

Annual Report

Jan – Dec 2021



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Chair's Report

Welcome to A.P.P.L.E.'s 2021 (*Draft*) Annual Report.

It is wonderful to be A.P.P.L.E again. The children, young people and families filled the ARTBLOCK space this summer. Proper, old school A.P.P.L.E.: exuberant games of tug-of war and dodgeball, creative artwork, lots of food and skateboarding everywhere.

The first half of the year was dominated by Covid-19. The core staff team were on part time furlough and continued 3 days a week with the winter programme of Weekend Packs.

A.P.P.L.E opened for the Easter holidays with limited, booked-in, outdoor art sessions. It was freezing cold, but the children showed up.

In May, we opened up to almost a full programme. We restarted John Perryn Art Club, East Acton Cooking Club and Tuesday and Saturday drop-in sessions. The only Covid restriction was that all sessions were held outdoors leaving us at the mercy of the weather – which was dreadful.

The summer holidays were though a wonderful release. We were almost back to normal. But the virus is still present, and winter is coming. A.P.P.L.E has always been adaptive, and we continue to develop a programme of activities to fit whatever situation we find ourselves in.



Homecooked meals ready for delivery

Jan to April

At the start of the year the country was in lockdown. A.P.P.L.E. was continuing with Programme 5: **A.P.P.L.E's The Big Weekend Packs**. The staff were on part-time furlough. The weather was horrible. The activity packs aimed to cheer everyone up and were filled with art and crafts, quizzes, recipes and games.

25 families were registered with A.P.P.L.E. for Weekend Packs.

On Friday afternoons from 2 – 5pm The Weekend Packs were available at the ARTBLOCK for collection comprising:

1. Family take-away meal for up to six persons (pre booked)
2. A weekend activity pack with arts and crafts, cooking activities, a quiz and games.
3. Food bags.



Homecooked meals ready for delivery

WEEKEND 17: CURIOUS CREATURES



This Weekend we're doing;
A Mythical Creature Quiz
Making A Creature Mask
Being Inspired by Hayao Miyazaki
Baking Flapjacks
Making a Park Course

OPEN PACK

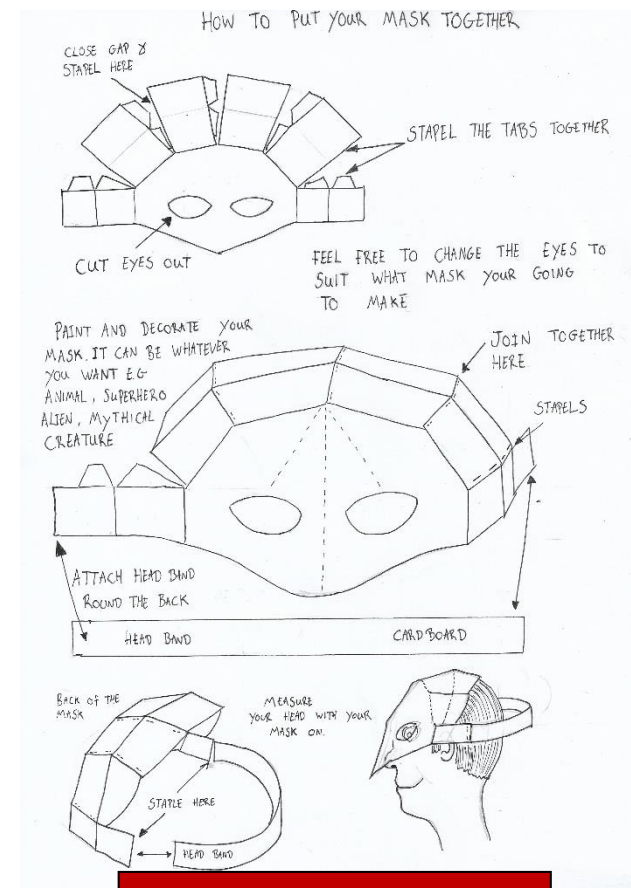


WEEKEND 16: AZTEC IDEAS

This Weekend we're doing;
A Booby Trap Quiz
Making A Spooky Key
Being Inspired by Women
Making Mother's Day Card
Making an Aztec Maze
Baking Rock Cakes
Playing The Pot of Destiny



OPEN PACK



Making a Creature Mask

Weekend Packs

Easter Holidays to July

A.P.P.L.E opened 3 days a week for the Easter holidays running booked in sessions for art and craft.

