

Annual Report 2015-2016

# New Ark Play Association

Registered charity number: 1026751

New Ark Play



Adventure Playground,  
City Farm & Eco Centre

**A safe, caring adventurous environment for  
everyone developing skills for life**



*Mural created by Stuart Payn*

- Parent & Toddler Group • Eco Garden •
- Preschool playgroup from age 2 •
- Holiday and Afterschool Club • Play Support Service •
- City Farm offering Birthday Parties, and Group Visits •
- Volunteering opportunities •



# New Ark Opening Times

## Term Time - Monday to Friday

**Preschool Playgroup    09:00-12:00    12:30-15:00**

**Eco Centre            09:00-12:30**

Our children that attend New Ark playgroup learn through play using the adventure playground, farm and Eco centre. Pre-school children use the Eco centre as part of their full days in preparation for going to school. In the summer term we offer eco sessions for children due to start pre-school in the September.

**Play Support Service    09:00 - 15:00**

In our play support service we offer specialist support for individuals and small groups with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. With our support more children can be helped with the transition back into a school setting.

**Parent and Toddler Group 13:00 - 15:00**

Our parent and toddler group are weekly sessions for children aged 0-4 years, giving them the time to explore our eco centre and city farm with their family.

**Farm (Open All Year) 10:00-12:00    15:45-17:30**

During session time the children get the opportunity to visit our city farm and to help to care for all of the animals that we have. That includes grooming and feeding them all. We also welcome group visits during term time and visitors during school holidays.

**Playground    15:45-18:00 Term Time**

**8:30 - 17:30 School Holiday**

During term time our afterschool playground, during term time, is all about adventure play with activities such as digging, building, ball games, swinging and climbing; and other activities based around a range of creative arts and crafts. The children also have the opportunity to visit the farm.

During the school holidays our playground activities are very similar to term time and the children also get the opportunity to do baking in our kitchen, outdoor cooking, den building, water slides, messy play and more. By prior arrangement we can offer childcare between 8.30am-5.30pm pm. During summer holidays we run eco forest school sessions for under 8s.

*(As a guide New Ark follows Newark Hill Academy's closure timetable)*

October Half Term: Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October 2016

Christmas Holidays: Playgroup - Last day Wednesday 21st December 2016

Playground - Last day Friday 23rd December 2016

Playgroup and Playground all re-open from Monday 9th January 2017

# 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 New Ark 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 from different connections to New Ark who all have unique skills to New Ark.

We employ professional play and childcare 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, the last inspection was 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 hope you enjoy reading our Annual report and seeing the photographs and children’s artwork which are throughout these pages.



*Hand drawn pictures by one of our play-ground children, Neave Smith Thorn, aged 11 years.*





# Outdoor facilities At New Ark

At New Ark 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.



Playground-goers explore risk in a controlled environment, while supervised by professional play workers, 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!

## 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 heavily 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 purpose-built natural play structures, which are generally suitable for younger children. In the Eco Centre the children are able to experience all of the natural elements of earth, air, fire and water.

During term time 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.



## Toddler Group at New Ark Eco Centre

Every Wednesday afternoon between 1pm to 3pm in term time pre-school children and their parents/ guardians come to play in our Eco Centre and Garden as well as to visit the Farm and meet the animals.

This is a very sociable group where parents can chat, share their experiences and support one another as their children play and explore the forest. It is great to watch the children grow from Babies to Toddlers, learning to love nature and 'the great outdoors'. Numbers vary from week to week with families coming from as far away as Ramsey, Market Deeping, Yaxley, Orton and Helpston to visit us and you can always be assured of a friendly welcome.

Toddler group is a good preparation for transition into New Ark Playgroup, encourages families to come along to play with their children and put their names on the waiting list for Playgroup.



# Summary of Fundraising 2015-2016

*A snapshot of fundraising events that have taken place and donations received from supporters during the last financial year.*

| When was the event? | How was the money raised?           | How much was raised? |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| April 2015          | Easter Egg Hunt                     | £1,000               |
|                     | Hospital charity shop               | £180                 |
| May 2015            | Ramsey Hospital Charity Shop        | £500                 |
|                     | Silver Smarties                     | £20.80               |
|                     | Peterborough Regional College       | £319.84              |
| June 2015           | Asda green token                    | £50.00               |
|                     | Dave Wilson Gran Fondo              | £162.00              |
|                     | New Ark's summer festival           | £1334                |
| July 2015           | Pre School Sponsored bounce         | £253.51              |
|                     | Toy sale                            | £12.74               |
| October 2015        | Braiswick photographer commission   | £92.13               |
|                     | Natalia Marcfeld —Great Eastern Run | £131.25              |
|                     | New Ark's open day                  | £533.96              |
| November 2015       | New Ark's Christmas bazaar          | £1350                |
| December 2015       | Playgroup pyjama day                | £60.54               |
| January 2016        | Little House collection box appeal  | £52.96               |
| February 2016       | Cummins champagne raffle            | £301.50              |
|                     | New Ark's pamper evening            | £561.02              |

## Collection Box Appeal

Over the financial year, alongside all of our fundraising events that were going on, we also had a number of collection boxes placed in local businesses for their customers to place their unwanted change into to help raise money for New Ark. Here is how much they have raised for us:

Square Café - £12.82

Andronicas - £10.12

Co-Operative - £195.49

MI Pharmacy - £42.24

Elm Tree - £47.35

Market cobbler Key cutting service - £38.61

Jerry Pizzo Salon - £4.74

## City Farm

On our very own city farm we also raised money to help with the up keep of New Ark. The money was raised through activities such as animal boarding to individual sponsors.

