



Newsletter – Spring 2023

IN THIS EDITION

Welcome – Chief Executive

The Kevin Jenkins OBE Newham
Easter Appeal 2023

Arc in the Park Updates

Abbey Hub Updates

Abbey Hub Woodland Developments

Project Spotlight – Arc Family Days

Project Spotlight – This Is Me

Save the Date! Arc Open Day

Evening Standard & Childhood Trust
Campaign Success

Partner Updates - House of Commons
Dinner

Fundraising Updates

Get Involved in 2023



Welcome to the latest edition of the **Ambition Aspire Achieve** newsletter. Against the backdrop of a long winter, our spring programme at AAA has begun, with warmer months offering the opportunity to inspire our children to enjoy the great outdoors. Thanks to recent funding, the team are in full planning mode to deliver as much as possible, growing our outdoor offer this year. Support provided by the Childhood Trust and Evening Standard 'On the Breadline' campaign, is enabling a broader programme of residentials for our young people to enjoy, with exciting trips planned to Wales, the Lake District, Mersea Island, an Isle of Wight sailing trip and numerous day trips, all with a focus on enabling local children to benefit who may be struggling to access experiences of this kind.

Closer to home, our wider programme of outdoor activities opened-up during the Easter school holidays, with pop-up playschemes delivered at both our hubs and in local parks across Newham. Thanks to generous support from partner Thames Water, development has also begun on our brand-new outdoor adventure space, the Abbey Hub Woodland, located by the Glyn Hopkin Abbey Hub. It promises to be a unique and exciting facility for the local community!

Support this year to provide a greater range of outdoor experiences for our local young people is very welcome, but my hope is that longer-term investment can be provided across the board, for schools, local charities and others working in this space. It would be truly transformative if it could be achieved.

Finally, a huge thank you to all supporters and individuals who donated to our annual Easter Appeal. Over 2,000 vulnerable children were reached this year, thanks to their kindness and generosity.

Please do get in touch if you would like to find out more about our work and how you can be involved. In the meantime, enjoy the warmer weather when it comes!

With best wishes.

Jonny Boux

Chief Executive - Ambition Aspire Achieve



The Kevin Jenkins OBE Newham Easter Appeal 2023

We are delighted to announce a successful 2023 Easter Appeal! Launched in March with a call for support from AAA patron **Ricky Grover**, hundreds of donations of Easter Eggs have been gratefully received over the past month. The **Bikers group**, led by long standing AAA supporter **John Pryke**, kick started the Appeal, with a group of 40 motorcyclists taking to the road to deliver over 700 eggs to the Arc for vulnerable children on Saturday 18th March, braving potholes, heavy traffic and the rain on route!

Generous support was also provided by **The Newham Rotary Club**, **John Ratomski** and the **Hammers Supporting Foodbanks**, **Zurich Insurance**, **Newham Chamber of Commerce**, **Berkeley Group**, **Higgins Partnerships**, **Valero**, **Aspire Support and Learn** and young fundraisers Neo and Rico, raising over 450 donations as part of their **'Treats for Kids'** initiative.

With donations counted, we broke through our target, providing Easter Eggs for over 2,000 vulnerable children and young people in time for Easter Sunday. We can't thank our supporters enough for all their efforts, with the Appeal needed more than ever given the many challenges local families are facing. You have helped to make a big difference to every child benefiting this Easter.

With the Easter Appeal over, our team are already turning their attention to the Kevin Jenkins OBE Newham Xmas Toy Appeal which will be running again this year. After a record 2022, reaching well over 3,000 vulnerable children, we are on the hunt for toy donations to build our depleted stock in time for the lead up to Christmas 2023 - the need for support is expected to be higher still. Please do get in touch if you can help in anyway – you can contact our Toy Appeal Coordinator **Paula Blake** paula@theaaazone.com or AAA's Chief Executive **Jonny Boux** jonny@theaaazone.com



Arc in the Park Updates

It has been another busy few months at our **Terence Brown Arc in the Park** with a number of projects and activities re-starting, following the Winter break (with more still to come!).