We stayed with the same set-up that we had put in place the previous summer

We re-registered all our children and young people to ensure that

- i. We had permission to use home contact details to keep in touch
- ii. We could introduce a booking system for sessions
- iii. We could effectively track and trace

We redesigned the work areas inside and outside to make them Covid safe. We introduced the following safety rules and procedures.

- i. Parents and guardians needed to register children/young people to access the sessions and the equipment.
- ii. Sessions needed to be booked.
- iii. Social distancing and handwashing required as necessary.
- iv. Sessions could not go ahead if it rained.
- v. No one except staff allowed in the building.
- vi. Children only allowed to use the toilet.

See website (www.apple-play.com)

The weather was really cold but some great artwork was produced



Socially distanced art tables



Deer heads



Shark making

Summer Holidays

These were wonderful - to be open and running normally – (or as close to normal as possible). We kept all activities outdoors except for limited groups taking part in the cooking activities. It was the usual mixture of sports, games, outdoor play, art and crafts, cooking and eating.

Friday BBQ



Vegetables from the garden



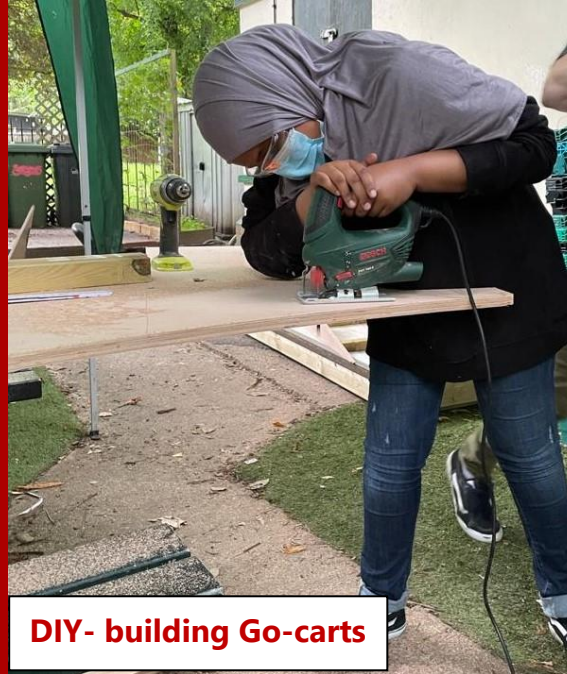
Mexican wrestling masks



Tug -of -War

This year A.P.P.L.E went camping. The courageous staff took 11 young people of to Longridge Activity centre near Maidenhead for 2 days of challenging and fun activities. No one slept! The kids had a great time – not so sure about the staff.

Raft building at Camping



DIY- building Go-carts

Yoga in the park



**A visit from John the Lion
at the Summer Tea Party**

Wall climbing at Camping



October to December

It was good to be back running our clubs again. We started back at John Perryn with our after school artclub and at East Acton with Thursday Cooking Club. October half term was very busy ending with our Halloween Party on Sat 30th October. Over 100 children, young people and family members attended. Lots dressing up (including the staff) lots of frights and ending with the traditional jelly fight.

Our youth group took part in a "Come Dine With Me" event, 2 teams cooking an evening dinner hosted at the ARTBLOCK. The event finished with a night out at a restaurant in central London for the participants.

We sadly had to cancel our Christmas events due the high infection rates from the new covid variant. It is a disappointing ending to year which saw A.P.P.L.E eginning to get back to normal. Hopefully next year will be better.



**Come Dine With Me at
The ARTBLOCK**



Christmas Give-Away Packs



Mexican Sugar Skull Window Art

Thanks

First, to **Neville Capil** our new gardener, who joined us earlier in the year. He has worked hard to get our gardens back in order and producing again. The staff cooked with fruit and veg from the garden every day during the summer holidays. We are looking forward to next year's crop.

A.P.P.L.E would then like to thank **City Harvest** for their contributions of food which have helped support 25 of our families through the past 18 months. It makes a big difference to our food budget .

