



OXFORDSHIRE PLAY

ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

For the Period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

OPA is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Charity Number 1160320

OPA's Vision is to improve lives through play

OPA's mission is to champion and to support the rights of all Children and Young People to have access to high quality, inclusive Play opportunities to improve their Physical, Mental and Spiritual Wellbeing

OPA ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

OPA TRUSTEES

Chair = Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor

Hon. Treasurer = Meryl Smith

Trustees = Anne Bissell

OPA STAFF

Manager = Martin Gillett

Finance Officer = Jade Jarvis

Sessional Playworkers = Tracy Rampton and Dominique Keetley

ADDRESS

Suite 8-05, Unit 8, Area C, Radley Road Industrial Estate, Radley Road,
Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 3RY

BANKERS

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19
4JQ

ACCOUNTANTS / AUDITORS

SPX Oxford, Peace House, 19 Paradise Street, Oxford. OX1 1LD

OPA FINANCE – 2023/24

Income	£135,885
Expenditure	£130,319
Surplus	£5,536
Reserves	£57,248

(A full copy of our Independently Examined Accounts are available on
request)

Trustees Annual Financial Report

We are pleased to report that we continued our full recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic in this financial year with another whole year of full delivery of all our projects and services.

Our income was slightly reduced in this financial year as many of the funds and grants available in the immediate aftermath of Covid to support Health & Wellbeing and Communities were withdrawn.

Our total income in this financial year was £135,885 against total expenditure of £130,319 meaning that we were able to record a small surplus of £5,536.

This means that our unrestricted reserves now stand at £57,248 which is the highest level since financial year 2026/17 meaning that we will be better placed to cope with any future major disruption to our operations and services.

Despite the cost of living crisis and rampant inflation our Core Operational Costs (excluding staff costs) rose by only £260 in the last financial year from £16,113 to £16,373, this meant that there was no negative impact to our frontline services and projects evidencing that we have tight cost controls and good practice in place for delivering absolute value for money.

As always all of our projects and services are offered FREE of charge to ensure an inclusion for ALL - No Child or Young Person should have to miss out on Play opportunities due to the cost.

Due to the savage cuts previously imposed on Children and Families services in Oxfordshire (including the closure of local Children's Centres and Youth Services) during Austerity our projects and services were already becoming increasingly important in terms of providing activities and information on services available to local families.

These needs were further exacerbated by the issues caused by Covid-19.

In addition to all this Children, Young People and their Families faced an unprecedented Cost of Living Crisis.

It is of no surprise to anyone then that we are now seeing unprecedented increases in children's mental health problems and loneliness, alongside reduced physical activity.

Our project work continues to increase and last year we delivered 14 FREE, Community Play & Activity Days across Oxfordshire which were attended by over 15,000 guests, a remarkable achievement for a relatively small organisation.

We also managed to continue our work with both Oxford University and Brookes University with the production of our 'Why Play Matters' report as part of the Science Together project after the completion of our initial 'Why Play is Important in Oxfordshire' document.

In addition to this we continued our Stay & Play and Saturdads sessions with our Armed Forces partners at RAF Benson, continued the delivery of our Therapeutic Playwork project including another additional school, our Faringdon Junior Youth Club project grew in attendance numbers and we delivered new Street Play projects in South Oxfordshire and a new 'Neighbour-Ley' project supporting families in Blackbird Leys. Coupled with our Play Infrastructure support work across Cherwell District Council, Play Ranger sessions, our Playbox hire scheme and some Play Training 2023/24 was an extremely busy year.

This work will continue into 2024/25 with other new exciting projects planned including a Family Support worker at RAF Benson and a new Junior Youth Club in Wheatley.

None of this would be possible without the following;

Our partners - due to our relatively small size we always work with partners in our project work, this increases our delivery capacity massively, helps reduce duplication and ensures that we all share best practice - it also ensures that we are meeting LOCAL need with LOCAL people.

