

A.P.P.L.E.



Annual Report
Jan – Dec 2015



Chair's Report

Welcome to A.P.P.L.E's 2015 Annual Report.

The year has seen some significant changes to the organisation as A.P.P.L.E continues on a path of restructuring and transition from a founder-led organisation to one which is more robust and long-term sustainable.

Vicki Barker, Co-founder and Project Coordinator, moved to Bromyard, Herefordshire a year ago. This means she is no longer running the day to day work of A.P.P.L.E and no longer involved in face to face session work. Joy Goddard, General and Youth Manager, is still on long term sick leave.

Our present situation is as follows:

The new team now running A.P.P.L.E have made many improvements, for example, they have brought in new young members from the school based clubs. Many of these young people have started high school this Sept and this group will form our next youth group. The team have done this by creating an interesting and diverse programme of activities and making the environment supportive and responsive.

They have also transformed the inside of the building creating more usable space.

A.P.P.L.E has now returned to its original structure of offering a mix of activities all through the week. The children and young people now have more opportunity to direct their own time and follow their own interests.

- The Project Coordinator (*Vicki Barker*) continues to be responsible for accounting and budgets, funding/grants and financial direction, monitoring/reporting progress towards achieving the objectives and policies of the organisation and funders. Reporting to the management committee.
- A.P.P.L.E have taken on an additional person (*Sue Spinks -as/and when*) as an administrative assistant to help with the evaluation, reporting and monitoring
- Arts Administrator (*Sharon Walters*) continues to be responsible for the management and development of the ARTS Programme.
- The roles of the specialist in-house team have been strengthened to focus and lead on their areas of expertise. They have also all taken on additional responsibilities.
 - i. Jake Barker is responsible for the building and equipment and materials

- ii. Sam Barker is responsible for the petty cash and youth workers
- iii. Nella Johnson is responsible for the welfare and well being of the children and young people and the daily administrative tasks
- iv. Taranom Mansoubi is responsible for the running of the kitchen.
- v. Sharon Walters is responsible for training and awards
- Gardening tutor Natalie Blick works with our Red Robin Gardening Club and Daniel Puerto–Brito is working on the allotment and gardens. Carol, our volunteer gardener, is still assisting on a regular basis.
- A.P.P.L.E. is continuing with an arts programme made up of Monday Art and Wednesday John Perryn Art Club and various outside commissioned projects. (*ARTS Team: Sam and Jake Barker, Nella Johnson and Sharon Walters*)
- Tuesday Club is predominantly art but with cooking and some sport- it is casual, drop-in and youth directed.
- Thurs- is Cooking and Gardening Club with East Acton School
- Fridays is for youth events such as Movie Nights or Dinner Clubs and takes place as and when the young people arrange the activities
- Saturdays and holidays are our good old fashioned drop-in sessions – mixed age and multi activity- the heart of what we do.
- We have additional staff including – Mpangula Andeke (Sport), Dexter Brathwaite (Football), Raven Thomas (Football), Daniel Shirley (Art), Gill Jesson (Catering), Jessica Mason (Art and Catering), Mohamed Al- Maliki (Art).

What we have done this year

We have tried to encourage our children and young people to be bold, try new things and go to new places.

"This year we have engaged children and young people in varied art projects ranging from making terrifying shrunken heads for Halloween to beautiful fabric owls for an installation at John Perryn Primary School. We have made decorative boards for the Art Block window shutters, bird puppets, tin foil fish, butterfly kites, perspex insect squares, redesigned the Art Block doors ('Elephant doors' & 'Jungle doors') dinosaur masks and light–up space men/women + spacecraft. It's been an exciting year of experimentation and ideas inspired by our young people. We continue to work in collaboration with children with a 'can do' approach to everything we do!" Sharon Walters- Arts Administrator

We had lots of very positive feedback over the summer from parents about the range of activities available and the way the management of the projects allow a great deal of freedom to the participants to pursue their interests.

"It enables the children to become individuals and they become their own people, which is great for the children. They make new friends. I usually drop the kids off here and do what I have to do and come back later. The equipment, the artwork, everything you do here is amazing! It teaches the children how to cook, how to interact with adults and children. The older ones look after the younger ones which is great."

Christine (parent)

The young people also reported their views on coming to A.P.P.L.E.

"I enjoy APPLE because it helps me a lot in confidence and trying new things. Also, I have found hobbies that I enjoy daily thanks to them.

I like coming to APPLE because it's FUN!

I like that the people are friendly and that I get to do loads of different things. I think it's a fun and caring place to be!"