Animal boarding - £253.96

Visits - £892.50

Donations - £42.30

Parties - £395.00

In-





# Summary of Fundraising 2015-2016

## (continued)

Now that you have seen a summary of ways that we have funded New Ark over the last financial year, here is a more detailed description of a few of the different events that took place!

In April 2015 we organised an **Easter Egg Hunt** and invited along family and friends of the children that regularly visit us. We managed to raise £1,000 through people taking part in the egg hunt and stalls that we had on the day which included tombola stall and a raffle.



During November 2015, New Ark had our annual event which was the **Christmas Bazaar**. It is always such a good day for everyone that is involved and who visits us on the day. The children get the opportunity to visit Santa and get a present each. Other activities were face painting, refreshment stalls and plenty of arts and crafts. On this day visitors helped to raise £1350.



In June 2015 **New Ark's midsummer festival** was a very successful day and with help from staff, friends and families we managed to raise a staggering £1334. We had a number of different activities going on during the day that included bouncy castles, cake stalls, a lucky dip, a raffle, treasure hunt, a speed football cage and plenty more.

After being a volunteer with us at New Ark for 9 months, **Natalia Marcfeld** and her friend **Harriet George** took part in the Perkins Great Eastern Run around Peterborough during the month of October 2015 all in aid of raising money for New Ark. Natalia knew from volunteering here how much work gets put into fundraising events so gave us a helping hand and managed to raise an amazing amount of £131.25.



Another little event that took place during October '15 was our **open day**. We have the building, adventure playground, city farm and eco garden available to the public, families and friends so that we can raise interest about New Ark, what we are about and what we do.

In December 2015 all of the children that attend our playgroup sessions, throughout the weeks of the year, were given the opportunity to take part in our **Pyjama Day**. They were asked to make a small donation and in the end together they raised £60.54.

Long term volunteer, Donne Buck, had previously set up the **Little House Money Collection Box Appeal** to get the children actively taking part in helping to raise money. The children get to make and decorate



a little money box that they take home with them and fill it with loose change. Once the boxes are returned they are also put into a competition with a chance of winning a prize for the best decorated house. In January 2016 of this year, this appeal helped us to raise £52.96.

In February 2016, New Ark held a **Pamper Evening** in the executive suite at the POSH Football Grounds. Included in the evening was stalls with indulgence products to chocolate stalls. From the money raised through the supporters and volunteers of the evening we raised £561.02



# New Playground Equipment

Throughout the financial year of 2015-2016 a number of different individuals/organisations have helped to raise funds for new playground equipment for all of the children that attend New Ark.

To kick start the fundraising campaign for the new equipment the individuals and organisations that have already helped include;

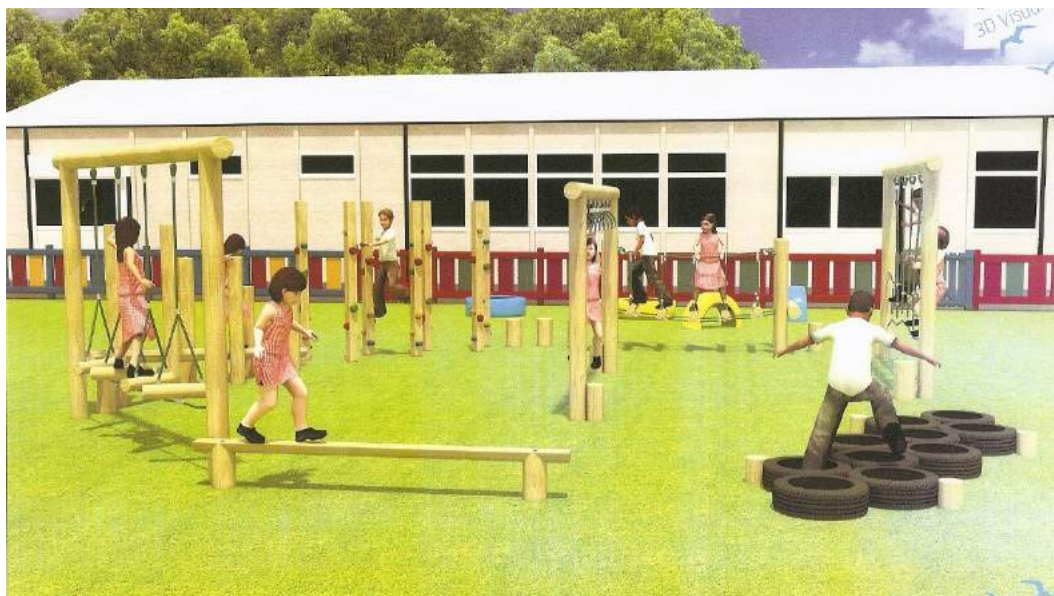
- **Cummins** - Held a champagne raffle in December of 2015
- **Sopra Steria** - Made a generous donation which we have used towards our new playground equipment
- **Sainsburys** - As New Ark's community partner during 2015-2016 they helped in many ways. See page 15.
- **Lynx Forecourt** - Contractor of Sainsbury's made a generous donation to New Ark
- **Natalia Marcfeld & Harriet George** - Took part in the Great Eastern Run and gained sponsorship from friends and family and then donated the money towards the project.
- **Bowmer and Kirkland** - As contractors of **Waitrose**, who have helped us in the past, made a generous donation towards building the new playground.

So far this has raised £4511.00 and we intend to start the installation of the new playground in early 2017.

The playground that we currently have has been with us for a long time and has been played on by hundreds of children over the years, so as you can imagine after all the years it is time to update it.



*Our current playground equipment*



We have been in touch with a planning organisation to help us get some sort of idea on what we would like the new playground to look like with the new equipment, focusing on the younger children that attend New Ark. Here is the plan they have come up with.





