



New Developments on Every Side.

It has been a rather remarkable year on every front for us here at A+. We have MUCH to be thankful for.

The 16th October is a date that will be forever set in our minds as we remember the faithfulness of God in providing the funding needed to make the plan for a permanent base for A+ a reality. This month marks the anniversary of our purchase of Windmill Farm and the glorious 50 acres of surrounding land! There is an energetic buzz about the place as new developments unfold on so many different fronts. Work on a new **website** is now underway. See page 4 for more on that front. We are excited about new life within the **AdventureImpact** team. Read Ali's report for details below. **AdventureBase** plans are at an exciting stage, have a look at page 3, and our Christmas Appeal for more details. We have seen many new faces join our team here at A+ in recent months. Meet the **awesome people** God has sent our way on our new website when it is released in early 2018.



Making a Difference one Child at a Time



AdventureImpact is all about getting alongside—being a helping hand

Almost every day in the media there are such sad reports about the welfare of our children and young people. One government funded study announced that one in four girls have depression by the time they hit 14!

According to the Department for Education, the number of children excluded from full time education is expected to be over 167,000 in England by July and according to the charity Home for Good, the UK needs more than 9,000 additional foster families. Now, more than ever, these children need consistency in care and support and to find places where they can feel safe and loved; then they can start to flourish and believe in a brighter future.

At AdventureImpact we are working hard to do just that! We were delighted to be able to welcome six children referred from social services or 'link workers' places at our Total Adventure Holiday this summer. Each child comes with their own worries and feelings of low self-esteem, which often becomes evident in the way they approach activities or interact with others. It was great to see them begin to relax as the week progressed enjoying themselves and having fun with friends and leaders. The feedback by the end of the week was really positive. One of the children in 'Kinship Care' told his granny it was the best thing he'd done all summer and wished it was longer than just a week!

We'll look forward to seeing him back on an Activity Day soon and then for another week with us next year.

We were also able to provide places for four Syrian refugee children, based locally and supported by the volunteers at Asylum Welcome. The children thoroughly enjoyed being outdoors, having fun and making new friends; we were even treated to a Syrian song, sung by two of the boys at 'TA's Got Talent'. The families see A+ as a 'safe place' for their children and they too are looking forward to coming back next year.

That was the summer, so what now? Our team is growing and we are planning to provide more opportunities to work alongside children with additional needs whether on regular activity days, at weekends, or school holidays. During term time we plan to offer programmes to support children excluded from school, providing mentoring programmes and recognised qualifications - alongside a range of outdoor adventures of course!

We believe all these children need to know they are highly valued and greatly loved and that they too deserve a great future supported by a team who consistently care, support and encourage them.

AdventureImpact is looking forward to a very exciting year ahead!

Ali Whealy, **Aim** Coordinator.

Gap year at Adventure Plus



The awesome Adventure Plus GAP 2016 –2017 team

'I really enjoyed the gap year as I learnt so much about all the activities that we run here and about my faith! I have enjoyed showing the children we work with how awesome it is to follow Jesus.' Charis

We are super excited to welcome our new **GAP Coordinator, Graham Marshall**, all the way from South Africa.

This is what he has to say.

'Life sure is a great adventure when we are living it with God! I am very excited to be part of the A+ team and coordinating the GAP year. We are busy sorting out and 'making good' the plans and details of the A+ GAP programme for our new intake next year! If you are interested in joining us for an incredible year of adventure call us now (we may even have a space in our January 2018 intake for you... or someone you know!)

Be aware that the 'serious business of having fun' is high on our agenda for the GAP year, so get in there fast if you don't want to miss out!' Graham

Mobile Adventure Plus

There have been a number of changes in our team this year. We said goodbye to some old friends and hello to a few new faces, yet still worked with over 7,000 people in 2017.

Work with vulnerable and at risk young people through our AdventureImpact department has received fresh life and momentum thanks to our new Aim Coordinator Ali Whealy.

With plenty of contacts to call and leads to follow up, we are excited



that we will be working with more and more young people who really could do with a touch of Christian love in their lives!

As always we couldn't do what we do without the help of our faithful band of volunteers, who pitch up to help on our residentials, hill walking days, canoeing, climbing and whatever else we can throw at them!

A big 'Thank You' to them, and, of course, we are always looking for more enthusiastic people to help us show the light of Jesus to the young people we work with – so do get in touch!

volunteer@adventureplus.org.uk

TA Holidays

Another great year for Total Adventure Holidays (TA)! With many new friendships made and building on existing relationships throughout the year. It has been great to see the young people grow in friendship and faith!