Our funders and supporters - we continue to be so very grateful to all of our funders and supporters, many of whom are local, without the support of these groups and individuals we would not be able to deliver the volume of work that we do

Our manager and staff - our small, but amazingly dedicated team of staff continue to deliver outstanding work across the County delivering the work of

many whilst numbering only a few - the feedback and comments we receive from numerous sources confirms the positive difference they make to the Physical and Mental Wellbeing of Children and Young People and we are so grateful to them for their hard work and professionalism.

Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor (Chair)

OPA STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

OPA and its Trustees confirm that they have complied with the Statutory Duty in Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to Public Benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. We work on a fully inclusive basis across Oxfordshire taking into account all relevant legislation and guidelines.



play 4 life

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>Play & Activity Days 2023</u>
FUNDED BY	Oxfordshire County Council (Councillor Priority Fund) / A2 Dominion / Banbury Charities / Cherwell District Council / Abingdon Town Council / The Shanly Foundation / Abingdon Vineyard Church / JA Pye Charitable Settlement / SOHA / Banbury Town Council / Faringdon Town Council / Oxford City Council / Old Marston Parish Council / Sanctuary Housing / Blenheim Bursary / Oxford University Community Grants / Witney Town Council / Eynsham Parish Council / Tesco Community Grants / Cottsway Housing / Waitrose / Faringdon United Charity / Bicester Town Council / Doris Field Charitable Trust / Greensquare Accord / Witney Town Hall Charity / South Oxfordshire District Council / Chipping Norton Town Council
PROJECT DETAILS	Delivery of Community Play & Activity days across Oxfordshire offering both FREE Entrance and FREE Activities to ensure an Inclusion for ALL
PROJECT DELIVERY	<p>We delivered a total of 10 events in 2023 across Oxfordshire (in addition to 4 Armed Forces Playdays) as follows;</p> <p>South Abingdon = Saturday 8th July Northway & Marston = Saturday 15th July Bicester Elmsbrook = Tuesday 25th July Banbury Peoples Park = Wednesday 26th July Eynsham = Thursday 27th July Cutteslowe = Saturday 29th July Berinsfield = Tuesday 1st August Witney = Thursday 3rd August Faringdon = Friday 4th August Banbury Princess Diana Park = Wednesday 16th August</p> <p>We also delivered a 'mini' Playday in Chipping Norton on Monday 21st August</p> <p>These events (including the Armed Forces Playdays) were attended by over 16,000 people.</p>

We worked in partnership with a wide range of local organisations in both the planning and delivery of each event to ensure that we were meeting LOCAL need with LOCAL people including the relevant Town or Parish Council, local Housing Association and other local Charities and organisations with an interest in Children and Young People.

Each event had the following key, Aims and Objectives

For Children & Young People

- 1) Promote Positive Behaviours & Activities (reduce anti-social behaviour)
- 2) Promote Increased Levels of Physical Activity
- 3) Promote a Healthy Lifestyle (healthy choices)
- 4) Promote Healthy Weight Management (obesity reduction)
- 5) Provide information on services and activities to promote a sense of Wellbeing and Inclusion

For Parents / Carers

- 1) Provide an Event offering both **FREE** Entrance & **FREE** Activities to Ensure an Inclusion for **ALL**
- 2) Demonstrate how Play & Quality Family Time can be achieved on a Zero / Minimal Budget using Natural & Recycled materials
- 3) Provide information on services and activities available in the local and wider area

For Communities

- 1) Encourage a greater sense of belonging to promote Active & Engaged Communities – ‘Love Where You Live’
- 2) Promote local clubs, groups and societies
- 3) Involve local groups, communities and Children & Young People in the planning and delivery of each event



**OPA PLAY AND ACTIVITY
DAYS 2023**

RAF Benson / Wallingford	Saturday 17 th June
Vauxhall Barracks / Didcot	Saturday 24 th June
RAF Brize Norton / Carterton	Saturday 1 st July
South Abingdon	Saturday 8 th July
Northway / Marston	Saturday 15 th July
Bicester Elmsbrook	Tuesday 25 th July
Banbury Peoples Park	Wednesday 26 th July
Eynsham	Thursday 27 th July
Cotteslowe	Saturday 29 th July
Berinsfield	Tuesday 1 st August
Witney	Thursday 3 rd August
Faringdon	Friday 4 th August
Banbury Princess Diana Park	Wednesday 16 th August
Chipping Norton	Monday 21 st August

