

Annual Report 2019-2020

# 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**



**Parent and Toddler Group • Eco Garden**

**Preschool Playgroup from age 2 years 9 months**

**Holiday and After School Club • Play Support Service**

**City Farm offering Birthday Parties, Group Visits,**

**Volunteering Opportunities, Adult Social Mornings**

**Animal Care Courses & Animal Care Student Placements**

# Managers, Staff & Committee

## Management Committee

Jo Curphey (Chair)  
Rob Brown (Treasurer)  
Lisa Sachse  
Claudia Butler  
Sarah Beeton  
Ruth Scotten  
Steve Milford

## Playground

Sam Brown (Manager)  
Nikki Anderson (Manager)  
Jodie Watson  
Laura Bellamy  
Linda Wilson  
Denise Jinks  
Abigail Curphey (Relief)  
Lauren Mitchell (Relief)

## Farm

Carolyn Bellamy (Manager)  
James Wallace

## Administration

Sally-Anne Miller-Molson

## Cleaning

Kelly Martin  
Laura Bellamy  
Monica Fincham (Relief Cleaner)

## Playgroup

Nikki Anderson (Manager)  
Linda Wilson (Supervisor)  
Sarah Ebbs (Supervisor)  
Denise Jinks  
Jen Faunt  
Jodie Watson  
Nikki Miller  
Angela Aiken Jones  
Lucy Wilmore  
Jayne Davey  
Chloe Charnley

## Eco Centre

Elisabeth Buck (Manager)  
Karen Payne  
Emma Greenwood

## Play Support Service

Sam Brown (Manager)  
Laura Bellamy  
Jen Faunt





# Welcome to New Ark Play!

We are an independent charity, registered with Ofsted, officially called **New Ark Play Association**. We provide stimulating play opportunities for children of all ages and our facilities include a traditional Adventure Playground, Eco Centre and City Farm.

We have a talented and dedicated management team and staff group, who take pride in delivering the highest standards of care to our children. Our Management Committee which oversees the running of New Ark is made up of a group of committed local volunteers, who each bring unique skills and experience to benefit New Ark. We also appreciate the dedication of the volunteers who support our fundraising activities, and help with a variety of essential tasks around the site and especially on the farm. We are extremely thankful for everyone who contributes their time and expertise to helping to make New Ark a special place.

We were sad to say goodbye to some longstanding members of our New Ark family this year, including our founder Elisabeth Buck, who is enjoying a well earned retirement. We have also experienced some immense challenges, including reduction in our funding as a result of local authority budget cuts, and of course the impact of COVID-19.

We continue to strive to keep charges as low as possible to try to ensure that lack of money does not prevent anyone from enjoying our facilities, and we are continually seeking ways to add value to our local community.

I hope you enjoy reading our Annual report and seeing all of the pictures which illustrate the joy and adventure which children find every day at New Ark.

**Jo Curphey, Committee Chair**



# New Ark Opening Times

**Preschool Playgroup : Monday to Friday 09:00 - 12:00 12:30 - 15:00 (Term Time)**

**Eco Centre : 09:00 - 12:30 (Term Time)**

Our children attending New Ark Playgroup learn through play using the Adventure Playground, City 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.

**Toddler Group : Wednesday 13:00 - 15:00 (Term Time)**

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.

**Play Support Service : 09:00 - 15:00 (Term Time)**

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

**Adventure Playground : 15:45 - 18:00 (Term Time) 08:30 - 17:30 (School Holidays)**

During term time our After School Club 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 the children also get the opportunity to do baking in our kitchen, outdoor cooking, den building, water slides, messy play and more. During summer holidays we run Eco sessions and Forest School for under 8s.

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

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

During session time the children attending our Playgroup, Play Support Service, After School Club and Holiday Club get the opportunity to visit our City Farm and help to care for our animals. That includes grooming, feeding and cleaning out our small animal hutches. We also welcome group visits and visitors during term times and school holidays.