## Upcoming Events 2016-2017

Below is a list of future fundraising and open community events that we have planned so far for 2016-2017.

If you as an active member of the community or as a parent to one or more of the children that attend New Ark can offer any help to organise an activity, donate to fundraising stalls, bake for our refreshments stall, or anything similar then please contact Charlotte Griggs on 01733 340605 or email us at [fundraising.newark@gmail.com](mailto:fundraising.newark@gmail.com).

### **Christmas bazaar Saturday 19th November 2016 12pm-3pm**

Entry by silver donation, visit father Christmas, grand prize draw, refreshments, Christmas stalls, farm open

### **Easter Hunt - Good Friday April 14th 2017 11am-2pm**

Entry by silver donation, Easter Hunt, playground open, refreshments, farm open

### **Summer festival 24th June 2017 11am-2pm**

Entry by silver donation, entertainment tbc, hot food and refreshments, stalls, farm and eco garden open

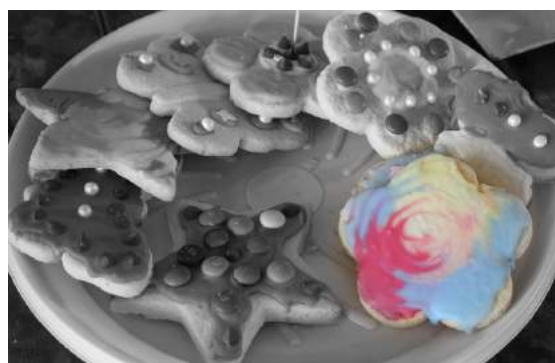
### **New Ark Open Day - Saturday 7th October 2017 11am-2pm**

Entry by silver donation, all grounds are open, meet New Ark staff and see what New Ark is all about!

### **Christmas Bazaar - Saturday November 18th 2017 12pm-3pm**

Entry by silver donation, visit father Christmas, grand prize draw, refreshments, Christmas stalls, farm open

**Bring your friends and families, they are all welcome to come and join in the fun at New Ark!**



# A review of 2015-2016 at New Ark

***By Rob Brown, chair of the Management Council***

Hello my name is Rob Brown and I am currently the chairman of New Ark. I have been a member of the management committee for a long time and enjoy volunteering my help and time towards such a unique place.

I would like to say a huge thankyou to the incredible staff who are always committed and have helped to make New Ark the place that it is today. Their professionalism and hard work is greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed. Another thankyou goes to the army of volunteers that help continuously, without their help we would be unable to achieve as much as we do and finally I would like to thank Mike Greene for his continued support.

Last year, 2015/2016 was another challenging year but the outcome has been very positive. Staff and volunteers have given up their time to help with many different fundraising events to raise additional money for New Ark and our on going projects. One of our future projects is to expand our city farm and to provide an outdoor learning area for visitors, providing shelter for all year round.

We are continuously making plans for our long term future and sustainability, building on the ethos of New Ark to ensure that we maintain our uniqueness for many years to come as we want to see many more generations of children visiting, playing, learning and thriving and to be given the opportunity to have New Ark as part of their adolescent years. We want our environment to be shared with the wider community for years to come.

We are always looking for a variety of skills and help so please if you have some time, contact us to have an informal discussion.

Many Thanks



*Some of the artwork by the children presented in the main building*

## **Would you like to get involved?**

Join the committee! Roles we are currently recruiting for;

- Vice Chair - Deputises Committee meetings in the absence of the Chair
- Treasurer - To oversee the financial operation at New Ark (Ideally a part qualified accountant)
- Secretary - Minute taking at meetings and issuing agendas and minutes
- Funding and fundraising - Planning and organising to help New Ark
- General committee members - Take part in monthly meetings, helping to make informed decisions
- Volunteers to work with the children, maintenance, admin, etc.



# Financial Summary 2015-2016

The financial year ended in a deficit of £6.8k but we knew that this was what it was going to be as it has been a tough year with rising costs and social factors affecting us.

We have already started making changes in January this year with having to increase our prices in after school and school holiday club and also being more cost effective across the organisation.

Due to working time constraints we have been unable to write bids to apply for any grant funding, other than from Peterborough City Council, during this financial year. For New Ark to move out of the deficit, managers and trustees should continue to engage in applications to support the work we are doing.

With a healthy reserve balance we had decided to use some of this money to market our after school and school holiday club on wider scale to bring more people in, this should help to bridge the gap going forward.

# Planning Ahead for 2016-2017

***By Charlotte Griggs, Manager of Operations***

After ending in a fairly positive financial position, looking at New Ark as a whole we now need to focus on adapting to external influences to continue to meet the needs of the community. We are a hidden gem, so we are now looking at promoting what we provide to a wider audience through marketing and social media.

We have already scheduled to start advertising in 'Term Times' school publication which goes out to homes around Peterborough and surrounding areas. We have also started advertising in the Dogsthorpe Focus newsletter, which goes to 4,000 local homes. We are going to review how well this advertising works for us in the near future. We feel that this is a positive step as New Ark has never really advertised its services through printed media. There are many opportunities that with thought we think that we are missing out on. We are hoping that this is going to be a good year for us in marketing. This will be both challenging and exciting, with a potential of raising the profile as a charity and awareness of New Ark, not only as a child care provider, but also as an invaluable resource within the community and the business sectors.

We have also identified the need for an electronic accounting system so that we have better control of our finances on a day to day basis and also enabling parents to pay directly for the services that they use. We aim for the new account system to be up and running by April 2017.

The key to New Ark's future success is to look at obtaining more funding for all areas of the business. This will reduce overheads and open up new opportunities.