- ALL Events will offer both FREE Entrance and FREE Activities
- NO Childcare is provided, these are Family based events
- Individual event posters will be issued prior to each event
- Play Days will run from 11am until 3pm
- If you would like to be involved in any of these events to promote your organisation please e-mail martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk (NB: these are not for profit, Community events)



<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>Armed Forces Play & Activity Days 2023</u>
FUNDED BY	Oxfordshire County Council (Councillor Priority Fund) / Armed Forces Covenant Fund / Didcot Rotary Club Carterton Town Council / Didcot Town Council / South Oxfordshire District Council (Councillor Grant Scheme) / RAF Brize Norton Community Support / Ambrosden 4 Children / Ambrosden Parish Council / Wallingford Town Council / Cherwell District Council / South Oxfordshire District Council
PROJECT DETAILS	Delivery of Community Play & Activity days across Oxfordshire where there is an Army or RAF base to improve community integration between Armed Forces and Civilian families and offering both FREE Entrance and FREE Activities to ensure an Inclusion for ALL
PROJECT DELIVERY	<p>We delivered 4 events as follows;</p> <p>RAF Benson / Wallingford = Saturday 17th June Vauxhall Barracks / Didcot = Saturday 24th June RAF Brize Norton / Carterton = Saturday 1st July and Bicester Garrison / Ambrosden = Friday 25th August</p> <p>We worked in close partnership with the base Welfare Team or Community Development Team at each location to ensure that we were engaging with all the serving personnel and their families.</p> <p>As with our Community Play & Activity Days our Armed Forces events had the following key Aims and Objectives in addition to improving Community Cohesion;</p> <p><u>For Children & Young People</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Promote Positive Behaviours & Activities (reduce anti-social behaviour) 2) Promote Increased Levels of Physical Activity 3) Promote a Healthy Lifestyle (healthy choices) 4) Promote Healthy Weight Management (obesity

reduction)

- 5) Provide information on services and activities to promote a sense of Wellbeing and Inclusion

For Parents / Carers

- 1) Provide an Event offering both **FREE** Entrance & **FREE** Activities to Ensure an Inclusion for **ALL**
- 2) Demonstrate how Play & Quality Family Time can be achieved on a Zero / Minimal Budget using Natural & Recycled materials
- 3) Provide information on services and activities available in the local and wider area

For Communities

- 1) Encourage a greater sense of belonging to promote Active & Engaged Communities – ‘Love Where You Live’
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- 3) Involve local groups, communities and Children & Young People in the planning and delivery of each event

Playday is the annual celebration of the Childrens Right to Play in the UK.

(www.playday.org.uk)

The 2023 Playday theme was ‘Playing on a Shoestring’ – making every day an adventure. www.summerofplay.co.uk / www.playday.org.uk

This year’s theme is...

Playing on a shoestring
– making every day an adventure

Playing on a shoestring – making every day an adventure.

This year's theme focuses on the everyday low-cost or no-cost play adventures that children can enjoy at home, in settings, and in our communities.

Play opportunities don't need to involve expensive activities, costly toys, or trips to far-off destinations. It is often the simplest ideas, the free and found opportunities, which offer the most fun, and are the most developmentally beneficial for children and young people.

Play is essential at all ages and stages of childhood, and is particularly important during times of crisis.



Play helps children and young people make sense of the world around them, deal with challenges, and build resilience.

Play is fun, enabling children and young people to make friends, blow off steam, and cope with stress and anxiety.

Play is vital for children and young people's health, happiness, and skills development including creativity, imagination, and sense of adventure.

Make this Playday, and every day, an adventure!



