and

| | 2012 | 2013 | Year on year |
|--------------------|----------|----------|--------------|
| Income | £266,722 | £240,664 | Down £26,058 |
| Expenditure | £209,749 | £232,133 | Up £22,384 |
| Year end | +£56,973 | +£8,531 | |

it is satisfying to see the effort pay off.

In terms of direct charitable expenditure, our salary figures have dramatically changed due to a more detailed split being completed, staff receiving a well earned pay rise and staff increasing their hours to meet demands of the business.

An increase in post/stationary/printing is due to more promotional work being carried out.

Planning ahead for the year 2013-14

By Charlotte Griggs, Operations Manager

Here are a selection of our plans for the financial year 2013-14

Playground

By the time this report is printed our playground holiday and afterschool registration fees will have been changed, to help increase the income in playground and create more sustainability. There are two types of memberships: one covering school holidays and the other for afterschool (payable at the beginning of each term). This will give parents/guardians more flexibility to pay for what they use and hopefully encourage new families to join New Ark. Eco sessions are planned for the school holidays.

Playgroup

Funding for 2.9 year olds is being reviewed and we are considering opening two new afternoon sessions in the Eco Centre, as well as the usual weekly eco session for preschool children.

Play Support Service

Growth opportunities are being explored. Cash flow will improve with more frequent invoicing to schools and agencies.

Accounting Software

We will start to use accounting software in 2013/14 which will help to keep our accounts up to date and provide more accurate quarterly reports. This will help management staff and Management Committee members to make decisions around spending and financial planning throughout the year.



Play makes life interesting and fun

Funding

It has been identified that we need to apply for more grants to help with the costs of running both our playground sessions and also general repairs/maintenance to our building, equipment and grounds.

Fundraising

A fundraising committee has been established to schedule fundraising activities in the coming year. We have set a target of £15k and placed a thermometer in our main lobby to show progress towards this fundraising target. Fundraising will be used to improve our facilities and keep our fees low, so that all families can afford them. Your support at our fundraising events is vital to continue this.

The fundraising committee wants to recruit volunteers to help organise and run fundraising events and activities. If you can help please contact Charlotte on 01733 340605.

Summary of recent fundraising

A snapshot of fundraising events from 2012-13

In the financial year 2012-13 we raised £9,340 in total. The year got off to a great start when an 8 year old supporter of New Ark, **William Efford**, raised £105 by doing a mountain climb in April 2012.

We were delighted to raise just under £4,000 at the **New Ark Reunion Day in May 2012**. We raised £1,600 on the raffle alone which included generous donations from JLS, Mike Greene and many, many local businesses. It was a delight to make contact again with lots of grown up New Ark children. Our stalls, hog roast, hall of fame, and beautiful sunshine showed off the farm and adventure playground at its very best. It was wonderful to see so many faces new and old on the day.

Over the summer we ran a **joint fundraiser** with Family Voice raising £320, and we took part in the **John Lewis green token** scheme which netted us £690.

In September, playworker Nikki Anderson put her voice to great use as our caller at our **Bingo Night**. Mainly attended by staff members and their families, this fun event raised £640.

October was a busy fundraising month. Our **Family Open Day** raised £130 through the sale of donated homemade cakes and other refreshments. Glitz Glam Jewellery organised a mini **autumn fete** at Paston Church Hall on our behalf, donating £203 from the proceeds. And finally **David Wilson**, the partner of our playgroup supervisor

Linda, raised £230 by asking friends and family to sponsor him running the Peterborough Half Marathon.

Our **Christmas Bazaar** in December 2012 was enormous fun and incredibly busy, raising £2,134. This is the highest amount we have ever raised from a Christmas fundraiser.

Also in December, **Ally Hall Hairdressing** organised a raffle and raised £100. Other external fundraising was undertaken by Sonia Hannon of our eco centre, who organised 3 raffles at **Peterborough Greyhounds** in June, December and March, raising a grand total of £958.



Refreshment sales raised £130 at our October 2012 open day

Local pubs continue to support us with collection tins for loose change. Customers at **The Bluebell** donated £75 last year, and we have received £56 from **The Elmtree Tavern**. Also we receive donations through the **Local Giving** website. We encourage all parents who are taxpayers to donate to us through this online facility - it is easy for you to do, saves us time and gives us more money if you remember to tick the Gift Aid button.