We have just had two new members join our committee, Natalia Marcfeld and Karen Maycock whose skills will help

During this next year we are looking for more parents/volunteers to get involved with the running of New Ark, for example helping at fundraising events, back office or joining the committee and this could be as little as committing just one hour a week.

The year ahead will hold many challenges with increased costs such as utility bills and salaries including pensions which are beyond our control but with the support of our community partners and volunteers if we can reduce other costs this will counteract the increase in overheads.

For regular updates please follow New Ark on [www.facebook.com/newarkplay](https://www.facebook.com/newarkplay) or

Scarlett H 6



# Thank you..

New Ark would like to take a moment to say thank you to all of the individuals that have kept New Ark going with their help and support through 2015/2016 by giving us their time.

|                                  |                        |                         |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| ♦ Laura Anderson                 | ♦ Sonia Wardell        | ♦ Claire Gill           |
| ♦ Natalia Marcfeld               | ♦ Julian Roberts       | ♦ Mel Stratton          |
| ♦ Flo Griggs                     | ♦ Karen Buckingham     | ♦ Sarah Guest           |
| ♦ Nigel Lamb                     | ♦ Stuart & Gemma Payn  | ♦ Hayley Edmonds        |
| ♦ Chris Welch family and friends | ♦ Paul Riddler         | ♦ Michaela Wood         |
| ♦ Maison Rata                    | ♦ Donne Buck           | ♦ Steph White           |
| ♦ Jo and Abigail Curphey         | ♦ Dave Wilson          | ♦ Claudia Butler        |
| ♦ Jane Carpenter                 | ♦ Luke & Josh Ferguson | ♦ Ingrid & David Cliffe |
| ♦ Enid Lynch                     | ♦ Stacey Tadman        | ♦ Lawrey Randel         |
| ♦ Nikki Prime                    | ♦ Sandra Stanford      | ♦ Mark Harding          |
| ♦ Fiona Loakes                   | ♦ Barney Dhokwani      | ♦ Gurdeep Kaur          |
| ♦ Carol, George & Tracey Hallett | ♦ Brian O'sullivan     | ♦ Alan & Mary Kemp      |
| ♦ Kelly Sparks                   | ♦ Hollie Preston       | ♦ Jan Ruffle            |
| ♦ Reece Hannon                   | ♦ Molly Setterfield    | ♦ James Wallace         |
| ♦ Claire Duffy                   | ♦ Grace Li             | ♦ Glennis Still (cpft)  |
| ♦ Emma Jefferson                 | ♦ Hannah Murthwaite    | ♦ Albert Loakes         |
| ♦ Stamford College students      | ♦ Lynn Smith           | ♦ Rob Brown             |
| ♦ Megan Hall                     | ♦ Brian Groom          | ♦ Mollie Stevenson      |
| ♦ Helen Moles                    | ♦ Rebecca Knighton     | ♦ Lisa Sachse           |
| ♦ Lee Moore                      | ♦ Norman Stokes        | ♦ Jordan Davey          |
| ♦ Sandy Snitch                   | ♦ Shirley Doughty      | ♦ Ady Bruce             |
| ♦ Paul Archer                    | ♦ Steven Carr          | ♦ Michelle Sismey       |

We would also like to thank all the Parents and volunteers who donate items and support fundraising events. The list of names is endless and any that we have missed we apologise, but thank you for your continued support, New Ark would not be the special place it is without your help.





# Our New Mural

## *With thanks to local artist, Stuart Payn and Cross Keys*

Everyone coming to New Ark will notice our spectacular new mural! It has quickly become a local landmark. It is the work of local artist (and New Ark dad!) Stuart Payn.

The space to paint it became available when **Cross Keys** decided to pull down old derelict garages (and our original mural on the end wall). Working in partnership with **Cross Keys** they agreed to put up new fencing with the boards so that a new mural could be created. Where the garages originally stood Cross Keys also arranged for extra parking spaces to be made. This has helped ease congestion at the start and the end of session times.

Stuart has painted murals all over Peterborough, so we feel very lucky that he could fit us in to his busy programme and create one for us!



## *A special thank you for their on-going support*

**Sharon Raymond** - A big thankyou to Sharon, who even though has moved away, she still helps to keep the New Ark website updated and our Facebook page so that families and individuals around the area who visit us or want to know more can find the information out.

**Darren Jackson** - Another big thankyou to Darren for his on going support and volunteering with ground work and maintenance around New Ark Adventure Playground. A lot of big changes have happened during this year, including extension of the car park out the front and the concrete ramp for the outside playground structure, without Darren's help these big tasks wouldn't have been possible.

**Donne Buck** - Long time volunteer, Donne Buck, also deserves a thankyou for his long standing volunteering with the playgroup and playground children. From playing chess to woodwork to small group activities with the children that attend New Ark and helping with fundraising, he is a very much valued member of our team.

**Laura Anderson** - For a second year running Laura has pulled together information from staff and committee members to write the annual report. To do this Laura has been coming in for a morning every week. This is such an important document to give to families, organisations and people connected with New Ark. A big thank you to Laura for

### **Ron Welch**

In New Ark's last annual report we were sad to inform you that one of our long time supporters, Ron Welch, had passed away. He was often seen helping on the farm or helping at our annual events.

Friends and family of Ron raised £281.70 for New Ark through the crematorium donations. Ron also kindly left New Ark £1000.00 in his will. This money has been put towards a memorial Activity Barn which has been made for the farm in honour of all Ron's help over the years. Pictures of the new Activity Barn can be seen within the Farm's individual report on page 25.



# Thank you..to our community partners



Over the last year volunteers from Cummins have continued to work on some repairs and maintenance projects alongside New Ark staff ensuring grounds and facilities are in good safe working order for the children, visitors and staff to use.

Here are some of the tasks that they have been involved in.