<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>OXFORD THERAPEUTIC PLAYWORK</u>
FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY	  <p style="text-align: center;">Christ's Hospital of Abingdon Almshouses - Education - Relief in Need - Albert Park</p>
PROJECT DETAILS	<p>To support Children & Young People faced with challenges to increase their resilience, develop a positive sense of self and improve their self confidence</p> <p>Developed in partnership with the late, Internationally renowned Playwork Theorist Gordon Sturrock</p>

Following our initial 3 year project funding from Children In Need and Thanks to other funders such as the Oxfordshire Community Foundation and in particular Christs Hospital of Abingdon our Therapeutic Playwork project is now in it's 5th year. We worked at both Thameside and St Edmunds Schools in Abingdon in the last financial year where both of the schools have a high percentage of Children eligible for Pupil Premium

- We worked with 8 Cohorts of 6 x Children to deliver 10 x 1 hour Therapeutic Play sessions within School Hours, each over 1 Full term
- 48 Children in total – 24 from Thameside School and 24 from St Edmunds
- The Therapeutic Play sessions were delivered by 2 Therapeutic Playwork specialists from OPA with extensive experience of working in this environment
- The Therapeutic Playwork sessions offered a safe and secure, Child led Play Environment with an empathetic approach to Play that centred around clear and consistent boundaries to enable Children to express and act out emotions in a safe way

KEY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1) Children and Young People are Emotionally Well – They can Play through and express their emotions in a safe, non-judgemental way

- 2) Children and Young People are Empowered through Child Centred and Child Led activities / sessions
- 3) Children & Young People enjoy Positive Relationships with their Peers and Adults



WHO

- We worked with Children with additional needs who currently fall below the Oxfordshire County Council 'Threshold of Need' (those at Level 2 / early Level 3 on the County Council 'windscreen')
- The project was not designed for those Children with multiple / complex needs
- Children suffering Lack of Confidence, Social Skills etc

Following meetings with key staff at the school the Children were chosen and referred by the school. Feedback from staff showed sincere appreciation of the positive impact that our sessions had on these children.





PROJECT	Community Play / Street Play project in South Abingdon
FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY	
PROJECT DETAILS	Community Play / Street Play events based on the Playing Out model developed in Bristol and now delivered nationally

Working with our partners across South Abingdon and at Community First Oxfordshire we delivered a series of 5 x Community Play / Street Play events across South Abingdon utilising green and open spaces across the ward. Like our Playday project this also enabled us to work in partnership with a wide range of other local organisations and local schools.

We delivered sessions / events at Caldecott Chase, Thameside School, Reynolds Way, Cotman Close and Abingdon Carousel.

This project offers 'Doorstep Opportunities' and brings Communities together to reclaim their Streets for Play, Activity and to improve Community Bonding



Research shows that playing out on a street near their homes is vital to children's health and wellbeing. Play England research has found that 71% of adults played in the street or area near their home everyday when they were a child, only 21% of children do so today.



<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>Cherwell District Council – Play Infrastructure</u>
FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY	 Cherwell DISTRICT COUNCIL NORTH OXFORDSHIRE
PROJECT DETAILS	Supporting Play Infrastructure, Projects and Services across the Cherwell District Council Area

Within Cherwell District Council we co-Chair the Cherwell Young People, Play and Wellbeing Group and are also involved with both the ‘Grimsbury and North Banbury Networks’ working in the ‘Brighter Futures’ areas of Banbury.

This work also includes attending Outreach events (such as Winter & New Year Wishes) which looks to consult with local residents as well as working with other partners in the District to plan and deliver large scale Community events.

This work has also expanded to incorporate ‘OX5 Better Together’ which will introduce a ‘Healthy Town’ approach to the whole Community in Kidlington and surrounding areas and the Healthy Bicester initiative.

All of this work involves large numbers of local stakeholders and act as a focus point to co-ordinate service delivery, reduce duplication and share best practice as well as increasing delivery capacity across the whole district.