A.P.P.L.E would like to thank **The Big Lottery** and **John Lyon's Charity** for supporting all the changes that we made to support our children, young people and their families during the past 18 months

Thanks to **the staff** who have been outstanding. They have worked all through the past 18 months. With each change in Covid restrictions they adapted the programme to make sure that A.P.P.L.E continued to provide support safely.

Thanks also to the committee, trustees and all the people and organisations that support A.P.P.L.E



Cooking fruit and veg from the garden



The beds planted with veg for the summer



Take away food, home made meals and activity bags.

Stats, data and feedback

- A.P.P.L.E have supported 25 families (65 children and young people) with weekend give away packs comprising of home cooked meals, food and activity bags
- Provided 1042 sessions places during the summer holidays averaging 41 individuals per session.
- 264 individual children and young people have attended this year. Our core group is made up of 91 children and young people who attend on a regular basis
- Our core group is made up of 45 boys and 43 girls.
- During the summer holidays 6% were under 5 years old, 43% were under 12s, and 56 % were over 12s

Additional information to be added after compilation of survey data.

Future Projects

We had started to develop a new Youth Experience Programme before Covid 19. The aim was to broaden the experience of young people in seeing work opportunities that exist in and around the locality and also to discover and experience the cultural life of London. The plan was for trips to take young people out to see working environments. We piloted one trip before the lockdown to Thames Tideway, the construction company building the new sewage tunnel under the Thames. It was a very successful trip with 6 young people introduced to the huge number of different jobs involved in such a massive project.

We had received one grant from the Joanies Trust to support these trips and youth helpers workdays. The project needs additional funding and preparation.

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Summary

WE ARE STILL HERE.

A.P.P.L.E.'s role changed over the past 18 months from a community resource for children and young people, enabling them to realise their goals and take steps in making positive decision for themselves - to an emergency food bank. We always wanted to restore our drop-in and open access way of working as soon as we could. What we have found to be irreplaceable is the casual conversations with children and young people over an activity - a chat in the kitchen while cooking, a young person dropping in after school having had a bad day and eating mac and cheese with a member of staff, all our users being able to come at any time and feel at home, have something to do and someone to hang out with when things are difficult at home or at school.

Sitting (masked, socially distanced and outside) with the children and young people at the booked-in art sessions in the Easter holidays was wonderful. Listening to their experiences, both good and bad, about being locked down, home schooling, quarrelling with siblings, being bored, all this was wonderful after the lock down. It reinforced the need to get back to our way of working as soon as possible.

The summer holidays reinforced the need for children, young people and their families to have somewhere to meet and play. A place offering the opportunity to take part in exciting activities, support and friendship.

The staff have been, and continue to be, outstanding in the most difficult of circumstances, they have worked and adapted brilliantly with each change in the Covid-19 pandemic and have continued to provide activities, food and contact for our families, children and young people. They put on a wonderful holiday programme full of joy for all those who came during the summer

Thank you so much to them, and everyone else who has supported and given time to A.P.P.L.E. over the last year.



Artwork made by young people

APPENDIX 1

A.P.P.L.E. STAFF, 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 staff. A.P.P.L.E. has a large group of volunteers ranging from regulars, to those who come and help for specific projects, e.g. carnivals.

Committee:

Chair: David Thaddeus **Secretary:** Sharon Duce **Treasurer:** Tessa Swithinbank

Trustees: Deborah Catesby, Amanda Mason, Edward Parkinson, Rachel Pepper, Sharon Walters , Kit Harington

Project Coordinator & Co-founder - Vicki Barker

On-site Project Manager - Sam Barker

On-site Building Manager – Jake Barker

On-site Safeguarding Officer – Nella Novy Johnson

On-site admin support - Taranom Mansoubi

Off-site admin support - Jessica Mason

Lead Project Workers

Jake Barker

Nella Johnson

Sam Barker

Gardener

Neville Capil

APPENDIX 2

FUNDING ORGANISATIONS

Our work is supported by:



THE JOANIES TRUST

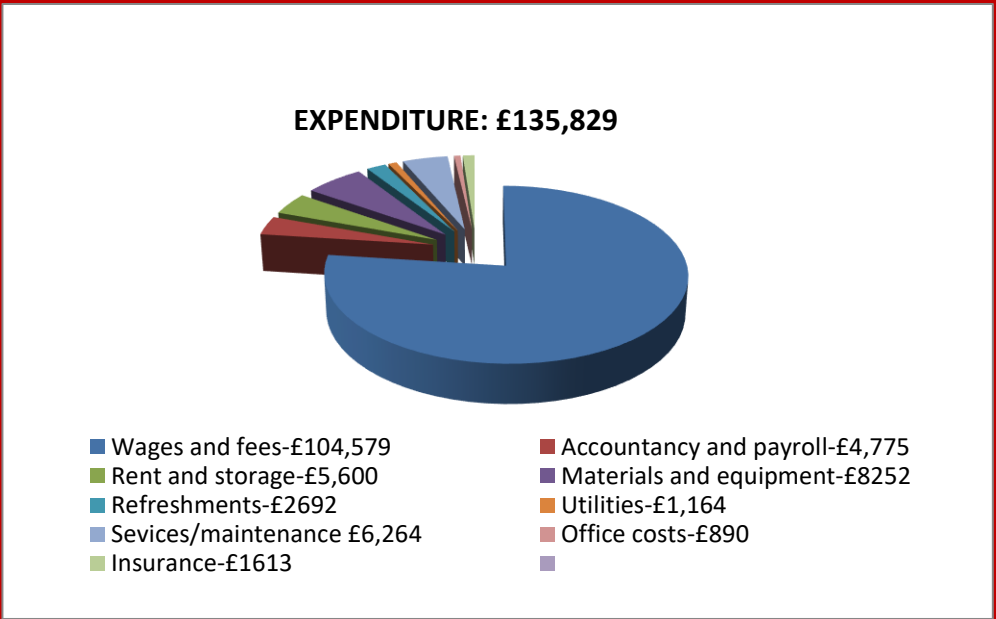
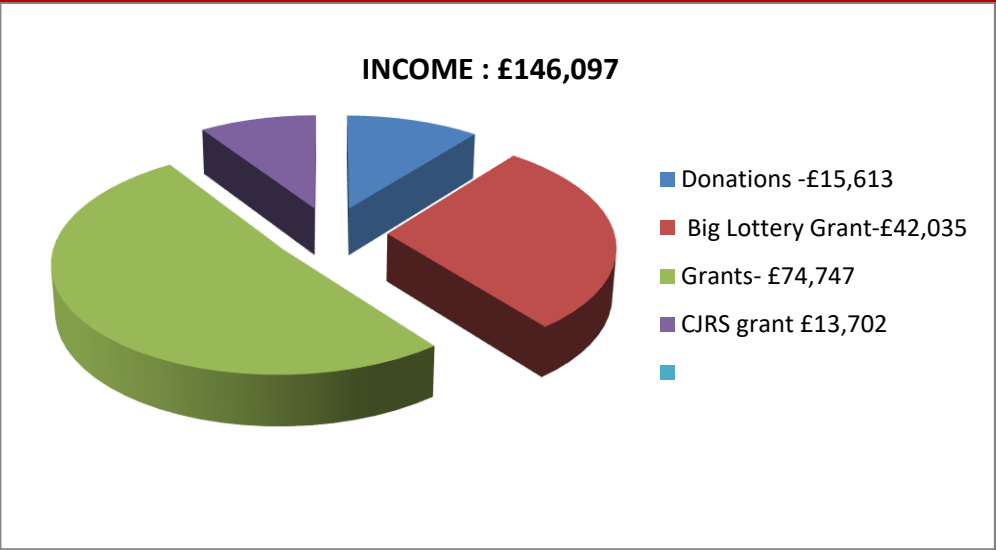
CONTACT GROUPS

Churchfield Community Association ~ John Perryn Primary School ~ East Acton Primary School ~ Artification ~ Derwentwater Primary School ~ LB Ealing: Parks, Environment, Children's Services, Youth & Connexions ~ Trusted Spaces ~ Ealing Skateboard Association ~ Young Ealing Foundation

APPENDIX 3

A.P.P.L.E.'s Annual Accounts for the period 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021

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





A.P.P.L.E. Contacts

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