Tombolas, cake sales and lots of fun are a hallmark of New Ark fundraisers

In 2013-14 our fundraising target is £15,000. Events organised so far include:

- Parent Sharon Hall raised an amazing £923 running the London Marathon.
- April saw our Racing Night (postponed from March) raise £674
- Our summer fete and history day in June raised £2,437
- A further greyhounds raffle in June raised £251
- Various events at Asda over the summer have raised £209.87

Our parent and toddler group

continues to be a great source of support, holding regular fundraising events and buying eggs from our farm. Fundraising at the farm itself totalled £4,011 last year. Our partnership with **Pets at Home** raised £959 of this, both through their rehoming scheme and through fundraisers at their store. School and playgroup **visits** to New Ark raised a further £977 and birthday **parties** on the farm raised £535. The rest came from animal sponsorship, egg and straw sales, and donations.

Playgroup parents helped to fundraise in various ways this year. In March 2013 a **pyjama day** raised £55. Also in March they joined the parent and toddler **Easter raffle** to win egg hampers, raising a further £113.

We continue to receive generous **donations** from families with young children who visit us during the holidays. Plus of course ongoing donations from individuals who wish to remain anonymous.

We received two grants in 2012/13: £5,500 from **Vivacity** for our history project (see page 26), and £500 from **Cambridgeshire Community Foundation** to run eco sessions.

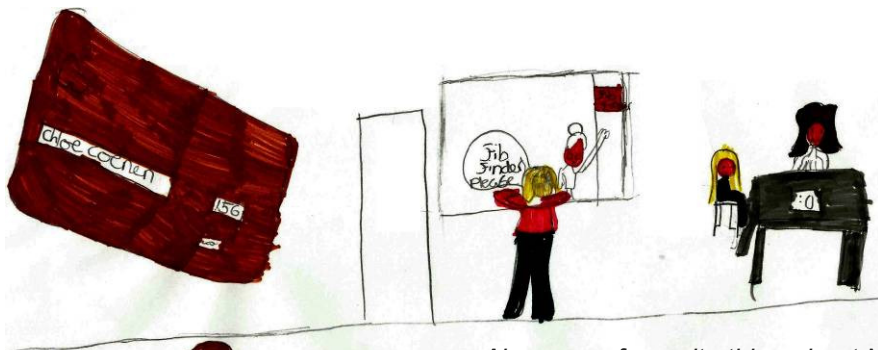
**Mike Greene
New Ark's Secret
Millionaire**



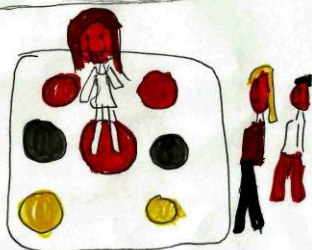
After getting to know the team and children at New Ark, I decided to change my life, sell my business and spend more time supporting charity through localgiving.com, which supports over 3,000 charities.

Without doubt the charity that connected most with me was New Ark. There is nothing more important than giving children the right start and making them feel secure during their formative years. I am pleased to support New Ark, but it has also been great to see how the team have developed and become far more self sufficient in the last year - making New Ark self sustaining. They have worked really hard to develop and maintain increasing awareness and support from the community. I wish them ongoing success and I intend to stay in touch and support them wherever and whenever possible.

Children tell us their favourite things...



Above: my favourite thing about New Ark is getting games out, by Chloe aged 8



Right: my face when I come to New Ark, by Angell aged 9



Jenny Chinese Bantam hen

She sits on my arm, shaww it is fun she is like a little Parrot.