- General tidy up in the bird enclosure on the farm area by laying new gravel and more recently they have removed old chicken sheds and built new ones
- Painted inside eco building and replaced the flower beds for children and staff to plant and grow new flowers
- Re-constructed the fence around the sandpit, near the playground, and also put the canopy up to cover the sandpit
- Painted outside of main building
- Helped out with human resource work
- Painted the kitchen and toilets inside the support service building
- Donated and delivered nearly new office furniture and removed the old
- Renovated the area runway by painting the structure and raking the sand
- Helped to build concrete bases and the new toy sheds for the storing the playgroup outdoor toys

As well as the repairs and maintenance work that they do, Cummins also like to support New Ark with the business side. Here is some of the tasks that they get involved in.

- Cummins contractor Intech communications repaired phone lines
- Amanda Parry working behind the scenes to implement an electronic accounts system
- Sold raffle tickets to help raise money for New Ark at our fund raising events

A big thankyou is in order for the commitment of the staff and volunteers that helped during these times!



Following on from the success of Christmas 2014, staff members Sandra Walker and Pauline Stapleton from Barclays Eastfield Road branch volunteered their time to help at the Christmas bazaar on some stalls. On the stalls they managed to raise £378 and Barclays kindly match funded this figure and generously donated the total figure of £756.





In the spring of 2015, New Ark were privileged to be nominated by customers of Sainsbury's, Oxney Road store, to be their charity community partner for the year 2015 to 2016.

Sainsbury's staff helped to raise money through a number of different events which took place in the store. They had a staff bake sale, quiz night and they also had a number of collection boxes at each of their tills within the store.

New Ark volunteers also went along to attend corporate weekends in store and fundraised alongside staff in fancy dress costumes.

With the new law of the charge of 5p per bag that was brought within the year of fundraising for New Ark, being Sainsbury's community partners, the money that was raised through the sales of the bags was added to the amount donated to New Ark.

Beyond the fundraising, Sainsbury's staff volunteered a numerous amount of times to help with tasks such as; gardening and tidying the grounds prior to the New Ark's Open Day in October. Also the customer service's advisor, Emma Jefferson, attended a playgroup session to read to the children. New Ark was donated the unsold Halloween costumes, continually donated food items for the children's snack time, donated Easter Eggs which were then in turn given to the pre school children and the leftover ones were used on the Easter Tombola. Unwanted fruit and vegetables were also continually donated to the Farm and will continue to do so even though the partnership has now ended.

Playgroup children, in November 2015, were looking at the topics of; people in communities, celebrating fireworks night and healthy eating.

During this time staff at New Ark took a number of playgroup children on a walk down to our local Sainsbury's. Whilst walking to the shop, staff gave children talks about the surrounding areas of our local community.

On arriving at Sainsbury's, members of staff from the shop gave a talk to the children about healthy eating. The children and staff of New Ark had the opportunity to go and hunt for healthy food around the store. The children then were able to go to the staff area of Sainsbury's and coloured in and made pictures of fireworks highlighting the rules



of safety around bonfire night.

During the partnership Sainsbury's contractor, Lynx Forecourt, who were doing update work on the garage forecourt also made a donation of £500 and provided workmen's safety helmets and fluorescent tabards for the children at New Ark.

In July as the community partnership come to an end, Sainsbury's handed a cheque of £3,065.29 to New Ark and with the donation from Lynx Forecourt of £500 it brought the amazing total figure of £3565.29. This money will be used to buy a trim trail for the adventure playground for the younger children to play on.

Thankyou Sainsbury's for the volunteering and the money raised during the time of being your community partners, it is greatly appreciated by all at New Ark!

New Ark would also like to take a moment to thank all of the organisations that have helped us over the period of 2015-2016.

- ◆ Cummins
- ◆ Sainsbury's
- ◆ Barclays
- ◆ Soprasteria
- ◆ Geddes Business Systems
- ◆ Cottingham Saw Mills
- ◆ Scenic Gardens
- ◆ Total Solutions
- ◆ Welland Valley Timber
- ◆ Cross Keys
- ◆ Peterborough City Council
- ◆ Fenland Solar
- ◆ Co-Op Garage
- ◆ Elm Tree Tavern
- ◆ The Square Café
- ◆ Helping Hands
- ◆ Oliver's Country and Equine
- ◆ Newark Hill Academy
- ◆ CK4
- ◆ Kelsey Media
- ◆ Froglife
- ◆ African Heritage Centre
- ◆ B & Q
- ◆ Potato Marketing Board
- ◆ Burrowmoor primary school
- ◆ Copass
- ◆ Ramsey hospital charity shop
- ◆ AWB
- ◆ Intech
- ◆ Peterborough United Football stadium
- ◆ Stamford College
- ◆ Odiz
- ◆ GBC Buildings for Leisure
- ◆ The Princes Trust
- ◆ Bench CRC Community Payback
- ◆ Vaultage
- ◆ Yorkshire Building Society
- ◆ Lynx Forecourt
- ◆ Buckles Solicitors
- ◆ MI Pharmacy, Huntley Grove
- ◆ Market Cobbler
- ◆ Helping Hands
- ◆ MI Pharmacy, Eastfield
- ◆ Party Magic
- ◆ Thera Trust
- ◆ Peterborough Regional College



# New Ark's Wish list



To help keep New Ark running we have included this wish list of things that we need and ask if parents, volunteers and organisations would kindly donate these items throughout the year for the staff and children of New Ark to use.

## Every day items

Pens/pencils

Paper/Card

Old ink cartridges - We need these so we can recycle them to fundraise for New Ark

Bread

Cornflour

Flour

Food colouring

Toilet roll

Anti-bacterial washing up liquid

Fruit and Vegetables

Spreadable butter

Washing powder - Non bio

Craft materials e.g. beads, wool, fabric, ribbon, etc.