Our weekly Adventure Club is in full swing. Everyone is enjoying the opportunity to try more of our activities, including the new mountain bike track in our woodland, and to build on friendships made at TA!

Our attention now turns towards TA

Ski and the **A+ Ski Week** (for volunteers and friends of A+). Could you be joining us for a week in the spectacular Jungfrau region of Switzerland?

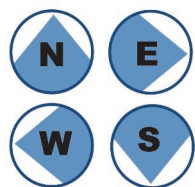
Once again TA would not have been possible without all the amazing volunteers, **Thank You!**

We are already looking for people to help us in the coming year- speakers, worship leaders, dorm leaders, minibus drivers and those that can get alongside the young people.

Could this be you?



"Adventure Plus is one of the most exciting charities around for inspiring young people to get out there, grab life & live boldly!" Bear Grylls, A+ Patron



Those who Hope in the Lord will inherit the land...Psalm 37



Jon Cox,
Executive
Director

As we read this psalm during our daily Team Meeting recently it resonated with me for our current mission to buy Windmill Farm and get the AdventureBase built.

We've been working to bring this about for 7 years... or 27 if you count the years of preparation - 'learning the ropes' of running an adventure company!

From such unlikely beginnings, a 2-bed flat in Central London with 'no previous experience' and very little to go on but a disturbingly clear, totally un-looked for 'calling' (you can read that part of the story in 'Life to the Max') we really were forced to 'hope in the Lord' – there wasn't much else to place our trust in.

The psalm then declares that 'the humble will possess the land' and it has been a truly humbling experience to see His amazing provision over the past three years, so that on 16th October 2016 the final payment was made, in full and on time, for the purchase of the freehold of Windmill Farm. Wow!

It is particularly refreshing that, although our original 'Feasibility Study' showed that the required funds were out there... 'if all conceivable sources come good in the tight timescale', He chose to provide in a very different way (echoes here of v23: 'The LORD guides us in the way we should go')... which has been both refreshing and very humbling:-

Refreshing because there is no room for the smug satisfaction that our great plan worked. In fact, much of what we'd anticipated did not materialise. For example very little came in during year one from the Charitable Trusts we (thought we) were counting on.

Humbling because that first year saw so many good friends, new and old, giving sacrificially to make this vision a reality, although there was no guarantee we would be able to go on to complete the purchase in years 2 & 3.

Encouragements, as the journey has unfolded, have been huge and far too many to mention: the couple from a local

church who wrote to say that they had both decided to become friends of the AdventureBase (which meant a donation of £1,000 or £50 pcm for five years); when I opened the envelope their meaning became clear as 2 cheques of £1,000 fell out, one from each of them!; or the trauma consultant and mother of a young family who has been working locum shifts in addition to her existing work load, to help ensure we did not miss the deadline; or the couple who signed up for the regular monthly giving - and then sent a £1,000 'friends' single donation too; or the former A+ instructor, newly married, who committed to a gift of £1000 but was not sure how he'd make it happen – so he went out and ran a marathon; or the couple who pledged an amount right at the start of year one, then doubled it as the first deadline approached and promised to do the same at the start of year two to 'keep up the momentum' !

Of course we cannot mention all the many wonderful stories of humbling generosity, but we do want to say a huge

'thank you'

as a team, for *your* part in getting us here, and for so many encouragements along the way, as we have been praying daily through this unfolding 'Adventure of Faith'!

And we have not been idle since we completed the purchase. In addition to welcoming over 7,000 children through A+ in the last year, and growing the ministry of Windmill Farm, we have been working with architects to shape

plans for a phased development of the AdventureBase... which, when complete, will enable A+ to double the number of children and youth we reach each year.

It is an awe-inspiring thought that He already knows the children who will be coming through the AdventureBase. He sees the smiles and hears their laughter – now that really is a humbling thought which motivates us even more to press on towards the goal...

What next?

Stage 1: **Yurt Village** (winterised with under floor heating!) for 40, with all the services prepositioned for the AdventureBase, including **power, comms, 'water in & water out'**.

Ablutions block and self-catering **kitchens**, and whilst we're about it we'll also put in '**washrooms**' for the **Windmill Farm camping field**.

So if you're looking for the right venue for your church weekend away, we'll have everything from camping with 'all mod cons' to a yurt village for your youth, and 'comfortable residential' twin en suite for those that need it!

Are we excited? Just a bit! But we're also going to need your help to make this happen.

Even as many were so generous in helping us purchase the land, so we pray on that others will take up the baton at this exciting stage.