# Price List

Toddler Group	Fee	Adult & Child	£3.00	Includes drink	Wednesday only 1-3pm Term Time 2-4pm School holidays
		Additional Adult	£1.00		
		Additional Child	£1.00		
Playgroup	Fee	Per session	£12.00	Price change Sept 2019	Monday-Friday Term time only
Playground (After School)	Administration Charge	Per Family	£20.00	Annual, paid January/when joining	Administration and issue of activities cards
	Daily Attendance Charge	Per Child	£6.00	Per Night	3.45-6pm
	Walkover Fee	Per Child	£1.00	After School	Includes toast and a drink
Playground (School Holidays)	Spring Registration 1	One Child		Easter and May half term. Price will be reviewed in 2020	Free access daily, Monday to Friday 10am-12pm & 2-5pm
		Two Children			
		Three Children +			
	Summer Registration 1	One Child	£80.00	Summer holidays Price change 2019	
		Two Children	£120.00		
		Three Children +	£155.00		
	Autumn Registration 1	One Child	£45.00	October, Christmas and February Half term 2019	
		Two Children	£65.00		
		Three Children +	£85.00		
	Yearly Admin Registration 2	Per Family admin	£30.00	Yearly July 2019 – July 2020	Half day 8.30am-1pm or 1-5.30pm
		Half day per session	£11.00		Full Day 8.30am-5.30pm
		Full Day	£20.00		
	Closed Access	Per Child, per hour, per day	£4.00	All School holidays	Payable for sessions; 8.30-10am, 12-2pm and 5-5.30pm
	Visitor Fee	One Child	£5.00	Child half day	Half day 10am-12pm or 2-5pm
			£10.00	Child whole day	
		Two Children	£7.00	Child half day	Whole day 10am-12pm & 2-5pm (does not include lunch 12-2pm)
			£12.00	Child whole day	
		Three Children +	£10.00	Child half day	
			£18.00	Child whole day	
	Family Visiting	Per Adult (minimum donation)	£2.00	Adult staying with children and supervising at all times	10am-12pm or 2-5pm
		Per Child (minimum donation)	£3.00		
Farm	School & Group Visits	Per Child	£4.00	Adult supervision needed	
	Birthday Parties	Up to 10 Children	£90.00	£7 per additional child, maximum 25 children per party	Saturday or Sunday, times vary, £25 deposit to book, adult supervision required
	Adult social mornings	Pre book with farm manager	£5	Carers come free	10am-12pm Mondays and Wednesdays, includes hot or cold drink



# Preschool Report

As always we have had a really busy time in playgroup this year. We are extremely proud of how well our children coped with the disruption caused by COVID-19 and the changes we implemented to ensure that they could learn and play safely.

We've seen some changes in our team, and while we were sad to say goodbye to Nikki, Elisabeth, Jodie and Karen, we were delighted to welcome Chloe to our New Ark family, and also to welcome back Jayne.



We plan our activities and experiences around the children's interests and focus on providing opportunities for the children to be independent, such as learning to dress themselves for outdoor play. We also believe in providing a safe and supportive environment in which children can face challenges, as was highlighted in our recent Ofsted report;

***'Children have excellent opportunities to be physically active and engage in risky play, which they learn to manage well. They climb, balance and swing with confidence on challenging physical play equipment, such as high balancing beams and bars.'*** Ofsted, 2020

We've made changes to our room and outdoor area, and introduced a rolling snack to the session to stop play from being interrupted. We often venture out into the community on walks and we took the children on regular trips to Sainsburys where we bought ingredients to create delicious pizzas, cakes, biscuits that the children enjoyed making as much as eating!



We continue to provide our children with unique opportunities and experiences and love to use our wonderful Eco garden as an outdoor classroom to develop the children's understanding and appreciation of nature. This year the children grew their own vegetables which they then picked, cooked and ate, to help them understand where our food comes from.

We have continued to focus on making learning fun, building children's confidence and supporting their social and emotional development through our carefully planned activities and daily routines.

*'Staff are focused on developing children's language and communication skills. They engage children in conversation and sing songs every day. Children are interested in books and listen intently to stories.'*

*'Children show motivation and a willingness to learn. They approach activities with enthusiasm and welcome staff's guidance and interaction in their play. Children are excited to visit the small farm on site and learn how to care for the animals there. They know to be gentle when they stroke and hold rabbits and guinea pigs.'* Ofsted, 2020



We held our first Nativity Recital which was a very an enjoyable experience for all involved and we received lots of positive feedback from parents and carers.

