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Welcome to the latest edition of the **Ambition Aspire Achieve** newsletter. With the festive season now over, comes the New Year with a sense of reflection for what has gone, along with a renewed vigor to look ahead to all that the coming year may bring.

This year, that reflection is set against the extraordinary backdrop of 2022, which has been challenging for so many. Global events, the war in Ukraine and a global recession have dominated the headlines, along with the soaring energy prices and inflation experienced closer to home. The impact of perhaps the worst cost of living crisis we have seen for over 40 years is really taking hold with winter now upon us. Despite wide-scale regeneration Newham continues to have some of the highest child poverty rates in the country, with the devastating statistic that over half the borough's children now reside in low-income households. Set in that context, our work supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people will be needed more than ever this year, as will the support of the many businesses, funders, local groups and individuals who so tirelessly and generously help our causes.

That generosity was very evident in the run up to Christmas, with amazing support provided once again to the **Kevin Jenkins OBE Newham Christmas Toy Appeal**. The goodwill surrounding the appeal is always hugely inspiring and was a real highlight of the past year. Thanks to this support, over 3,300 vulnerable children benefited from the appeal, a record number, which could have been even more, with demand exceeding our capacity. It is that spirit of kindness and goodwill, which will make all the difference, as we face the coming year. If you would like to find out more about our work and how you can be involved and help make a difference, please do get in touch. In the meantime, I wish you a peaceful and happy 2023.

With best wishes.

Jonny Boux
Chief Executive - Ambition Aspire Achieve



The Kevin Jenkins OBE Annual Christmas Toy Appeal 2022

The **Kevin Jenkins OBE Annual Christmas Toy Appeal**, the 45th Appeal of its kind, reached record numbers of children and young people in the lead up to Christmas, providing over **3,300** with stockings of gifts in time for Christmas day. Supported once again by the **Newham Recorder**, the high demand for the appeal and growing numbers of requests for help reflected the challenging times and growing pressures local families are facing due to the cost-of-living crisis.

The response to our call out for support was truly inspiring, with donations and toy deliveries coming in thick and fast throughout December. Support was also provided by over **150** volunteers from **12** companies in the toy warehouse, the use of which was made possible again by long-term appeal partner **Quattro Plant Hire**. We even had a special visit to the warehouse from **West Ham United** first team player Kurt Zouma and Academy stars Remi Coddington and Will Greenidge! Along with toy donations, reflecting need, we also distributed nearly **200** seasonal food hampers to families in time for Christmas, thanks to delivery support provided by local distribution firm **Menzies Distribution**.

The appeal Roll of Honour, highlighted recently in the Recorder, was a long one, with over **50** business supporters making kind donations, along with many more individuals, churches, community groups and schools digging deep. Given the tremendous level of support it is hard to single anyone out, but special thanks must go to the **Bikers** group who journeyed to the Arc in December to donate sacks full of toys, **Mace Construction**, **LEGO Group**, **CVC Advisers**, **Axis Europe** and **Keel Toys** who gave so much, both in terms of time, toys and cash donations this year, along with trustee **Sharon Kaur** and **Sahara Care** whose very generous donation kick started the appeal, **The Deborah Day Theatre School Trust** who staged a Christmas show to raise funds and trustee **Colin Grainger**, who supported in so many ways.

Thank you to all involved, helping to make a real difference to vulnerable children and young people, at a time when it was most needed. The Kevin Jenkins OBE Newham Christmas Toy Appeal will be running once again in 2023 and we need your support! To find out more, please contact Appeal Co-ordinator **Paula Blake** paula@theaaazone.com or Chief Executive **Jonny Boux** jonny@theaaazone.com



Christmas Highlights 2022

The lead up to Christmas and the festive season is traditionally one of the busiest times of the year at Ambition, Aspire, Achieve and December 2022 proved to be a month full of fun and activities! Thanks to the generosity and support of AAA patron **Glyn Hopkin**, we delivered a busy schedule of Christmas themed parties for our various groups, along with seasonal pantomimes for children at the Arc and local school partners, and a Christmas family fun day.