Kayla (10)

"I think when people come to APPLE it brings people together and it brings joy to me when I've had a bad day. I come here so I can make people feel good about themselves just like it made me."

Ayden (young person)

"I felt that the activities were varied and included the children aged 6-18. The different projects have created a community for children of different ages to come together. I feel like the building is the heart of APPLE as the art projects that the kids have done are proudly hanging on the walls. This is a signature touch which allows people to see what we have accomplished over the years. "

Ugbad (19)

Summary

The reorganisation is still going on and there are issues that have to be looked at and resolved. A.P.P.L.E needs to improve the collection of statistical evidence of the progress made by young people, and ensure the events and activities are matching the grant requirements. We need to continue to support and identify how we can improve and strengthen what we do best – provide an informal, participant led, extended family, socially mixed, multi activity, drop in centre.

Deborah Catesby, Chair



SPORT



1. BMXing
4. Archery

2. Skateboarding
5. Slackwire

3. Rock wall climbing
6. A classic water fight

YOUTH



1. Go – carting

2. Trip to Brighton

3. Youth mentors: working on a mural project: preparing for cooking club: preparing a jewellery workshop

EVENTS



1. A visit for Rupa Huq and Cllr Cougan
2. Harvest Celebration Day
3. Halloween display

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



1. Pick-your-own for jam making
2. Summer salad
3. Pizza making and eating
4. Youth helper serving Sat food
5. Cooking Club
6. Autumn bounty

GARDENING



1. Produce from the allotment 2. Picking from the allotment 3. Asparagus fronds
5. Jam 5. The allotment 6. More produce

ART



1. 3D Turtle for underwater project
2. Tentacle cushions
3. Painting birds
4. Mural project
5. Whale Mosaic
6. Tiger painting

INFORMATION ABOUT APPLE-the ethos

The Next Step

"The Next Step" is a core concept at A.P.P.L.E., an integral part of our approach in all of our activities. "The Next Step" encompasses how we act towards each other and how we see our responsibilities to each other. We acknowledge that we can't solve all of everyone's problems at once and that each individual's situation and challenges are often complex and sometimes overwhelming. We help our user group to make progress by helping them to focus on the next task in front of them. This brings immediacy to our work which both gives a sense of achievement and equips users with a transferable practical approach, a path forward.

So the Next Step could be as simple as showing a younger child where the toilet is or helping prepare food for a session, or gaining a qualification. It is realising that all that we do effects our life and the lives of others around us. It applies to us all, staff, children, young people, families and friends as we encourage each other at every stage to take the NEXT STEP.

Our aim is to have young adults skilled and practiced in realising their goals, for them to be active and engaged, with confidence and a wealth of knowledge. We aim to have young adults who are unafraid of stepping up, who see themselves as active citizens with an engaged approach to problem solving- resourceful and courageous.

We are all in it together-

Everyone at A.P.P.L.E is involved in thinking about how to make it better: through developing a wider range of activities, through providing challenging and rewarding experiences, and more opportunities for training and acquiring work and life skills. Part of the ethos is that no one is outside of what happens at A.P.P.L.E. from taking part in the youth planning sessions at Tuesday Club, to weekly Monday meetings for implementing the programme, to Youth Event Management Courses which set up events throughout the year, to having a good idea while cutting fruit salad. The programme is constantly evolving. The solidity and dependability of what we do is taken for granted by the young people, as it should be. This security allows them to step out and grow in confidence and ability. It is the balance between a safe home base and challenging activities that gives dynamism to the projects.

Experience it – Learn it - Share it (Adventure Club)

Experience it – Learn it - Share it has always been at the heart of A.P.P.L.E. right from the start; to get children and young people, active, involved and taking responsibility for their time and well being.

Experience it: A.P.P.L.E. is lively and encourages children and young people to jump in and try new things- new foods (chocolate beetroot cake), new sport (croquet) new experiences (wall climbing, the theatre) **Learn it** :Then to learn from it, learn to be courageous, to face a

challenge, to feeling the sense of accomplishment, to feel knowledge and experience grow. **Share it:** And then to pass it on by encouraging others to be bold, try the unknown, to teach the skills learnt and give back something.

Shared Space- Shared Values

A.P.P.L.E is located in an area of high cultural diversity. We are aware, from our own experiences and from the literature, that there is often a lack of knowledge and fear and distrust between communities. Communities are often polarised and segregated living parallel lives. This cultural diversity is constantly in a state of flux, with newcomers from different backgrounds constantly joining the mix. We put on events that promote commonality and shared experiences that develop understanding, trust and respect.