Ofsted recognised the positive relationship we built with all of our parents and carers, who were regularly invited to come and share their child's time at pre-school and look at their journals.

*'Assessment is used effectively to help children make good progress, which is regularly shared with parents and they are encouraged to help further support children's learning at home. For example, parents participate in a book-lending scheme to encourage reading and promote speech. They attend regular stay-and-play sessions. Parents comment positively that staff are warm, caring and approachable.'* Ofsted, 2020

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our fundraisers including photographs and a sponsored collect. All money raised was used to improve our outdoor area and replenish equipment.





# Play Support Service Report

We have had another successful year in the Play Support Service that has been very rewarding for many children. We welcome children to our service that are experiencing social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and we find that they benefit greatly from our exceptional facilities and the child-centred approach to learning which is delivered by our skilled team.



Our alternative curriculum is based mainly on the outdoors which includes the farm, Eco garden and adventure playground. Children who attend participate in many different tasks and are given responsibility to help with the daily running of the farm. Children have the opportunity to engage with all of the animals; they help with

feeding, collecting eggs, cleaning out different animal enclosures and also learn how to carry out health checks on smaller animals. We have found that being around animals is very therapeutic for the children, and helps to reduce their anxiety. They build a unique bond with the animals which boosts their emotional health. Their confidence flourishes by adapting to this different approach to learning and they often help with showcasing the different animals to the smaller children that visit from other schools.



Part of our curriculum also includes the Eco garden where children are encouraged to explore and develop their understanding of our environment. They become immersed in the world of nature, enjoying activities such as finding different bugs and naming them, leaf printing and pond dipping. Our Eco garden is a calming tranquil area where children are able to seek relaxation and listen to the soothing sounds of the swaying trees above.



Throughout the year we have been promoting different festivals and children have been creative in making cards, gifts and posters. One of the festivals we have learnt about was the Chinese New Year which included learning about the Chinese Horoscope, and children enjoyed taking part in some food tasting.



We have also been learning about online safety with children creating posters to promote safe use of the internet.

Understanding the British Values and promoting these through our activities have played an important role throughout our everyday learning. As part of this we encourage children to contribute towards planning rules for both the farm, for when they are working together and for the activities they do in the garden.

Every child matters at New Ark and we value their contribution by encouraging their input in putting ideas forward during sessions. It is important that children are listened to, given responsibility and feel valued.

We have a great team to support all children and I thank you all for your hard work and commitment to making a difference to the lives of some of our most complex and hard to reach children.

If you would like any more details about our service and the referral process, please contact me on (01733) 890928 or 340605.



**Samantha Brown,  
New Ark Manager**

# Farm Report

As you will have seen in the previous reports, our farm provides a therapeutic learning environment for all of the children who come to New Ark.

We also welcome **group visits** from mainstream schools and special schools, and other groups such as nurseries, preschools, parent and toddler groups, cubs and brownies and other children's groups. We can tailor activities to suit any age and need.



The farm is not only a firm favourite with children, but is also enjoyed by young people and adults who attend our **social mornings** and **animal care courses**, as well as those who volunteer and complete animal care placements and enrichment activities such as **Princes Trust** and **Duke of Edinburgh Awards**.

We were very pleased to be able to continue our partnership with City College, offering animal care courses to students from their John Mansfield Campus. The farm provides a welcoming, inclusive and supportive environment which appeals to people of all abilities, and we've had very positive feedback from all of the learners who have completed our animal care courses.



## A Special Thank You

When the national lockdown was declared we had to close New Ark and furlough all of our staff. However, we still had to find a way to continue to care for all of our animals on the farm. Our amazing volunteers stepped up to the challenge and demonstrated unwavering commitment to helping us through this incredibly challenging time. In addition to volunteering their time they have also been extremely generous in donating money to help us pay for food and bedding. Our most grateful thanks go out to;

**Carol, George, Tina and Tracey Hallet / John and Chloe Davey / Claire Duffy**

**Natalie Guarnori / Jan Ruffle / Erin Lovett and Emily Browett / Chris Welch**

**Gina Cook / Jane Carpenter / Hazel, John and Karen Greenwood / Jim Everitt**

You have been absolute heroes and we hope you know how much we appreciate you all.