Thanks to our partners at **LEGO Group**, 30 of our children attending LEGO after school clubs at the Arc and Abbey Hub, had the wonderful opportunity to visit the London LEGO Group head office based in New Fetter Lane. The children took part in LEGO building activities along with a Christmas party and activities kindly organised by the staff. All came away with the special gift of a LEGO set and thoroughly enjoyed the experience!

And the Christmas school holiday break saw the return of our **Holiday Activities Fund** project for children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities at Abbey Hub. Funded for a second year by Duke of Edinburgh and LB Newham, project participants enjoyed many seasonal activities, including a fun filled outward bound trip to Fairplay House, with the sessions providing much needed holiday activities for over 30 young people.

During the last week of November, our team took delivery of nearly 200 Christmas trees of all sizes, thanks to a large number of orders received from individual supporters, schools and business partners, to support our seasonal enterprise **Community Christmas Trees**.

The enterprise, which is a regular fixture of the Christmas season at AAA, helps to raise money for our work, with the full £7k profit generated this year, supporting a whole range of exciting 'Big Days Out' and outward bound residentials for vulnerable children and young people during 2023.

This year, the enterprise received a double boost of orders from Downing Street. We've been delivering trees to the Chancellor's residence at Number 11 of the famous street for quite a few years and once again provided trees for their lobby and private residence. With former Chancellor Rishi Sunak moving across to Number 10 as Prime Minister we also received an order for the flat at the residence everyone knows!

We would like to thank all our customers who kindly supported our Community Christmas Trees enterprise this year, helping to raise vital funding for our work with children and young people.



Arc in the Park Updates

During the Autumn term the **Terence Brown Arc in the Park** has played host to a growing number of projects and activities, delivered daily throughout the week and weekends, during term time, the October half term and Christmas break.

Hundreds of children have enjoyed the facilities inside and out, with the green spaces recently spruced up and a new natural seating area installed thanks to the support of business volunteers from HSBC and Turner and Townsend who took part in volunteer team days during the Autumn.

Activities have included our weekly universal **youth clubs**, **after school clubs**, **short breaks respite** activities for SEND young people delivered during school breaks, our **Positive Transitions** groups for SEND young people transitioning into early adulthood, regular **Wellbeing Groups**, **weekend multi-sports clubs** and **targeted youth projects** supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged young people.

And on Sundays, our regular **family fun days** have continued to deliver a strong impact. Offered throughout 2022 and funded by the **Aspers Good Causes Fund**, the sessions have proved to be very popular with local families, with growing numbers enjoying a range of activities including growing, gardening, arts and crafts, sensory activities, mud kitchen, magic shows, keep fit sessions, hands-on green themed workshops, nature trails and activities, along with visits from LB Newham's walk-in health bus and the local fire brigade.

Reflecting the rising pressures created by the cost-of-living crisis and the ever-growing demand for support, our weekly food bank based at the Arc has been providing regular food packages to a growing number of local families over the past few months. The service received a boost thanks to our recent Harvest Appeal, with 8 local schools successfully engaging parents and children, donating a huge amount of much needed non-perishable food to be distributed to families in need.

If you would like to find out more about our projects and activities at the Terence Brown Arc in the Park, please contact Operations Manager **Paula Blake** (paula@theaaazone.com) or visit our website (www.theaaazone.com/whats-on.html).



Changing Rooms – Arc Annex Refurb

We are delighted to unveil our new annex space at the Terence Brown Arc in the Park! Thanks to the tremendous kindness and generosity of our long-term partner and supporters at the **LEGO Group**, the room, which was in real need of a lift, has undergone an amazing transformation, with brand new décor, flooring, lights, storage and fixtures and fittings all installed, giving the space a new lease of life.

During the first 2 weeks of the New Year, we welcomed expert shopfitters **Hyden UK**, one of the LEGO Group's chosen contractors, whose experience includes refitting many LEGO stores across the country. The team worked solidly to complete the refit, with a spectacular end result, creating a space that will be hugely enjoyed and cherished by hundreds of local children and young people that access the Arc, over the coming year and beyond.

We are honoured to be one of the LEGO group's chosen social impact partners and cannot thank them enough for their amazing support, helping us to further our work at the Arc, making a difference and changing the lives of vulnerable children and young people.