My favourite chicken
Dennis



Jenny the Chinese Bantam Hen, by Dennis aged 9

I like sliding down the waterslide on my tummy when it's hot, by Jacob aged 7

Trustees, volunteers and employees

Board of Trustees

Bill Purdon, Chair
Rob Brown, Vice Chair
Paul Raymond, Treasurer
Ioannis Dermitzakis
Lisa Sachse
Dave Flanigan



Trustees and management staff work closely together to keep our charity working well

Thank you to Ally Hall, Hayley Daines, Ron Welch and Sharon Raymond who were on the board in 2012-13

Volunteers

Anne Mountford
Christine Welch
Clare Stephenson
Dawn Schmidt-Rieche
Donne Buck
Hannah Mirthwaite
Hayley Daines
Jamie Paterson
Jane Carpenter
Jane Kelly
Kelly White
Kirsty Dickinson
Laury Rondel
Lisa Carter
Mark Harding
Melanie Murray
Paulina Marcfield
Ron Welch
Sam Brader
Sharon Raymond
Vanessa Priestly

Employees

Playgroup

Nikki Anderson, Manager
Linda Fisher, Supervisor
Linda Wilson, Supervisor
Abbie Braines
Denise Jinks
Heidi Johnson
Jayne Davey
Jen Faunt
Jodie Watson
Lisa Paterson

Playgroup - Eco

Elisabeth Buck, Manager
Debbie Knighton,
Supervisor
Avni Patel
Sonia Hannon

Play Support Service

Sam Brown, Manager
Stuart Gallagher

Playground

Sheri Gill, Manager
Abbie Braines
James Angell
Jodie Watson
Laura Bellamy
Stuart Gallagher

Farm

Carolyn Bellamy,
Manager

Administration

Charlotte Griggs,
Manager

Cleaning

Kelly Martin
Laura Bellamy

Casual workers

Kirsty Dickinson
Hope Elkins

Raise free funds for us at

easyfundraising
.org.uk

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/newark

Every time you shop, you'll earn a donation for
New Ark Play and it won't cost you a penny!

Volunteering at New Ark

We have more than 100 volunteers who work in all kinds of areas at New Ark, from management to mucking out the animals. Here we introduce you to a few of them, and explain more about how you can get involved...



Paul Raymond
Treasurer

My role is to support the staff and Management Council members to make financial decisions. Both my children attend the playground, and I like knowing that I can make a difference. I do most of my admin-based volunteering whilst commuting to work, and when I visit New Ark I may find myself helping with other jobs such as tidying the toolshed.

Hayley Daines
Fundraising team

I wanted to give something back as a thank you for the great times I spent at New Ark as a child, so when my own children were at toddler group and preschool I joined the Management Council, which worked well alongside my part time job as a paediatric deputy sister. I recently arranged a work party for 25 NHS colleagues to spend a day cleaning out animal sheds, painting fences and weeding - very different from the day job! I have now joined the fundraising team and helped to organise many events, including the Summer Fete where I served cream teas. The whole New Ark experience has made me many lifelong friends. Volunteering for such an amazing charity has been a huge privilege.



Rob Brown
Vice chair

I started helping on the farm 14 years ago, when my youngest child was 6 months old and my daughter attended playgroup. I was invited to a committee meeting to see what it involved. From that I decided I wanted to become more involved and have been ever since! I work full time and visit New Ark regularly to help with repairs and maintenance. There are always jobs to do and we welcome help. My role is rewarding especially as it is helping a charity focused around children. I was very proud to have my 12 years of volunteering for New Ark recognised at Peterborough's Annual Volunteer Awards Evening in November 2012.



Rob receives his award from actor and compere Ricky Groves and Cllr George Simons, Mayor of Peterborough



**Jane Keily
Farm volunteer**

I volunteer on the farm for 2 hours every Wednesday. When I get in I get straight on with feeding and cleaning out the small animals, but I

might also help out with anything that needs doing. I volunteer at New Ark because I have time on my hands and enjoy encouraging the children to care for animals. I like the animals as well! I knitted the coat that you'll see Eddie the goat wearing in the colder weather.

**Melanie Murray
Preschool volunteer**

I run the playgroup library and help with fundraising. Due to a disability I am unable to work as a nurse anymore and volunteering at New Ark gives me a sense of achievement and social contact with the lovely staff and parents. I wholeheartedly believe in the service that New Ark provides to the community and promote it wherever I can. On a personal note, both my boys attend the playground and LOVE it!



**Jamie Paterson
Web support**

I provide occasional technical support for the website. I can slot it in around my job as an IT technician as I don't need to go onsite. I got

involved because I knew that New Ark needed extra visibility and it also helped me to try out a few things to extend my work skills. I enjoy helping out when I get the time, either with IT or other short focused jobs.

Could you help out at New Ark?