Why it matters

The children and young people who come to A.P.P.L.E find us themselves. Many young people are experiencing difficulties somewhere in their lives. Some of these difficulties are not so serious - the usual teenage anxiety about not fitting in. However, some of the young people have serious problems – perhaps an alcoholic parent or being bullied. There are many complex issues such as sexual identity, learning difficulties, and social issues such as low income and refugee status.

The young people find us mainly through word of mouth, a friend telling a friend. We are somewhere where children and young people can feel supported and find a path through for themselves. A.P.P.L.E creates an environment for children and young people that is safe and nurturing, where they can develop their own ideas, creativity and individuality. All our children need confidence and resourcefulness to face future challenges. For many of our young people their lives are already difficult and disadvantaged.

The wellbeing of a community, of society, does not happen by accident. If people desire a safe, friendly thriving place to live it needs active citizens prepared to contribute. Communities need somewhere for children to play, to make art, music, drama, enjoy the outdoors, make festivals, galas, celebrations, enjoy and learn from neighbours' cultures, share interests and passions- anything from allotments to cooking to music.

A.P.P.L.E. jumps in. We are active in our local community and encourage our children and young people to become active citizens concerned with the well being of themselves, their friends, their families, neighbours and local community. Belonging and being valued creates the communities we all want to live in.

Disaffection and a debilitating lack of confidence and opportunity puts young people on the outside with no commitment to the shared values of a community. And it is expensive. The costs fall on the health service, social services, police, prison and offending services. It

makes communities and estates feel abandoned to anti-social behaviour and crime. It makes affluent areas close their gates. No one benefits.

The activities at A.P.P.L.E have a ripple effect throughout the local community. People passing through the park love to see our youth busy and active. It fosters the feeling that "The kids are OK"

Vicki Barker – Co-founder and project Coordinator

A.P.P.L.E. COMMITTEE AND TRUSTEES

A.P.P.L.E. is a registered constituted charity with a Management Committee of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and four trustees. There is a core support group of 10+. A.P.P.L.E has a large group of volunteers ranging from regulars, to those who come and help out on specific projects, for example carnivals. This year we have had a change to our trustees; we welcome Rachel Pepper, long time supporter and active community worker with Acton Community Arts Forum and David Thaddeus, Acton resident.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Deborah Catesby	Chair
Tessa Swithinbank	Treasurer
Sharon Duce	Secretary
Rachel Pepper	Trustee
David Thaddeus	Trustee
Philippe Mandin	Trustee
Vicki Barker	Project Coordinator

FUNDING ORGANISATIONS

LB Ealing Youth and Connexions ~ Children in Need ~ Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities ~ Tudor Trust ~ John Lyons Charity ~ Awards For All ~ People's Health - Acton Central Ward Forum- Leathersellers Company