October Half Term Sailing Trip

The October half-term break saw the return of our annual sailing trip for children and young people, delivered in partnership with the **Ocean Youth Trust**. Nine young people, selected across our groups, including those with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities enjoyed a once in a lifetime experience, sailing from Southampton to the Isle of Wight and back.

On joining the trip, they had introductions and briefings followed by lots of games, with everyone having a go at steering, tacks and gybes, becoming thoroughly involved in sailing the boat, using winches, pulling ropes, keeping lookout and going out on the bowsprit during the voyage.

Other highlights included a fun Halloween party when docking at Cowes, with baking, face-painting, pumpkin carving and games all on offer.

All the young people earned Royal Yachting Association Start certificates and mastered sailing skills.

We are very proud of all the groups achievements and would like to thank the Ocean Youth Trust for delivering a wonderful trip and experience for our children and young people. We are looking forward to organising another trip in 2023!



Abbey Hub Updates

Off the back of a growing programme of activities and projects delivered during the Autumn, there is a great deal planned at **The Glyn Hopkin Abbey Hub**, during what will be an exciting and transformative year for the centre in 2023.

Plans are now well underway to transform the **Abbey Hub Woodland** area into a green adventure space for the local community. The woodland is located directly by the hub, and has been kindly gifted to AAA for a rolling 10-year period by our partner **Thames Water**, and with a new access gate installed and clearing work underway, we will be working hard to open the site for use before the summer months.

Plans for a brand-new multi-activity annex, extending the existing hub building, are also progressing well; with the work now expected to start later this year, we are hoping to complete the works before the end of 2023 – creating a great new facility for children accessing the centre.

Delivery updates include the conclusion of another successful year for our **All Stars** and **Dynamo Cricket Clubs**, with an increased number of participants, including more girls, joining the teams. We were also very pleased to be able to introduce a new mental health project this year, '**Our Mind and Us**', which has proven to be very popular. The project, which provides targeted support for vulnerable young people with mental health issues, has delivered workshops focused on healthy physical activities (e.g., archery and multi-sports), health advice and support and exciting day trips including to the Copper Box.

The children attending our other after school clubs and projects delivered at the hub have been busy too and enjoyed a number of other excursions, including trips to Leigh on Sea, Legoland Windsor and the Excel Centre, with one of our girls' groups enjoying an E-racing track event, driving e-carts and meeting a few celebrities too!

If you would like to find out more about all that's on offer at Abbey Hub and our plans for 2023, please contact Hub Manager **Marie Poinamy** – marie@theaazone.com



Project Spotlight – Green Influencers 2022

It has been a very exciting year with many wonderful children and young people from Newham Schools, youth and community groups getting involved in the **Green Influencers Scheme** in 2022!

We started and sustained a number of ambitious projects, including reclaiming neglected garden and growing spaces, planning fundraising days for schools to sustain growing projects and planting 400 bulbs to improve the boundary areas at Hermit Road Recreation Grounds and used a range of hand and power tools to make containers and practice woodcraft skills. We also learnt about our climate, wildlife and biodiversity, connecting with nature and enriching our physical and mental well-being.

Funded by **The Ernest Cook Trust**, The Green Influencers Scheme has enabled children and young people to lead growing projects and has given a voice to those who have limited access to green and blue spaces. Many organisations would like to be involved in 2023 with expertise in bee keeping, honey making, horticulture, herbs and window boxes and growing sensory and edible spaces for children with SEND.

The **Friends of West Ham Park** and **Hermit Road Park** are also keen for the Green Influencers to take part in tree planting and regular litter picking sessions to encourage young people to improve their local green spaces, and through partnership working, the Corporation of London has delivered great days out learning about industry and nature on London waterways, urban habitats, wildlife and den building.

Groups from Ambition, Aspire, Achieve including HAF, our Wellbeing Groups and our SEND Youth have taken part throughout the year in hands on workshops in our edible garden at both Arc in the Park and Abbey Hub including recycling projects, fire building, growing vegetables and rewilding areas to encourage bees and butterflies, and in 2023 we will be planting 150 fruit trees donated by **Trees for London**.

The Garden Rangers has been a great drop-in project on Saturdays and its success is due to the dedication and skills of our volunteers - Juliana and Zinashi, who we would like to thank for all of their hard work and time.