As an independent charity, New Ark needs support from the local community. Without help from volunteers we would not exist! Here are some of the things you could do as a volunteer at New Ark:

- Help at teatime, to make toast or sell tuck for playground children.
- Bake cakes for fundraisers.
- Spare a few hours per week to help with office admin.
- Do craft activities with our children.
- Join the fundraising team and help to organise a fundraising event.
- Ask local businesses to donate raffle prizes.
- Make cups of tea for parents at our toddler group on Wednesday afternoons.
- Join our Management Council—we are seeking new trustees with enthusiasm and/or business experience, especially in HR, IT and fundraising.
- Put up posters for events in your local shop/café/community centre.
- Provide some on-call IT support.
- Repair play equipment, buildings, animal housing, etc.
- Gardening and site maintenance.
- Help during our 2014 repairs and maintenance weeks, planned for 22-26 April and 1-5 September.

For a no-obligation chat about volunteering for New Ark please get in touch with Charlotte on info@newarkplay.co.uk or call us on 01733 340605.

Thank you....

...to all the businesses and individuals who have supported New Ark with donations, fundraising and loan of equipment during the financial year 2012-13. We've listed as many of you as we can.

Organisations

ACCF Anglia Cooperative * Activity World * Ben Fallows Specialist Painting Group * BGL Group * BIC UK Limited * Big Sky * Bluebell Pub * Cambridgeshire Community Foundation * Cummins * DJ Wilson School of Motoring * Elm Tree Tavern * Family Voice * Funergy Soft Play Hire * Fusion Group * Glitzy Glam Jewellery * Greyhounds Stadium * Hegarty & Co * Huntingdon College * Ibrahim Restaruant * John Lewis * Keeping HR Simple * KFC, Eye and London Rd * Lakeside Superbowl * Laserforce * Marks & Spencers, Brotherhood * Moore Stephens * NCT Peterborough * Nene Valley Railway * Newark Hill School * Nightingale Procurement * Odiz News, Food & Wine * Oundle School students * Peacock Pub * Peterborough City Council * Peterborough Regional College * Peterborough & Stamford Hospitals Trust * PCVS * Pets at Home * Prince's Trust * Prohelp * Rawlinson's * Ringway Contractors * Royal British Legion * Sainsbury's, Oxney Rd * Somersby House Tack Shop * Soup Kitchen * Tandem Professional IT Support * The Party Bus * The Square Café * The Tanning Salon Thera Trust East Anglia * Ultimate Performance * Vicacity Peterborough Culture & Leisure

And all the local schools, shops and venues who display our event posters.

Individuals

Adrian Bruce * Amanda Roberts * Andre Newman * Annette Atkinson * Bella Saltmarsh * Chris Welch * Clare Duffy * Claudia Butler * David Boffey * David Flannigan * David Wilson * Debbie Todd * Dominique Freer * Emily Henderson * Helen Moyles * Helen Sanders * Helen Si * Iris Mountain * Jackie Perkins * Jane Carpenter * Jane Davey * Jaz Jovkovska * Judy Slynn * Kate Hall * Laura Banard * Lisa Sache * Lynsey Buckingham * Mark & Karen Harding * Martin Byford-Rue * Maurice Anderson * The Meddings family * Mary and John Kemp * Michelle Daley * Mike and Julia Greene * Monica Fincham * Paul Archer * Paul Harvey * Richard Bradbury * Sarah Guest * Sharon Hall * Sheila Thompson * Sonia Hannon * Sue Hurd * Susie Waugh * Tony Harriss * Toby Wood * Tu Kian * William Efford * Zoe Pallister

And all the parents who continually donate items and support fundraising events. The names are endless and too many to mention here, but thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



BGL staff helping on the farm

Corporate Social Responsibility

By Charlotte Griggs, Operations Manager

During 2012-13 New Ark was helped by several companies wanting to do something positive in the community. Contributions have ranged from one-off donations for prizes and equipment, to sending in a working party in to help with a task. Below are just a few examples of the support we have received during the last financial year...

Pets at Home Peterborough partnered our farm for most of 2012-13, fundraising hundreds of pounds for us and donating animal supplies. Assistant store manager Anne Mountford ran workshops on-site at New Ark to show our playground children exotic pets from the store; she also volunteers here on a weekly basis.