We were very sorry to have to say goodbye to some treasured farm favourites this year, who have been hugely missed. **Eddie** was our much loved goat, who was born on the farm in 2004 and lived to the ripe old age of 15.



**Fez** was our beautiful Golden Pheasant who was donated to the farm in 2016 and was known for being super speedy!



Following the loss of our two elderly sheep

Poppy and Blossom last year, our remaining sheep Summer was looking a bit lost and lonely. Fortunately a friendship bloomed between Summer and **Cyrano**, the gorgeous Shetland pony who was very generously donated by the Hallet family and joined us in November 2019, having travelled all the way from Hardy's Farm in Skegness.



We've also recently welcomed to the farm two beautiful new turkeys—meet Rosie & Jim !

We are hoping to make some much needed improvements to the farm in the coming months, thanks to generous donations from the Alan Boswell Group and Perkins, which we're hoping to use to replace our dilapidated hay shed and replenish the gravel across the farm.

## If you're on holiday, 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.





## Farm Volunteer Stories

The Farm benefits hugely from the support of a dedicated group of volunteers, some of whom have shared their stories below as they wanted to share how much New Ark Farm means to them.

Originally I started volunteering at the city farm, along with my daughter who has a learning disability, in October 2019. In those first months both adults and children mixed in together looking after and caring not just for the animals but, for one another too.

However as we know, during March 2020 we unfortunately had to close the farm due to the pandemic to all but a few volunteers who didn't have to shield. This worked well, as we had a rota going, meaning the hours we spent at the farm were with the same group.

During March I also got my husband involved and we have found the farm as a family to be not only good exercise, but also to be stress relieving. It can give you a real sense of satisfaction watching the various animals enjoy their surroundings, knowing that you have helped create it. We all pool our thoughts on situations that arise, to find a solution. Being here has been a real bonus to our mental health during these tough few months. We work quite hard, having a giggle on the way.



**Hazel Greenwood**





Hi, my name is Natalie. I came to the farm more than five years ago, with my support worker at the time, Glynis. This lady supported me whilst I was very unwell. Through coming to the farm I came to know a few good people, Carolyn included, they made me feel very welcome and all were very kind to me.

A few years later, I left the farm to embark upon various other things, mainly more voluntary work, for example gardening at the local orchard; which I found very beneficial and welcoming, like the farm, although I found myself feeling much more at home at the farm than I did working elsewhere.

There is always things to do and there is never a dull moment, everyone is friendly and it is always a nice place to be, even just simply to relax and be with the animals. I love working at the farm and I will always remember the hospitality given and the friendship I have gained.

**Natalie Guarnori**

I attend New Ark three afternoons a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) and I go with my Mum on Fridays in the evenings. Since attending New Ark I have become more confident and willing to ask more questions. Whilst I've been volunteering I've understood the importance of teamwork and how hard you have to work to fulfil the animals' needs.

My Mum and I have been volunteering at New Ark farm since the summer of 2016, just over four years. Our job role whilst we are there is to clean and care for the animals. We don't really have a favourite area as all the animals require our love and attention and some have specific requirements (although you can't really help but have favourites!). I would recommend New Ark to volunteer for a few hours a week if you have a passion for animals.

**Erin Lovett and Emily Browett**

# Treasurer's Report

We started the year in April 2019 on a positive note by opening our doors for our very popular Easter Egg Hunt event, which saw many parents and children visit, raising over **£2,000**. Fundraising is a key activity for us as the money that we receive through grants, government funding and fees unfortunately does not cover all of our overheads throughout the year.

Throughout 2019/2020 our staff and volunteers worked hard to fundraise by donating their time; and parents and businesses donated goods to sell or raffle at our Summer Festival, which raised **£1,800** and our Christmas Bazaar, which raised **£800**. This was closely followed by Carolyn's Christmas Lights Switch On in Bishop's Close, which raised **£400**.