If you would like to find out more about the project, please contact our Green Mentor **Candy Buckler** candy@theaazone.com



Project Spotlight – SEND Youth Zone

Our SEND Youth Zone is made up of four SEND Youth Clubs which we run on a weekly basis. Two clubs are based at our main base Arc in the Park, on Monday and Thursday evenings from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. While the remaining two clubs are based at our Abbey hub in Stratford, on Mondays from 4pm to 6pm and at St Luke's Community Centre on Wednesdays from 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

All of our clubs provide a safe environment for the young people to enjoy new activities, make new friends and learn valuable life skills.

The young people attending sessions at Abbey Hub have been engaging in a cookery project throughout 2022, exploring cuisines from different cultures and cooking some of the dishes such as Spaghetti Bolognese and Chinese Noodle Soup, as well as trying some Caribbean patty, spiced buns and recently we made our own mince pies to enjoy with the festive season approaching.

The young people attending our club at St Luke's have engaged in lots of activities over the past few months including making, decorating (and eating!) their own cupcakes, and we've had lots of fun art projects to keep us busy, including creating aboriginal masks – just one of the activities we took part in celebrating and highlighting Black History Month 2022. We've also enjoyed making Lego models, playing a variety of sports, and a range of arts and crafts, as well as attending a Christmas pantomime.

Young people attending our club at Arc in the Park have been engaging in their regular sports sessions with **Dave McQueen, RIP Fitness** on Mondays throughout the year, which is a fun way of keeping fit, learning about nutrition and trying a variety of sports activities. We've also been participating in a variety of Black History Month activities, enjoyed bread making and we recently created salt dough medals and Christmas decorations for the Arc Christmas tree, as well as lots of other activities throughout the year.

We are also very excited to announce that our SEND Disco Nights have also recently started again! Our first Disco this year was a Halloween 'spooktacular' with the young people dressing up for the occasion! And we all had lots of festive fun at our special Christmas Disco where we all wore our Christmas jumpers!

The discos will be continuing in 2023, so there will be plenty more opportunities for our young people to put on their dancing shoes and party!

If you would like to find out more please contact our SEND Coordinator **Liam Hartley-Davies** liam@theaazone.com

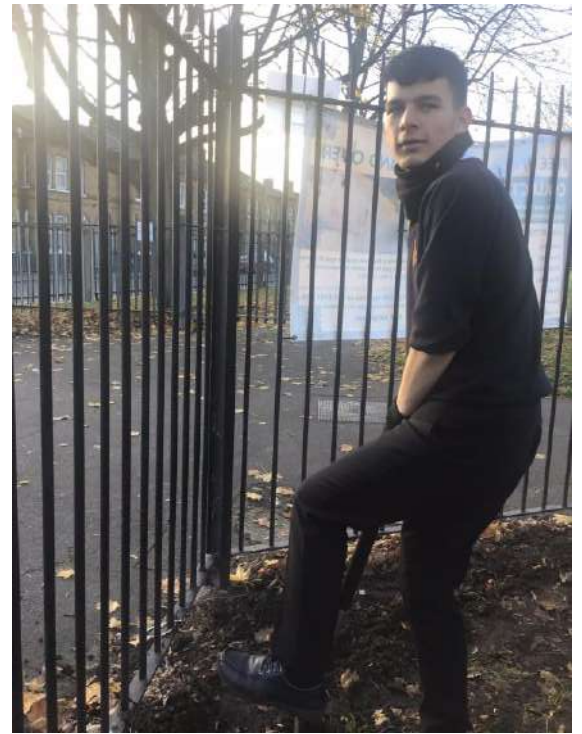


New Project – Stratford Outreach

Thanks to recent funding secured from **London Borough of Newham** and the **London Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit**, we have recently expanded important detached street work, to deliver new regular weekly sessions in the Stratford area. The AAA detached team have been delivering advice and support to vulnerable children and young people in the area surrounding the Glyn Hopkin Abbey Hub, Stratford High Street and the Carpenters Estate at street level, working closely with LB Newham's detached team operating across Stratford Westfield shopping centre and local schools in the area.

Funding has also enabled the introduction of 2 new youth evenings per week at our Abbey Hub venues, providing much needed interventions and activities for young people in the area. We look forward to sharing the progress of this work, in future updates.