In October 2012 Junction Insurance, the partnerships division of **BGL Group**, sent in a team of staff to tidy and paint our farm and orchard area. They also did some admin for us and donated a laptop.

New Ark has received assistance from **Hegarty & Co** solicitors to review our charity's legal governance. **Moore Stephens** chartered accountants have also been assisting with financial advice and helping us to put in place a budget to keep our finances on track.

In March 2013 **Cummins Business Services** approached New Ark wanting to develop a partnership with a local

charity. Since then they have supported us with a number of areas, from reviewing our admin procedures to providing practical help during our repairs and maintenance weeks. Two employees have joined our fundraising committee and we continue to work with Cummins to develop the working relationship.

Other support so far in the current financial year 2013-14 includes **Fallows Specialist Painting Systems** who repainted our main playroom, and **NHS Peterborough** who sent a

working party to do farm maintenance. Some of the recent larger donations from local businesses include a freezer and top raffle prize from **John Lewis Distribution Team**, a toaster and vacuum from **Anglia Co-operative Community Fund**, and fundraising activities by students at **Peterborough Regional College**.

We are grateful to **Keeping HR Simple**, the **Prohelp** network and **Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services** for referring businesses who want to work with charities to New Ark. We look forward to working with **Side by Side Peterborough**, who are displaying New Ark projects for companies to get involved with. If the business you work for could help raise money for New Ark, provide volunteers or donate much needed items, contact Charlotte on 01733 340605.



A working party from Cummins

New Ark Eco Centre report

By Elisabeth Buck MBE, Eco Manager



Eco babies playing in the gravel pit



Playgroup children exploring the mud pit



Playground children await their hot chocolate

Eco Centre staff enjoy coming to work! They work outdoors all year round. Even in winter, we get out for at least part of the session.

In the year before they start school, all New Ark preschoolers have a session each week in the Eco Centre. They become knowledgeable about the lifecycles of frogs and butterflies, and the plants and creatures there. They are very aware of the passing seasons. They look forward to our cooking fires in the forest with hot chocolate and popcorn, pancakes or dampers.

Last summer holidays 2012, we were fortunate to get funding to run similar eco sessions for the older children in our playground, from Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. They proved very popular and are happening again in August 2013 thanks to funding from Comic Relief via CCF.

In May 2013, Ofsted judged our setting to be 'outstanding' for the second

time—what the inspector saw in the eco garden contributed to this. She commented on our children's ability to assess risk, their communication skills and their independence working in the forest and garden.

Eco Baby sessions, provide an opportunity for summer-born children, who get less time at New Ark before starting school, to become familiar with our staff and premises before they start at our Preschool Playgroup in September. As ever we have a waiting list for these sessions

Our weekly parent and toddler group continues to thrive, especially in the summer months. We are open even when it is cold or raining, with the tree canopy providing a giant umbrella for us to play outside and the eco building a snug hideaway with warm drinks and the occasional donated cake. Toddler group always includes a visit to the farm which provides an opportunity to pet small animals and buy fresh eggs.

New Ark Playgroup report

By Nikki Anderson, Playgroup Manager

It's been a busy year at playgroup, as like all preschool settings we have had to start using the new framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This Government document sets out welfare and developmental goals for children aged under 5, and applies to most childcare settings outside the child's own home. The developmental targets cover three prime areas:

- personal, social and emotional,
- physical,
- communication and language.

They are underpinned with requirements for literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts.

Here at New Ark our staff have always worked hard to develop children's personal, social and emotional skills, with communication and language an essential part of this. Combined with our wonderful facilities, this means that we have not found it too hard to implement the new EYFS framework. In fact our main challenge has been the process of transferring everything from the old documentation to the new. As always, our staff have risen to the challenge to get everything done in time.

We have also been looking at characteristics of learning. By carefully watching how each child plays and explores, how they become involved

and concentrate, and how they have their own ideas, our staff can then use individual strategies to help each child develop further.

We have used the Every Child a Talker monitoring tool and implemented a progress checker for all areas of learning. This has helped us to accurately assess each child's age and

stage of development, which again means we can better extend and support each individual.