We are really excited to confirm that our **All Stars and Dynamo's Cricket Clubs** will be starting again in May! The clubs are always popular and offer young people the opportunity to learn new skills and make new friends in a fun, inclusive and safe environment. Clubs run every Saturday morning and all skill levels are welcome, but booking is required before attending – to find out more and to book your place contact **Marie Poinamy** - marie@theaaazone.com

Our **SEND Youth Group** were recently given the wonderful opportunity to attend a special performance of **Mamma Mia** up the West End! We had a brilliant time, and our young people thought the show was amazing! We would like to send special thanks to Lauren from **Dewynters - Live Entertainment Advertising Agency**, who made this fantastic experience possible! Our **SEND Disco Nights** have also recently restarted, and we've had such a great time welcoming our young people back! The disco nights take place on set dates throughout the year and provide a fun, safe and inclusive space for SEND young people to meet up with friends and to enjoy a dance and a great evening out! Full dates and further details can be found on our [website](#)!

Our **Food Bank**, started in 2020, has helped over **350** families and individuals since its launch and is continuing to provide food and essentials to at least 15 families on a weekly basis, with demand continuing to increase. Due to the extremely high demand, recipients must be referred to us by either **Newham Food Alliance** or other social prescribers i.e., health visitors, social workers or schools. Families and/or individuals referred receive a 6-week placement along with other support and signposting, but in a bid to help as many people in our local community as possible, and to minimise food waste, we have recently introduced a new 'Help Yourself' initiative every Friday between 10am and 11am. The initiative enables individuals in our community to help themselves to surplus stock, or items that have shorter sell by dates, without needing a referral. Individuals can take what they need, and the items available vary each week. To find out more or to donate contact **Paula Blake** paula@theaaazone.com You can also donate food, hygiene and household items to Arc in the Park or through our [Bankuet](#) page.

We also enjoyed a fun filled Easter Programme including a new exciting project **ECOhub**. The 2-week programme encouraged young people to consider habitats of wildlife and urban farming and take part in hands on activities including seed sowing. They also enjoyed a presentation about bees, pollination and honey.

The young people described different actions to support nature and protect wildlife which will be published as a pocketbook of '*Ideas to achieve before I'm 14 and a ¼*'. Project attendees teamed up with young people attending our **Wellbeing Groups**, enabling participants to make new friends and share their learning, taking part in fun team games and wild camping skills! To find out more about upcoming events and our green projects and activities, please contact Candy Buckler candy@theaaazone.com

If you would like to find out more about any of 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](#).



Abbey Hub Updates

We've had lots of activities taking place at the **Glyn Hopkin Abbey Hub** over the past few months now that the warmer weather is arriving.

The **Our Minds and Us** group had a great time taking part in an 8-week street dance workshop delivered by **Tyrus**! They worked on single moves as well as routines and learnt lots of new dancing techniques alongside incorporating their own skills into routines. It was a great way to build confidence, get some exercise and stay fit all whilst having lots of fun too!

Our **Cycling Club** was thrilled to welcome some new younger members recently, and the team have been very impressed at how quickly they have built their confidence and cycling skills! The club have been learning the basics of looking after a bike and bike maintenance, the benefits of riding, exercise and fitness as well as communication and life skills, and important health and safety skills.

The families attending our weekend Family Days enjoyed a trip to **Discovery** in Stratford, who kindly donated free tickets for our families to attend. It was a fantastic experience for all the children and parents, and a great way for families to spend quality time together, especially where this is not always possible at home, due to work, school or other commitments.

Our **Multi Sports Club** is still as popular as ever with the children continuing to learn new skills through taking part in the various different sports on offer each week. The club helps to build confidence and wellbeing whilst developing important life skills such as teamwork and communication skills, whilst improving physical health. We've welcomed some new faces to the club over the past few months who are already fitting in with the existing young people, building new friendships.