Our work in these areas will link into the main themes of the Cherwell Play Strategy which include;

Increased Participation / To Improve Play Spaces / Community Cohesion / Inclusivity / Develop Play in both Urban & Rural Areas / Promote Managed, Risky Play / To Introduce more Play into, and out of School






PROJECT	Armed Forces Support Project
FUNDED BY	 <p>ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST</p>
PROJECT DETAILS	Deliver project work at RAF Benson to include a Weekly Stay & Play session and a Bi-weekly Saturdads session

Oxfordshire County Council was the first local authority in England to sign up to the Community Covenant and through its network of Childrens Centres delivered Outreach services to all of the Armed Forces bases across Oxfordshire, however due to budget cuts Oxfordshire County Council has reduced many of its services across Oxfordshire and its Children & Young People directorate will now only work with Young People in the most need.

All of the County Council run Childrens Centres were closed in April 2017. They no longer deliver any 'Universal Services'. This means that there were no outreach services being delivered at RAF Benson.

Following initial 2 year funding from HM Treasury we secured 2 year continuation funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Trust and the RAF Benevolent Fund to continue delivering this project which works with Armed Forces Children & their Families to not only provide Open Access, Play based sessions but to also provide guidance and services across the local area so that they are able to participate fully in local activities. We deliver both Stay & Play & Saturdads sessions with this funding



PROJECT	Faringdon Junior Youth Club
FUNDED BY	 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
PROJECT DETAILS	A Junior Youth Club delivered weekly for Children aged from 10 to 13 in School Years 6,7 and 8

Following consultation with our partners and with Young People and Thanks to funding from Faringdon Town Council, Faringdon United Charity and Oxfordshire County Council we launched our ‘Faringdon Junior Youth Club’ in November 2021.

The project is aimed at supporting Young People aged 10 to 13 as they transition to secondary school (school years 6,7 and 8) and is a mixture of Playwork / Youthwork

Following initial delivery at Faringdon Town Football Club on a Monday evening the sessions now take place at Faringdon Cricket Club for 2 hours on a Tuesday evening.




OXFORDSHIRE PLAY ASSOCIATION
FARINGDON JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB
TUESDAY EVENINGS – 6PM TO 8PM
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 10 TO 13
YEARS (SCHOOL YEARS 6, 7 AND 8)





TUESDAY NIGHTS FROM 6PM TO 8PM AT
FARINGDON CRICKET CLUB, STANFORD
ROAD, FARINGDON, OXON. SN7 7AQ
FREE ENTRANCE AND FREE ACTIVITIES

Tuckshop / Snacks available to purchase
Contact = 07436 270267 / martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk /
www.oxonplay.org.uk

This project is funded and supported by:







Our average attendance number per session at Faringdon Town Football Club from November 2021 to July 2022 was 5.04 Children and Young People per session

Our average attendance after relaunching at Faringdon Cricket Club from November 2022 to February 2023 was 13.7 Children and Young People per session

Our average attendance number from March to July 2023 (including the change to a Tuesday evening) was 12.6 Children and Young People per session.

Our average attendance number for Autumn 2023 was 4.85 Children & Young People per session

Our average attendance for Winter 2024 was 10.18 Children & Young People per session

The Young People attending have produced their own Code of Conduct / Club Rules;

- 1) NO Swearing – Talk to each other nicely
- 2) NO Violence, Fighting or Aggression
- 3) ASK for consent before taking photos
- 4) CLEAN / TIDY up after yourselves
- 5) DON'T violate each others personal space
- 6) NO eating / drinking each others food, snacks or drinks unless invited
- 7) INDOOR voices inside / OUTDOOR voices outside
- 8) RESPECT each other, the venue and the staff



Friends of OPA are now able to support the Charity via the local Council Lotteries in South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, Cherwell and Oxford City




WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE

Buy Your Tickets From Our Page - We Get 50%

- We now have a SO Charitable Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other good causes in South Oxfordshire!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To Start Supporting, Visit:
www.SoCharitable.co.uk
And Search For:
OPA



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older




WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE

Buy Your Tickets From Our Page - We Get 50%

- We now have a Cherwell Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other local good causes!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To Start Supporting, Visit:
www.CherwellLottery.co.uk
And Search For:
OPA



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older




WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE

Buy Your Tickets From Our Page - We Get 50%

- We now have a Oxford Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other local good causes!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To Start Supporting, Visit:
www.OxfordLottery.org
And Search For:
Play Association



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older




WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE

Buy your tickets from our page - we get 50%

- We now have a White Horse Community Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other local good causes!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To start supporting, visit:
www.WhiteHorseLottery.co.uk
and search for:
Oxfordshire Play



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

PROJECT Science Together Project

FUNDED BY



PROJECT DETAILS

Science Together was a new collaboration between the Public Engagement Team and Researchers at both the University of Oxford and Brookes University and local Oxfordshire community groups.