As always our staff have been inspirational, both in identifying the needs of each child and actively putting in place the necessary steps to support the child and their family. We have worked very closely with parents, and in turn they have given so much support to us for which we are immensely

grateful. Many playgroup parents take an active involvement with fundraising and supplying us with wonderful resources and materials - some of their fantastic financial contributions are outlined on page 10.

Training staff has always been a key priority of New Ark, and this year we have supported playgroup staff and students with their level 2 and 3 training. We ended the year by employing an apprentice after she completed her training with us.



Playgroup children enjoy regular visits to the farm

During 2012-13 some 100 children in total, aged from 2 years 9 months, attended playgroup—and we always have a waiting list. Around 50 children left us at the end of the school year, going off to schools all over the city.

The icing on the cake for all our hard work in 2012-13 came in May 2013, when Ofsted rated us outstanding for the second time in a row. You can read a copy of the inspection report in our office, or at www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/CARE/256791



We use our outdoor space as often as possible, here for painting

Give a little... get a lot!



New Ark Play



Adventure Playground,
City Farm & Eco Centre

Raise 3 times your registration fee, and we will give you next year's registration for free!

Example: raise £120 during 2013-14 and we will waive your £40 fee for one child's holiday playground registration for 2014-15.

Start your fundraising now for 2014-15 registration!

Ask us for a fundraising pack, which includes ideas for small events and explains what to do next. Contact Charlotte on: info@newarkplay.co.uk or **01733 340605**.

Offer applies to all New Ark fees.

New Ark playground report

By Sheri Gill, Playground Manager

In the year since our last report we have changed our open-door access. We now have a locked front door, with a doorbell to gain access to the premises, which enables us to monitor who comes in and out. This has received good feedback from parents—partly because we can now have better contact with those who collect their children and update them with information on their child and New Ark.

We have also recently updated/improved our behaviour policy and given a copy to all families, so that everyone is clear on what is acceptable at New Ark and our approach to dealing with issues. This has had a very positive effect and, with the continuing support of parents, we will continue to maintain a positive and constructive atmosphere.

During the last summer holidays the children built a tepee den with adult help. So far this year the children have started building some more dens of different styles and have even painted them and added carpets, cushions and patio chairs to make them comfy. They have said staff may use the den chairs when we get tired - not that we get much time for sitting in a busy playground (which is how we like it)!

To build the dens we rely on companies to donate pallets and wood. A further delivery in spring 2013 means that we can get busy building more over summer 2013.

A further development for summer 2013 is a change to our pricing

structure, which was thoroughly researched and debated before being agreed. We have had lots of positive comments from parents about the change and we hope that the new fees structure will prove to better cover the costs of running the playground while making it easier for parents to manage.



Children at the afterschool club play tag on our American Swing



Older children who have joined a den group can sign out tools and nails

New Ark Play Support Services

By Sam Brown, Play Support Services and Playground Manager

The Play Support Service has had a busy year, and I am delighted to report that we have had a 50% increase in referrals and income in 2012-13.

We support children who need extra support to build social skills, communication skills, life skills and positive behaviour. They may have low self esteem/confidence or be experiencing emotional turmoil. They may attend school on a part-time basis, or in some cases they may not have a school placement at all. They can be of varying ages and may attend New Ark for just a few weeks or much longer.

Our unique service incorporates all areas of New Ark and offers a play-based curriculum with a focus on the outdoors. Working closely with New Ark's Farm Manager, we build a timetable that incorporates the farm into every session.

This, for most of our children, is their favourite part of New Ark. Popular activities include collecting eggs and cleaning out the duck pond! The children help out during school visits, talking about the animals and offering the visitors food for them. They also engage with our regular volunteers and the younger children from our playgroup. All of this helps to build their confidence as they enjoy becoming a positive role models for others.

Our alternative curriculum works well for children who find the school environment difficult to cope with, although most of them do reach the



Children respond positively to being given responsibility for animal care

stage where they can go back to school full time. Topics covered over the year include the solar system, seasonal changes, insects, and healthy eating. Recently the children have been tasting foods they have not eaten before - exotic fruit is a real favourite! Parents have told us that their children are now being more adventurous at home when it comes to trying different foods.

We achieve our results by working in small groups and providing numerous opportunities for children to succeed. They are encouraged to freely share their ideas and they make important contributions towards activities in a positive and safe environment. Learning takes place both through play

and a great deal of interaction. We spend lots of time talking about and expressing feelings. We experiment to find strategies that help the children cope with their negative feelings, and encourage positive feelings that help to build self esteem.