We are very excited to announce that our LEGO after school clubs are growing, with an extra club now introduced each week. The clubs, which have proved to be very popular, will now be running on Tuesdays and Saturdays, offering lots more imaginative play opportunities and learning about the world of LEGO, including engineering, designing, building new skills and investigating different ways of solving problems. Activities also encourage teamwork, creativity and sharing of ideas, improving the communication skills and building good peer relationships.

There is a great deal planned at the Glyn Hopkin Abbey Hub this year, including our exciting development project, to improve on-site facilities and build a brand-new building extension/multi-use training hall. Work is now expected to start later this year and we are looking forward to sharing the progress! If you would like to find out more about our projects and activities at Abbey Hub, please contact Abbey Hub Manager **Marie Painsamy** marie@theaaazone.com or visit our [website](#).



Abbey Hub Woodland Development

This year plans to develop our new **Abbey Hub Woodland** site are accelerating! Thanks to the kindness of our long-term partner and supporter **Thames Water**, AAA have been gifted the woodland site, adjacent to the **Glyn Hopkin Abbey Hub**, to transform the space into a unique outdoor adventure and learning facility for local young people and families to enjoy for many years to come.

The first phase of development was recently completed, with a team of workers spending 10 days on site, which had previously been a hotspot for fly-tipping. Extensive work included clearing and readying the facility and installing new fencing and access gates. With the second phase underway, plans include the relocating of a recently donated outdoor classroom/log cabin, orienteering courses, play areas and resources to support nature themed activities including bug houses, bird boxes and much more planned!

We recently brought together some of our key partners who have offered support for the development, including **Thames Water**, **Berkeley Homes** and our Abbey Hub neighbours **J Murphy & Sons**, to help plan the next phase, which included viewing a video presentation of local children and families sharing their ideas for the space. We are also looking forward to welcoming volunteers over the next 2 months, including teams from **Barclays**, **Valero** and **Thames Water**, with their support providing vital assistance in the continued clearing and readying of the site. And thanks to recent funding success with the **London Marathon Charitable Trust** and the **Aspers Good Causes Fund**, further investment has been secured to help deliver weekly outdoor sessions based in the woodland when it opens later this year.

If you are interested in providing support and would like to find out more about our Abbey Hub Woodland project, please contact AAA's Chief Executive **Jonny Boux** jonny@theaaazone.com



Project Spotlight – Arc Family Days

AAA's Family Days have been running for a number of years and following their continued success in 2022, we are thrilled to be able to welcome our families back to weekend activities at the **Terence Brown Arc in the Park** once again.

The days are extremely popular and well attended, with an average of 35 families usually enjoying each session. In response to this, we have added to the number of days we'll be hosting in 2023! There will be two family days per month, running on set Sundays (11am to 3pm), with all Newham families welcome. And all days/activities free for those attending! Each day will be themed, with different family friendly activities, sports and games on offer - something for all ages to take part in and enjoy!

We are really looking forward to our special Coronation themed event on Monday 8th May with support from **Simon Taylor Estate Agents** and additional funding secured from **London Borough of Newham**. We have a brilliant day planned with lots of fun filled Coronation themed activities including arts and crafts, sports, bouncy castles, balloonist, face painting, BMX bikes, gardening activities and lots more! alongside a variety of information stalls offering signposting and guidance to families.

Our Family Days are a great way of bringing the community together, providing a safe social space for families and parents to meet other people. The days also offer excellent opportunities for new people to learn about our work at AAA and to get involved.