We have previously needed to raise around £15,000 each year but this figure increases from April 2020 as our funding has been reduced by the Local Council, and this funding will soon stop completely.

Due to having to close for a period of time due to COVID-19 restrictions, our Accounts have not yet been finalised so I do not have any definite figures yet, but I am very optimistic that we have made a small profit.

This would be a great outcome considering the immense challenges of the past seven months, and is only possible from the great work that the staff, volunteers, parents and the rest of our Committee do for us; so thank you all.

The coming year may be tough with ongoing COVID-19 issues and lack of Council funding but we will strive to do our best for all involved.

**Rob Brown, Treasurer**





# 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 Centre

**£90 for up to 10 children, additional children £7 each & parents free. No hidden charges.**

**To discuss your requirements email [newarkplay.office@gmail.com](mailto:newarkplay.office@gmail.com) or telephone New Ark to speak to Carolyn or Sam between 10am-12pm weekdays on 01733 340605.**



# Thankyou....

We would like to take a moment to say thank you to all of the individuals and organisations that have kept New Ark going with their help and support through 2019-20 by giving us their time, resources and donations. We couldn't have done it without you!



Alan Boswell Group  
Baldwins  
BeNCH CRC Community Payback  
Boxing Futures  
Croner  
Day Opportunities  
Farm Vet Solutions  
Food Cycle  
FX Hair  
Garfield Weston Trust  
Hampton College  
Heltwaite School  
JJ Tree & Landscape Services  
Local Giving  
Marks & Spencer  
Marshfields School  
Medeshamstede Academy  
Moores  
Morrisons  
National Citizen Service (NCS)  
Nenagate  
Nene Inspired

Newark Hill Academy  
ODIZ shop  
Paston Farm  
Perkins Engines  
Peterborough City College  
Peterborough Regional College  
Pets at Home  
Princes Trust  
Queen's Drive School  
Ramsey Hospital Charity Shop  
Sainsbury's  
St John Fisher School  
Stamford College  
Tesco Bags of Help  
The Beauty Box  
The Beeches  
Thera Trust  
Thomas Deacon Academy



Aaron Johnson	Jane Carpenter
Adam Donovan	Jason Charnley
Alicja Skorlutowska	Jayne Davey
Annette Donovan	Jim Everitt
Brian Thompson	Jim Reynolds
Carole, George, Tina & Tracey Hallett	Jo, David, Abigail & Josh Curphey
Charlotte Moss	Justin Jackson
Chelsea Miller	Kerry Joyce
Chloe & John Davey	Laura Anderson
Chloe Charnley	Lee Moore
Chris the Plumber	Lisa Paterson
Chris Welch	Lisa Sachse
Claire Duffy	Mark Harding
Claire Turner	Migle Naseviciute
Claudia Butler	Molly Fowler
Craig Richards	Molly Setterfield
Daniella Melillo	Nadine McCormick
Dave Wilson	Nathanial Donovan
Debbie Knighton	Natalie Guarnori
Donne Buck	Neil & Heidi Sansby
Eleanor Waters	Paul Riddler
Emily Browett	Rebekah Brown
Emily Paskin	Rob Brown
Enid Lynch	Ruth Scotten
Erin Lovett	Sally-Anne & Wayne Miller-Molson
Gina Cook	Sandy Snitch
Hannah Murthwaite	Sarah Beeton
Hazel, John & Karrone Greenwood	Sarah Guest
Ian Hilleard	Sarah Partridge
Isabelle Waters	Sean Duffy
James Payne	Steve Milford
Jan & Cliffe Ruffles	The Pawlak-Riley Family
Jane Buck	Vicki Fensome

# Join in with the fun at New Ark!

Preschool playgroup  
School holiday play sessions  
All day childcare in holidays  
After school play sessions  
Student placements in childcare and animal care  
Eco sessions (Forest School)  
Parent and toddler group  
Play Support Service  
Volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups  
Children's parties  
Group and family visits  
Adult social mornings

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

Newark Play Association Ltd

Hill Close (off Reeves Way), Peterborough PE1 5LZ

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