Fresh food scraps for the animals on the farm e.g. potato peelings, bread crust, etc.

Anti-bacterial surface cleaning spray

Tea, coffee and sugar

Chocolate spread, peanut butter, jam, etc.

Biscuits and crackers

## Fundraising items needed throughout the year

**Raffle Prizes** - Unwanted gifts, wine, chocolates, toiletries sets, electrical appliances (Brand new in box), unwanted gift vouchers and business vouchers, etc.

**Tombola items** - Unwanted gifts, teddy bears, toiletries, toys, books, puzzle, picture frames, food and drinks, etc.

**Cake decorations** - Cake cases, sprinkles, chocolate drops, icing/icing sugar etc.



# Trustees and Employees

## Board of Trustees

- ◆ Rob Brown (Chair)
- ◆ Lisa Sachse
- ◆ David Flannigan
- ◆ Jo Curphey
- ◆ Natalia Marcfeld
- ◆ Karen Maycock
- ◆ Claudia Butler



*Managers and committee members getting together at a monthly committee meeting*

## Employees

### **Playgroup**

- ◆ Nikki Anderson (Manager)
- ◆ Linda Wilson (Supervisor)
- ◆ Linda Fisher (Supervisor)
- ◆ Denise Jinks
- ◆ Jayne Davey
- ◆ Jen Faunt
- ◆ Jodie Watson
- ◆ Lisa Paterson
- ◆ Nikki Miller

### **Playgroup - Eco Centre**

- ◆ Elisabeth Buck (Manager)
- ◆ Debbie Knighton (Supervisor)
- ◆ Sonia Hannon
- ◆ Karen Payne

### **Playground**

- ◆ Sam Brown (Manager)
- ◆ Nikki Anderson (Manager)
- ◆ Jodie Watson
- ◆ Laura Bellamy
- ◆ Linda Wilson
- ◆ Denise Jinks

### **Play Support Service**

- ◆ Sam Brown (Manager)
- ◆ Laura Bellamy
- ◆ Kirsty Dickinson

### **Farm**

- ◆ Carolyn Bellamy (Manager)
- ◆ Karen Payne

### **Administration**

- ◆ Charlotte Griggs (Manager)

### **Maintenance/Cleaning**

- ◆ Geoff Griggs
- ◆ Kelly Martin
- ◆ Laura Bellamy
- ◆ Monica Fincham (Relief Cleaner)



Thankyou to *Bill Purdon and Luke Carter* who was on New Ark's board of trustee's during 2015/2016. Also thankyou to *Abigail Braines, Lisa Carter, David Musson and Kirsty Dickinson* who were employed at New Ark during 2015/2016.

# Eco Centre and Toddler Group Report

**By Elisabeth Buck MBE, Eco Centre Manager**

**Eco Centre** - We continue to run 4 sessions a week in the Eco-Centre and garden for our pre-school children in the Foundation Stage, i.e. the year before they start school. In the summer term we also run 2 more sessions for 12 younger children before they go into the bigger group. We are always excited about the progress that the children make through playing and working outdoors. By the time that they go to school, they are very confident, good at making decisions and able to assess risk.

At New Ark, we know that outdoor play is very important for all children; they need to experience the passing seasons and different weather conditions. They need to experience the four elements - earth, air, fire and water; our children especially appreciate earth and water - MUD!

In the Eco Garden they get to understand, from observation, life cycles of plants and small creatures. They are able to handle tadpoles and insects and watch bumble bees and beetles. The children enjoy working hard and they help us to look after the forest and garden. They like to dig and sweep and especially they like to shift woodchip in to the forest. At the same time, we are able to cover the whole early years curriculum outdoors, the children are learning and developing all of the time.

This year, as well as the usual summer sessions for the older children, in the Eco Garden, there have been sessions run by James and Nathan from Frog life. These were popular and we continue to benefit from the bug hotel that they built with the children.

The staff and children could not possibly manage all the maintenance tasks in the Eco Centre, garden and forest. We are very grateful for the help we get from work parties, to keep the premises and outside area safe and a pleasant place to be. This year, we have welcomed volunteers from Cummins, Yorkshire Building Society and Sainsbury's. We have had donations of plants from B+Q. A big thank you to all of them!



*Our Bug Hotel*



*Handling tadpoles in the forest pond*

**Toddler Group** - New Ark toddler group runs every Wednesday afternoon in term time. It's a great introduction to starting playgroup.

The children and their parents spend most of the time in the Eco Garden, which is designed to be child friendly. Everyone benefits from the tranquil atmosphere, the children like to explore and play together and parents enjoy meeting and chatting while they have a cup of tea or coffee.

Any pre-school child and their carer, is welcome at Toddler Group. There is a small charge which includes refreshments and a visit to the farm, which is £1 for each adult and 50p for each child that attends.

# Playgroup Report

***By Nikki Anderson, Playgroup Manager***

Another very busy year for all in playgroup, staff and children included!

We have said goodbye to Abigail Braines who was a valued member of staff and a big welcome to Nikki Miller who has just achieved her level three in childcare and joined our team in playgroup.

We continue to support students and mentor level two and level three students from Peterborough Reginal college and Stamford College.

The government have made a few changes which have affected us within early years and local city council budgets have become smaller. This has meant that workload for all staff has become greater and has put a strain on staff's time and resources, however the staff have stayed dedicated and have shown high standards of care for the children who attend New Ark.