If you would like to attend any of our future Family Days (booking is required), you can book your families place by emailing bookings@theaaazone.com. If you would like to find out more ab please contact Operations Manager **Paula Blake** – paula@theaaazone.com or visit our [website](#)



Project Spotlight – This Is Me

Last year, following feedback and input received from young people attending youth sessions and activities at the **Terence Brown Arc in the Park**, we successfully secured funding from **Compass Wellbeing** as part of their Inequalities Grant programme, to launch our new **'This Is Me'** project, providing a stand-alone space for young people (ages 13 to 15) to discuss issues, explore ideas around their identities, whilst delivering activities focused on building confidence and well-being.

The project has proved to be a great success, with a consistent group of young people attending twice weekly sessions based out of our **Arc Lodge** facility. Strong bonds have been built within the group and topics, led by participants, have been wide ranging, including self-awareness, LGBTQ+ history, culture and identity, with all benefiting from one-to-one mentoring, progression opportunities and access to advice, support and surrounding services. With the 12-month funding cycle complete, all participants recently enjoyed an end of project celebration event, with food, awards and presentations on offer to celebrate their achievements.

We are looking forward to opening up more opportunities for young people to benefit from our targeted youth activities this year. If you would like to find out more about our youth offer, please do get in touch. Please contact Outreach Coordinator **Bob Goldsmith** bob@theaaazone.com or visit our website.



Save the Date! Arc in the Park Open Day

SAVE THE DATE

AMBITION ASPIRE ACHIEVE OPEN DAY

Join us for Ambition Aspire Achieve's open day, showcasing our work and projects for children and young people. Speak to project coordinators and find out more about our offering for young people in Newham.

RSVP by 28th April to Lucy - lucy@theaaazone.com



WEDNESDAY
14 JUNE, 2023
2PM - 5PM

TERENCE BROWN ARC
Hermit Road Park, Bothell Avenue E16 4JT

We often receive feedback from partners that they enjoy seeing our work first-hand and visiting our hubs. As a result, we have decided to organise our first stakeholder open day for delivery partners, funders and key stakeholders, including schools and social workers, to find out more about our offer for local children and young people at the **Terence Brown Arc in the Park**.

If you would like to attend the open day, which will take place on **Wednesday 14th June (2pm to 5pm)**, please RSVP to **Lucy Jenkins** – lucy@theaaazone.com before the end of April. Stay tuned for details of our second open day at the **Glyn Hopkin Abbey Hub!** Details to follow in future updates.

Evening Standard and Childhood Trust – Campaign Success!

Earlier this year, we received the great news that AAA had been selected as a beneficiary of the **Evening Standard's 'On the Breadline Campaign'**. Delivered in partnership with **The Childhood Trust**, the campaign aimed to raise significant funding to support charities working with vulnerable children and young people in London who have been particularly hard hit by the current cost-of-living crisis. Evening Standard reporter David Cohen visited the Terence Brown Arc in the Park shortly after the funding announcement to meet young people attending our **Wellbeing Groups**, with our work highlighted in a double feature and on the front page of one of the Standard evening editions in February!

The award is making a great difference to our work in 2023, enabling a new programme of residentials, trips and activities for disadvantaged children and young people accessing AAA's services. We have an exciting programme planned as a result – a 4-night residential stay in a castle in Wales during the upcoming May half-term at **Atlantic College**, outward-bound trips to the Lake District and Mersea Island and the return of our annual sailing trip to the Isle of Wight delivered in partnership with the **Ocean Youth Trust**. This year, for the first time, we are also working with Gloucestershire charity **Farms for City Children**, with plans in place for up to 40 children to experience the adventure of working together on a farm in the heart of the British countryside this summer. A week-long programme of 'Big Days Out' will also be delivered later this year, enabling young people to enjoy a range of trips and experiences to exciting venues.

Thanks to the essential funding provided by the campaign, we can ensure a significant number of vulnerable children enjoy life-changing experiences that would have otherwise been out of reach.

A huge thank you to the **Childhood Trust** and the **Evening Standard** on their behalf for enabling us to make a greater difference - we are already looking forward to sharing the many photos and highlights from the planned trips and experiences in our upcoming newsletters later this year!