If you would like to find out more about our detached outreach work, please contact our Youth Outreach Coordinator **Bob Goldsmith** bob@theaaazone.com. We look forward to sharing the progress of the project in future updates.



Partner Updates

Along with the updates already shared in this edition of our newsletter, there are many other partners we would like to thank for their kind and generous support, helping to make a difference and change lives at such an important time.

We would like to thank the many volunteers who have supported our work over the past year – we wouldn't be able to do what we do without them. This includes the individual volunteers who support our programmes throughout the year and the many businesses who contribute their time, helping to maintain our hubs via organised volunteer team days. During 2022, that has included volunteers from **Turner & Townsend, HSBC, BAIN Capital, Murphy, Thames Water** and **Axis Europe**.

A special thank you to local partner **Linkcity** whose funding contributed to a fabulous community day held at Arc in the Park towards the end of September. Thanks to their support, along with **One Housing**, over 600 local residents enjoyed a fun filled event including rides, activities and games during the day, and we are hoping to repeat the event in 2023!

If you would like to be involved supporting our work over the coming year, please contact AAA's Chief Executive Jonny Boux jonny@theaaazone.com



Fundraising Updates

Investment firm **BAIN Capital** have been a key supporter of our work over the past few years. Along with their tremendous support of the Kevin Jenkins Toy Appeal, with large numbers of volunteers supporting in the toy warehouse in the lead up to Christmas, we were thrilled with the recent news of a funding award, with the firm supporting the delivery of after school clubs, weekend activities and holiday activities at the Glyn Hopkin Abbey Hub during 2023. BAIN Capital's Kate King championed Ambition, Aspire, Achieve once again, as part of their programme of giving to good causes, with the funding awarded helping to deliver much needed interventions for vulnerable children and young people accessing the hub.



Royal Docks Trust

Grants have also been gratefully received from the **Royal Docks Trust** who supported our Toy Appeal and a Big Day Out, enabling local families and children from the Arc to enjoy a Big Day Out to Legoland Windsor and AAA patron **Glyn Hopkin** generously provided funding for resources at the Glyn Hopkin Abbey Hub, also enabling local families to enjoy the same Legoland Windsor experience!



Finally, a big thank you to the **LLDC** who recently awarded further funding to support the refurbishment of the centre at the Glyn Hopkin Abbey Hub. Funding awarded will support the transformation of the existing facility, delivered alongside the new building extension which is planned this year.

Co-op Local Community Fund

Towards the end of last year, we were thrilled and honored to learn that Ambition, Aspire, Achieve were selected as a chosen community partner by the Co-op's Local Community Fund.

As one of the chosen local community causes, Ambition Aspire, Achieve will receive donations when Co-op customers, who are also Co-op members, choose us as their benefiting charity every time they purchase Co-op branded items, making it easier than ever to support our vital work!

To find out more about the fund, our project and how to choose us as your cause visit: <https://www.coop.co.uk/local-causes>



Get Involved

amazon smile



JustGiving™

Our work relies on the tremendous generosity of individuals and companies giving their time and support.

In 2023 we need your help more than ever and there are many ways you can provide support, including donating items, food and equipment for our projects and service-users, helping us to fundraise, sponsoring our programmes and of course a whole range of group and individual volunteering opportunities. You can even raise funds for our work when shopping online by selecting AAA as your favourite charity when purchasing from Amazon via Amazon Smile (at no extra cost to you!)

We'd love to hear from you – please contact **Jonny Boux** at jonny@theaaazone.com if you would like to get involved or come and visit us at one of our hubs - Arc in the Park in Canning Town or Abbey Hub in Stratford.

We are also looking for runners, swimmers and cyclists to participate in sponsored activities and fundraising during 2023! If you are interested, please contact Jonny asap. to grab a place!

And an extra pair of hands is always welcome. As a business you can participate in our regular corporate team days helping us to maintain our spaces or as an individual, we would love to utilise your abilities, helping us to deliver our various programmes and activities throughout the year. Please get in touch!

Finally, if you would like to donate to our work, either as a one-time gift or regular contribution, - please visit our **Just Giving** page via our website:

<http://www.theaaazone.com/donate.html>. Any donation, no matter what size is hugely appreciated, helping us to further our work with children and young people this year.