Prince's Trust work party

word about us with many new referrals now coming through word of mouth. A big thank-you goes to The Princes Trust who recently have been very busy with tidying up the back garden of the Play Support building:

trimming bushes, weeding and mowing the grass.

Our children give us lots of positive feedback and enjoy the opportunities provided at New Ark. We are delighted that schools have returned to use us again and again, and both schools and parents have helped to spread the

And of course a huge thank-you to all the staff here who work hard and have all contributed to achieving our high standard of success throughout the year.

Your pet's home from home...

New Ark Play



Adventure Playground,
City Farm & Eco Centre

Going away on holiday or a short break?



For a small daily fee, New Ark can board your animals while you are away. We can care for guinea pigs, rabbits, chickens and other animals by negotiation. We regret we cannot care for cats and dogs.

Email info@newarkplay.co.uk or call Carolyn between 10am-12pm any weekday on **01733 340605**.

New Ark farm report

By Carolyn Bellamy, Farm Manager

Every day the city farm is visited by children who attend the different areas of New Ark: playground, playgroups, play support and toddler group. They use their time here to explore how to take care of another living creature, how to take care of themselves, and how to take care of the world around us. Some children are here to learn, some love to be given a responsible job, and some simply enjoy the calming effect of being around the animals.

In general the number of one-off visits to the farm has increased over the last year. Spring and summer terms were particularly busy with visits from schools, other preschools, scout groups and birthday parties. The income from these groups all contributes towards the costs of running our farm.

On the note of money, thank you to Pets at Home who continued to support New Ark during 2012-13 with donations and allowing us to hold fundraising days in their shop.

As ever our volunteers play a vital role in keeping our animals healthy and the farm area maintained to a good standard. Our many regular volunteers turn up, rain or shine, to do their bit - the small differences that you all make on a daily basis add up to a huge contribution over the year.

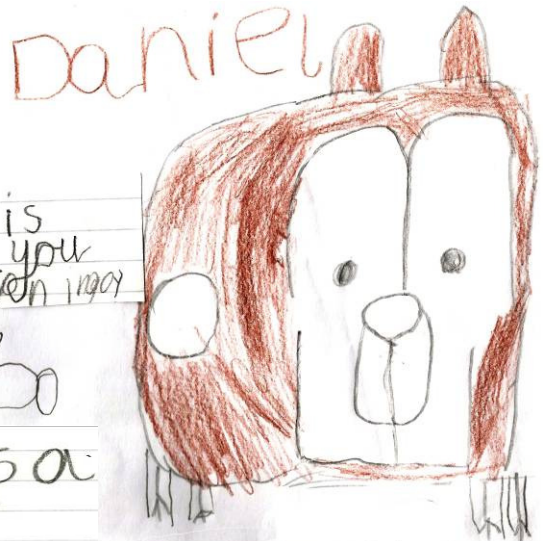
We have welcomed several voluntary working parties this year, both from businesses wishing to support a community project and adult educational groups where the participants also have learning goals. There is no space to list everyone here, so look for your name on our Thank You page.

We would like to give a special mention to The Prince's Trust, who have been supporting our farm for the last 5 years.

new ark is
is a place where you
playce where you can
Sork, natured



The farm is a
wonderful place
The animals are
really nice



By Daniel, aged 8

The young people who come here as part of their groups make such a difference to the appearance of the farm and facilities for visitors - including jobs such as wood staining fences, general upkeep of the farm, and supplying all materials.



share our sadness at their loss.

Another sad goodbye is to Popeye the turkey. Her characteristic disabilities did not prevent her from living a long and contented life, and she enjoyed the children taking care of her.

In early 2013 we lost our pigmy goats, who both died due to old age. They have been attracting children and other visitors to the farm for the last 10 years, and we know that many people will

Children love to pet the animals

We hope to add some new large animals during summer 2013. In the meantime the children have been enjoying seeing our chicks, baby rabbits and guinea pigs.