Fundraising Updates

Along with new grants reported earlier in this newsletter, we are pleased to announce funding recently awarded to help us deliver new and ongoing projects and initiatives. **The Berkeley Foundation** have awarded AAA development funding to help improve our longer-term sustainability, with investment enabling the development of key back-office functions, whilst building our fundraising and marketing capabilities to help grow our work and reach over the coming 2 years.

And thanks to the **Royal Docks Trust** main grants programme, funding is supporting the growth and development of our youth safety and engagement work in the Royal Docks area this year. We have also secured repeat funding from the **DfE's Holiday Activities Fund**, to support the delivery of our summer holiday play schemes and experiences for vulnerable children and young people at Abbey Hub and across local parks and green spaces in Newham. With funding secured from the **London Marathon Charitable Foundation** and **Aspers Good Causes Fund**, a recent **Groundwork Our Space Award** is also providing much needed additional investment for our Abbey Hub Woodland development. And thanks to long-term supporter the **LEGO Group**, additional funding this year will enable us to grow LEGO themed activities at both the Arc and Abbey Hub, doubling our offer of after-school LEGO clubs and introducing a new club for children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities.

This month sees the return of our annual fundraiser at the iconic **Brick Lane Music Hall**. Thanks to Vincent Hayes MBE we will be welcoming guests to the event on **29th April**, with all proceeds contributing to our work. A big thank you to Vincent, the Brick Lane Music Hall and all our funders who enable the delivery of our work supporting vulnerable children and young people.

Royal Docks Trust

LONDON MARATHON
CHARITABLE TRUST

OUR
SPACE
AWARD

Promoting Greener Communities



Department
for Education



Partner Updates – House of Commons Dinner

Last month, we welcomed key partners to the Houses of Parliament, with a supporters' dinner organised thanks to AAA patron and local MP Lyn Brown. The event provided an opportunity to bring together some of our long-standing (and recently joined!) business partners including event sponsors **Bridgemont, Berkeley Homes, LEGO Group, Valero, MACE** and **J Murphy & Sons**. All attending enjoyed a lively and participative evening, hearing more about AAA's work and plans, discussing areas of collaboration and how best to join together to make a positive difference for vulnerable Newham children and young people who access our services throughout the year. A big thank you to all who joined and to Lyn for hosting us!

With the return to warmer weather, we have a full programme of team volunteer days lined up in the Spring and Summer. Teams have been recruited from **Thames Water, Berkeley Homes, Barclays** (who are taking part in 6 days alone!) and **HSBC** so far. The volunteer days provide a source of vital support, helping with the ongoing task of maintaining and upkeeping our facilities to a high standard. We still have openings for volunteer teams to provide support this spring, summer and autumn— if you would like to find out more, please contact AAA's Chief Executive **Jonny Boux** jonny@theaaazone.com



Get Involved



Our work relies on the generosity of companies and individuals kindly giving their time and support and we cannot thank enough those who have contributed to our work so far, helping to make a difference. The need for support continues to rise, with the funding landscape ever more competitive and the challenges faced by local children, young people and families accessing our services growing day-by-day.

There are so many ways you can help - donating items, food and equipment for our projects, including via our newly introduced **Amazon Wishlist**. Helping to fundraise, sponsor and champion our cause and a whole range of individual and team volunteering opportunities. You can also take part in various events this year, by joining and supporting one of our planned fundraising events or taking part in your own sponsored activities. You can donate to our work either as a one-time gift or regular contribution. Please visit our **JustGiving** page on our website to donate and find out more <https://www.theaaazone.com/support-us.html>

Any support, no matter the size, goes directly towards furthering our work with vulnerable children and young people this year and is truly appreciated. We'd love to hear from you – please contact **Jonny Boux** jonny@theaaazone.com if you would like to get involved or come and visit us at one of our delivery hubs.