If you would like to be part of helping us make the vision real, it is not too late to become a friend of the AdventureBase, or read the enclosed Appeal for details of specific projects you might want to sponsor or contribute towards.

And all so we can welcome even more children and youth into their own 'adventures, in faith', that we call Life to the Max... which is where it all began!



"What a great charity. A+ really know what they're doing. They do it with tremendous enthusiasm and inspire thousands of youngsters along the way." Jeremy Vine, A+ Patron



God is Growing Our Team

It is with thankful hearts that we welcome the amazing people God has added to the Adventure *Plus* team this year!

It is incredible to think that our team has grown by 11 this year!

We are deeply thankful for each individual God has added and are always excited to see how giftings and 'calling' unfold here at A+.

Marketing

There have been many developments happening in the world of A+ and Windmill Farm marketing during the year. Here are just two of the headlines;

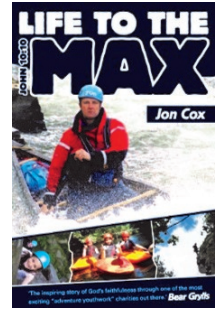
1. We are excited to be working with a local web design firm, Urban Elements, to build a new website for both A+ and Windmill Farm. This is a crucial step in our growth as we enhance our brand and identity and promote our capabilities to a wider audience. We plan to release the new website by the end of the year and we will be also be keeping you more up to date through social media.

2. The marketing team has grown 50% in recent weeks with the addition of Kim Marshall. Kim brings skills and experience in social media, which are already enabling us to provide a consistent social media presence for both A+ and Windmill Farm.

If you're not following A+ and Windmill Farm on Facebook and Twitter we'd love to encourage you to do so - and like and share our posts. This is a great way to support our organisation.
Tony Osborne

Looking for the perfect gift for a family member and stuck for ideas? How about a copy of LIFE to the MAX: "The inspiring story of God's faithfulness behind one of the most exciting 'adventure youthwork' charities out there" - Bear Grylls

Available at your local Christian bookshop or on Amazon.



Volunteers

Volunteers are so important to A+.

Can you offer a few hours a week to support our instructors on activities in local schools? Or could you help on site with: gardening, maintenance, minibus driving, fundraising - or be the friendly face of welcome at 'Windmill Farm Reception'? We would love to hear from you!

For more details on Training, DBS and Volunteering contact Margaret at margaret@adventureplus.org.uk

Training Opportunities with Adventure Plus

Remote Emergency First Aid: 4th-5th November
British Canoeing FSRT and Coach Level 1: 20th-24th November
Fencing - Core Coach Award: 13th-14th January 2018
Mountain Bike Leader Award: Dates 2018 TBC
Further details and other training courses are available at www.adventureplus.org.uk/training

DBS checks through Adventure Plus

Adventure Plus is an Umbrella Body registered with DBS to process criminal records checks for other organisations. Margaret provides an efficient, personalised service: margaret@adventureplus.org.uk

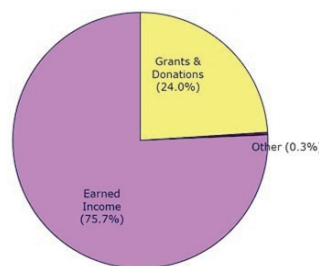


We are so thankful to all those who participated in and supported our 5th Witney to Westminster Canoe Challenge! We raised nearly £30,000 towards the adventureBase! Our next W2W will be late April - early May 2019. Why not join us in the UK's longest Charity Canoe Challenge on the River Thames? Interested? Get in touch. will@adventureplus.org.uk

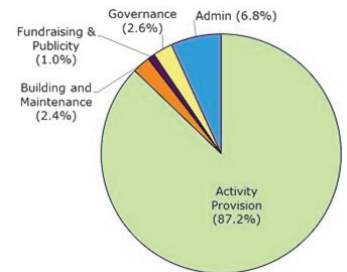
Financial Review 2016

It is very healthy that in addition to the many generous supporters who have donated time and energy as well as finances, a significant proportion of income (78%) is 'earned' from active adventure youthwork provision. We were delighted to raise our target of £425,000 for the final payment for Windmill Farm in 2016! Sincere thanks to all who contributed so generously to this huge challenge - and of course to 'Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine...'

2016 Income (£544,990)



2016 Expenditure (£544,567)



Combined income and expenditure for Adventure Plus and Windmill Farm remains healthy.



Adventure Plus

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Established in 1990, Adventure Plus helps over 7,500 children and young people every year. We challenge and inspire them physically, socially and spiritually through a wide range of activities.



Helping you to realise your potential through adventure and education, in a positive Christian environment

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