If you pay tax please donate online

- 1) Quick and easy for you
- 2) It saves us time
- 3) We get more money if you tick for Gift Aid

Your gift to New Ark can provide:

£5 = bread for children's teas for a week

£10 = nails for den building

£30 = pays a 1:1 worker for a special needs child for 4 hours

www.localgiving.com/newarkplay

Charity

Our supporters 46

Our Fundraisers 1

New Ark Play Association



New Ark Adventure Playground, Hill Close, Reeves Way, Peterborough
Cambridgeshire, PE1 5LZ



Share



Tweet



+1

NEW ARK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND IN PETERBOROUGH-a magic place for children of all ages!

New Ark is situated in an area of deprivation & provides play facilities for children aged 0-16 & their families. Toddler Group for under 5s & their carers. Pre-school for 2-5 year olds. After school & school holiday sessions for school aged children. Walking bus meeting service from local school. Support Service for children with emotional & behavioural difficulties. Training opportunities for 16-19 year olds. These services provided at our Adventure Playground, City Farm, Eco Centre & Garden

Single Donation

Give Monthly



Recording the history of New Ark

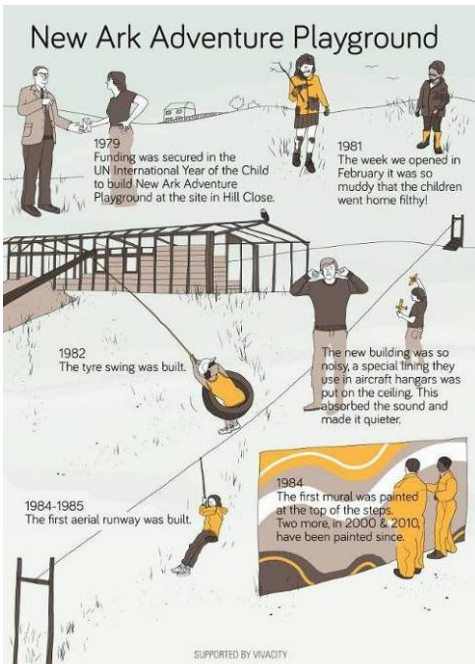
In late 2012 we were delighted when Vivacity Peterborough awarded a grant to help preserve our history. Newark Play Association is of national importance as an early community-led play centre and Forest School, and our history and stories were in danger of being forgotten.



Children unveiling the history boards, which were funded by Vivacity as an on-site heritage trail

So we put out a call for volunteers to help sort through our old records, and there is now a New Ark archive in the City Archive at Central Library Peterborough.

The grant also funded a heritage trail, and we are very proud of the resultant history boards which are now on-site in our playground and eco garden. We were honoured when our first playworker, Toby Wood, attended our history day and summer fete in June 2013 to help unveil them.



We continue to work on the Vivacity project - the next stage is a short written history of New Ark based on the archive and interviews with staff and volunteers from the past and present.

10 words to describe New Ark, by Toby Wood

1. innovation
2. dependable
3. expertise
4. persistence
5. enterprising
6. community
7. unique
8. excellence
9. Bucks
10. PLAY!!!

Birthday party adventures at New Ark Play

New Ark Play



Adventure Playground,
City Farm & Eco Centre



Your guests can:

- Feed and groom animals on our City Farm
- Take part in a treasure hunt in our woodland garden
- Explore our traditional adventure playground



You can:

- Decorate our function room using your own theme
- Bring party food and cake
- Choose to play party games



£80 for up to 10 children,
additional children £5 each.
Parents free, no hidden charges.



To discuss your requirements email info@newarkplay.co.uk or telephone Charlotte or Carolyn between 10am-12pm weekdays on **01733 340605**.

www.newarkplay.co.uk

Join in with the fun at New Ark Play

New Ark Play



Adventure Playground,
City Farm & Eco Centre



- School holiday play sessions
- All day childcare in holidays
- Eco sessions (Forest School)
- Afterschool play sessions
- Parent and toddler group
- Preschool playgroup
- Children's birthday parties
- School/preschool visits
- Play support service
- Volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups
- Open days and events

Find out more at www.newarkplay.co.uk

Newark Play Association Ltd
Hill Close (off Reeves Way), Peterborough PE1 5LZ
Tel: 01733 340605 Email: info@newarkplay.co.uk
Registered charity no 1026751



The printing of this
annual report has been
kindly sponsored by...



**Business
Services**