With the dedication and hard work from the staff, the children have taken part in various activities to promote all areas of learning;

Prime areas—

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Physical development

Throughout the year, the children and the staff of New Ark have taken part in many different events to help teach the children different skills and fill them with a rich experience of play. Also different events take place to help fund-raise money which helps to keep New Ark going on a day to day basis.

The different events include;

At New Ark playgroup we encourage fundraising opportunities from an early age and teaching them how to give back to their community. Before Christmas during the time of the cold weather, the children took part in a pyjama day. The children each paid £1 to wear their pyjamas on the days that they came in during the week. Whilst they were with us, as well as taking part in all the usual daily activities, the children had the opportunity to enjoy a hot chocolate and a cookie each. As you can imagine each and everyone of the children loved this!

Staff member, Emma, from our local Sainsbury's (charity partner of the year) gave up her time and attended playgroup weekly to come and read a story to small groups of the children and support our library scheme.

During December a small group of the playgroup children were given the opportunity to visit Newark Hill School and watch the Christmas nativity play.

As the New Year came in, there were so many opportunities to celebrate all the upcoming annual event days such as Chinese New Year when the children enjoyed making pictures and sharing food at our Chinese banquet.

Pancake day arrived and the children took part in an obstacle course outside on the playground. This encourages self confidence and their physical development.





# Playgroup Report (continued)

On mothers day, the older children of playgroup were asked to bring their lovely mummies or a member of their family in to celebrate by sharing a cup of tea and biscuit. The children were eager to show off all their work and parents felt proud of what their children had achieved. This was a big success!



Between the dates of the 29th of February - 4th March of this year we all celebrated world book week! The children were able to come in dressed up as their favourite book characters and were able to bring in their favourite books that they enjoy reading at home and sharing with friends at playgroup.

**Early Years** - Government have made a few changes within Early Years and local City Council budgets have become smaller.

A few changes in the Early Years department have meant that a lot of the workload has come back in house. This has put a strain on time and resources however the staff have stayed dedicated and their high standards of care for the children have not changed.

**Local Early Years** - Training opportunities from the Early Years team are now limited due to costs except safe guarding and first aid. As training now comes at more of a cost budgets are needed to make sure that staff have the full training to maintain the standards and their personal development needs are met. With outside constraints and changes, we don't know what the future holds for New Ark or what it will look like, but rest assured all New Ark staff and volunteers are trying to make sure that we are here for another 40 years.

Parents, staff and volunteers enjoy our end of year picnic by getting together to say goodbye to our older children who are making the transition to school and hello to our future children and parents. This day is always popular and parent partnership works well within this event.



A big thankyou to all who make our events and play possible!

# Playground Report

**By Nikki Anderson, Playgroup and Playground Manager**

Another busy year with after school and school holidays at New Ark with children enjoying outdoor and indoor activities in all weathers; come rain, snow and sunshine!

The weather looked promising at the beginning of the year so in the Easter break the staff and children were able to learn about healthy eating, taking care of ourselves and exercise outdoors. Children joined in with games on the playground to develop their physical fitness also taking part in crafts such as making Easter chick cards and joining in with the Easter egg treasure hunt to win chocolate coins!



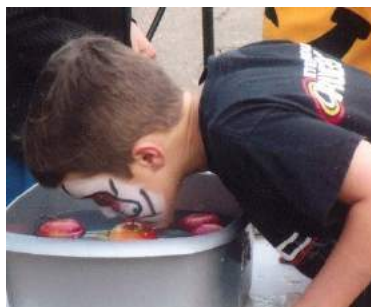
The summer holidays approached fast. Children were developing new skills and re visiting old activities. Decorating pebbles and stones to create mini beasts, icing biscuits, outdoor water games in teams, making bracelets with loom bands, painting nails and making a room within a box with Hollie Preston our volunteer for the summer holidays. Our traditional activities were also going on which includes knitting, den building, cooking dampers on the open fire, mak-



ing pancakes, baking surprise buns in the kitchen and our most favourite junk modelling.

Throughout the year the children were celebrating festivals and calendar year annual events such as Halloween, bonfire night and Christmas.

For Halloween they were all asked for their ideas on what activities they wanted to do and they came up with a fancy





# Playground Report (*Continued*)

Around the event of bonfire night we learnt about the rules of bonfires and fireworks using craft activities and cooking on the fire to develop their knowledge for safety.

In the lead up to Christmas 2015, it was a very busy time of the year. The children were finishing school for the holidays and winding down for Christmas. This enabled us to do small group activities such as making chocolate truffles in a box and Christmas cards, ending our year with a little party and sing songs around the fire.

Peterborough British Legion volunteers, George and Cath, organised an annual event for a small group of children to visit Father Christmas and take part in Christmas celebrations and activities supported by sixth form students from The Kings School in Peterborough also a few members of staff from New Ark went along to the event. All children were lucky enough to receive a gift token for £20 each to spend on something that they liked for Christmas.



The new year of 2016 has brought new challenges for New Ark. Our local school changing to an academy offering an after school club and price changes for us is showing an impact on the number of children attending our after school club. The future plans for this part of the organisation are under review and we are asking for support, ideas and volunteers going forward.

Our qualified playgroup and play workers have joined together to make up a highly qualified team for our after school, to all parents whose children attend after school club with us, be reassured that we are offering your children the same learning and play experience in our adventure playground and will keep you updated.

Thankyou to all the staff who have adapted with the changes, I know this was and can be challenging for all, but keep up with the excellent work and support in order to provide an outstanding play and learning environment.

Nikki Anderson

Playgroup and Playground Manager





# Play Support Services Report

***By Sam Brown, Play Support Services Manager***

We started the year with up to twenty five children on our register. We have seen another busy and eventful year. The outdoor curriculum remains beneficial for our children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. All children engage in tasks centred around our city farm which brings calmness and children feel safe to express their inner emotions during sessions. Responsibility plays an important role for our children, they are given many tasks to complete such as; cleaning out hutches, cleaning the pond or even collecting, testing and counting eggs which contributes towards positive outcomes for all children and even the animals.