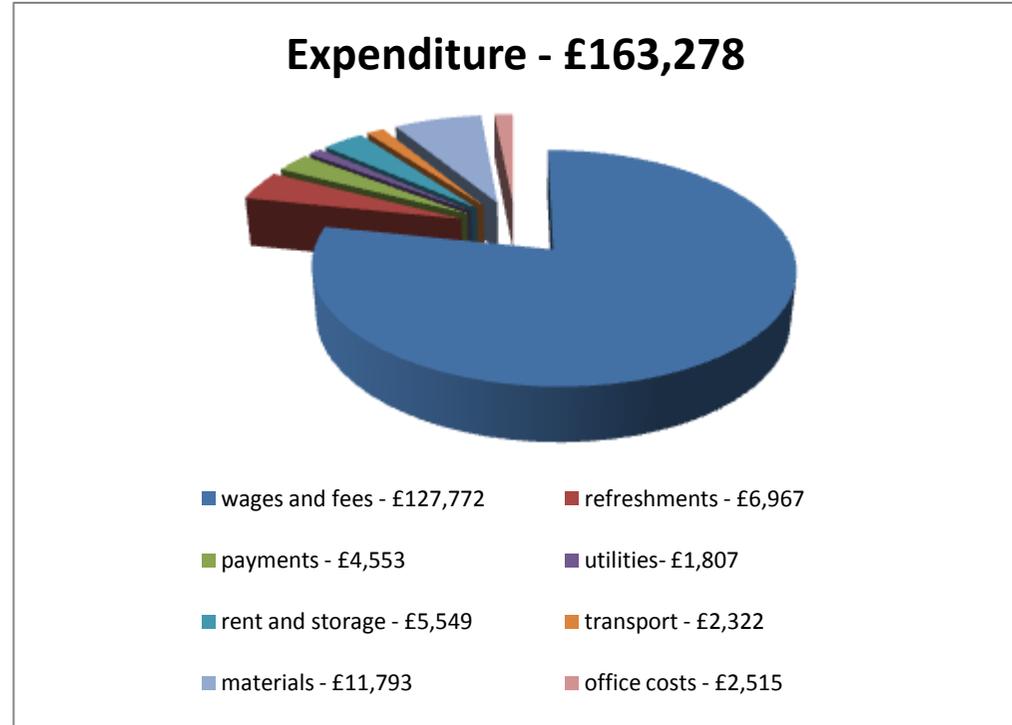
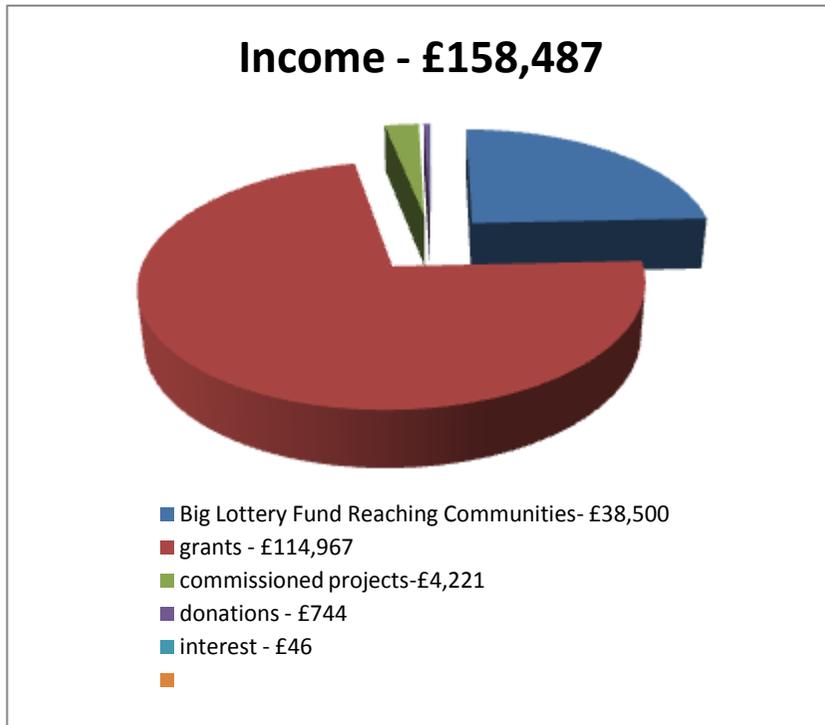
CONTACT GROUPS

Churchfield Community Association ~ Derwentwater Primary School ~ John Perryn Primary School ~ Horsenden Primary School ~ Acton Community Forum ~ Acton Arts Forum ~ Acton High School ~Gunnersbury Park and Museum~ Walpole Park ~Acton Gardening Association ~ LB Ealing: Parks, Environment, Children's Services, Youth & Connexions ~

A.P.P.L.E's Annual Accounts

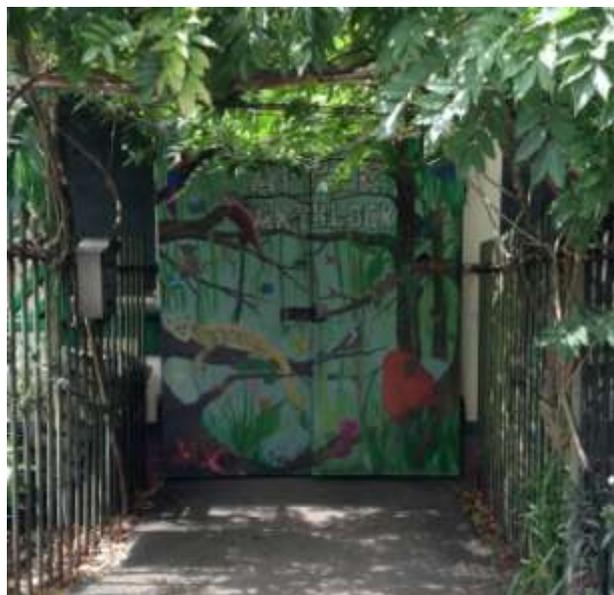
April 1st 2014 – 31st March 2015

Clarke and Co, Acorn House 33, Churchfield Road, Acton, W3 6AY



Grants

Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities awarded £38,500



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