Schools, Peterborough City Council, outside agencies and parents refer children to our facilities. Recently we have been quality assured by Cambridge City Council to use our facilities as an Alternative Education Provision.

We must never forget that children need to be given positive choices and often like adults, children encounter many different feelings and can also have their off days! Some children find it very difficult to express themselves and how they feel through words. I often refer to our brain and stomach as similar to the cycle of a washing machine with a mixture of negative feelings that get swirled around inside our bodies. The outcome for a child can mean that there is a sudden display of anger, destructive behaviour and they may of course verbally attack those that they see as threats or they may even become emotional and cry their eyes out. Our jobs within the support service is to offer the children an alternative curriculum, in order to build a trusting relationship, (after all why should I be any different and care?) Our children find the school environment difficult to access for many different reasons such as; its too overwhelming, the large classes, the feelings of anxiety, being away from a parent or possibly undiagnosed additional needs. Due to children encountering negative experiences they will often feel the same way they feel when in school when they first meet us. Time is spent learning more about each child through varied activities including verbal, creativity, observing and also importantly engaging with schools and parents. A timetable is planned around each child to ensure their likes and suggestions are incorporated. We mainly focus on the outdoors as our learning journey incorporates the farm and the adventure playground. It is important to remember that although children many not be in school full-time, they are still learning and building important positive life skills. What does the adventure playground teach? It helps to develop and encourage positive social skills, allows children to learn more about themselves by engaging in supervised low key risk taking and develops stronger gross motor skills.

At this time of the year, June and July, we say our goodbyes to some of our children who are moving on to new schools or purely increasing their timetable on their return after the summer holidays in September. This can be seen as a positive step for them, a deserving time for their hard work and determination that they have put into our programme.

A big thankyou goes out to all the staff that have worked hard over the last year and that have shown their support.

Sam Brown



# Farm Report

***By Carolyn Bellamy, Farm Manager***

It has been another busy year for the farm and as always we are grateful to all our valued volunteers who give their time and energy to help care for our animals and birds. The farm is a wonderful place where people of all ages and abilities can see, touch and help to care for small pets, poultry and some larger farm animals.

This year we sadly had to say goodbye to Eagle, one of our two young turkeys, who had become a much loved member of our farm family. We were pleased to welcome a young turkey called Holly as a new companion for Snowy, who had been looking a little lonely. Holly was donated to the farm in December 2015 and appears to have settled in very well.

Thanks go out to Newark Hill Academy for their generous donations of several batches of lively young chicks to the farm and we have a great new character in the poultry pen called Horace, who is our first 'Runner Duck' - and true to his name he is very speedy! We have had some new arrivals in the small animal shed too, including a litter of baby bunnies, which the children adored. We have also been able to rehome some of our rabbits and guinea pigs.



*Eagle*



*Holly*



*Horace*

There have been a number of positive changes to the farm. A project team from Cummins came and transformed the appearance of the poultry pen by taking down the old chicken shed and building two new wonderful chicken houses.

At our recent Open Day on 25th June we were delighted to invite Chris Welch to come and open our new Activity Barn! This was funded by the generous donation bequeathed by our former volunteer Ron Welch, who sadly passed away after giving many years service to New Ark, and who especially loved the farm. The Activity Barn is a wonderful new facility that we can use on the farm for school visits, birthday parties, open days and other events. It was supplied with a generous discount by GBC Buildings for Leisure.

The farm has also benefitted from a huge amount of support from the Prince's Trust and Bench CRC Community Payback Team, who have undertaken many hours of hard work to improve the appearance of the farm and who helped us to prepare for the delivery of the Activity Barn.

If you love animals you can get involved with the farm in lots of different ways; you can sponsor an animal or book a party or school visit. We are always grateful for new volunteers and can also offer placements for students undertaking animal care courses or enrichment activities such as Duke of Edinburgh. Don't forget that we also offer a boarding service for small pets! Contact Carolyn on our Farm for more information.

Carolyn Bellamy

Farm Manager



# What We offer at The Farm!



- ♦ 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 - 2 hour visit. All year round.
- ♦ Ideal for schools, preschools, special needs groups, holiday clubs, parent and toddler groups, cubs and brownies and other children's groups.

## If you're on holiday, why not treat your pet to a holiday too?

For a small daily fee of £1.50 per night, New Ark can board your animals with us while you are away on holiday. We can care for guinea pigs, rabbits and chickens.

Please call Carolyn Bellamy between 10am-12 noon on **01733 340605**.

# Birthday parties with a sense of adventure at New Ark!

## You can:

- ♦ Decorate our function room using your own theme
- ♦ With full use of our kitchen you can bring party food and cake
- ♦ Play party games

## Your guests can:

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



£80 for up to 10 children, additional children £5 each and 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**.





# Christmas Bazaar!

**19th November 2016**

**12-3pm**

Entrance by silver donation

Festive Activities include;



Children's Tombola



Meet Santa and his helpers



Chocolate Tombola



Treasure Hunt



Gift Tombola



Biscuit Decorating



Feed The animals on  
our farm



Hot snacks and refreshments  
available

For further details please visit our;

Facebook page [www.facebook.com/newarkplay](https://www.facebook.com/newarkplay)

Our website [www.newarkplay.com](http://www.newarkplay.com)

**New Ark Play**



Adventure Playground,  
City Farm & Eco Centre

# Join in with the fun at New Ark!

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



**Find out more at [www.newarkplay.co.uk](http://www.newarkplay.co.uk)**

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