We were very fortunate to be chosen for the project in 2022 and be able to work with a team with the world class skills, knowledge and resources of the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University researchers

SCIENCE TOGETHER was a brand new, grass-roots programme that harnessed the power of community-led collaborative research projects to overcome challenges and seize opportunities for people who live and work in Oxfordshire.

We worked with our team of Volunteers from the Universities to produce a document entitled 'Why Play is Important in Oxfordshire' which, when finished was sent to our partners, funders and decision makers across the County.

The full report can be found here;

[https://secureservercdn.net/160.153.138.71/ipa.75a.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Why-is-Play-Important-June-2022-Oxfordshire-Play-Association Oxford-University Oxford-Brookes-University.pdf](https://secureservercdn.net/160.153.138.71/ipa.75a.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Why-is-Play-Important-June-2022-Oxfordshire-Play-Association-Oxford-University-Oxford-Brookes-University.pdf)

A video celebrating our partnership was also created which can be found here;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=La16kMC-tJ0>

This report provided evidence from academic and non-academic sources highlighting the importance of play and the importance of supplying

resources to support play across Oxfordshire. Play positively impacts children's lives, including their physical and mental wellbeing and within their communities.

Public Health
Play contributes to community growth. Playgrounds and the promotion of street play aren't simply an opportunity for children to play together. They reduce feelings of loneliness in adults, positively affecting health and wellbeing. Children can form connections and friendships through Street Play.

Play Builds Stronger Communities
Play Streets provide residents with a low-pressure, safe environment, allowing them to connect with their local community. Communities whose residents participate in Street Play are more inclusive and accessible.

Nature and Environment
Playing outdoors increases overall physical activity through active play and promotes mental wellbeing. Children who play in nature develop a close connection with the natural environment, resulting in environmentally responsible behaviour, and higher interest in sustainability issues.

Why is Play Important in Oxfordshire?
As 'Play' is not a statutory requirement, it has seen drastic cuts to its staff resources and its importance across Oxfordshire since the age of austerity in 2008. The provision of play opportunities has been neglected across the county, both in urban and rural areas. This report reviews evidence from academic and non-academic sources highlighting the importance of play and the importance of supplying resources to support play across Oxfordshire. Play positively impacts children's lives, including their physical and mental wellbeing and within their communities.

Planning and Play Habitat
Play in the built environment is crucial as it promotes the science of learning, placemaking and community cohesion; it allows children and adults to pause and interact. Playful landscaping, planting and community art installations in green spaces transform everyday public spaces into engaging learning hubs.

The Benefits of Intergenerational Play
Play promotes stronger intergenerational relationships, which, in turn, results in children and adults learning respect for each other's knowledge, values and strengths. Different generations playing together improves both their social and communication skills.

The Importance of Play in Education
Integrating play in schools promotes children's development through expression, building resilience and encouraging self-regulation. Unstructured play allows children to let off steam, refresh and eventually return to structured learning activities with a clear mind.

For further details, contact Oxfordshire Play Association
Martin.Gillett@oxonplay.org.uk
Download the full report here: www.gchu.org.uk/reports/

Play Matters!
A research project in conjunction with Oxfordshire Play Association





January 2023 - January 2024
Funded by: Oxford University's Public and Community Engagement with Research

PLAY

OPA
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY
The Centre for Psychological Research

We continued our work with the Team into 2023 and produced a 2nd report entitled 'Play Matters' which was produced after extensive consultation with Parents / Carers

<https://www.gchu.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/OPA-PCER-evidence-base-FINAL.pdf>

PROJECT	Neighbour-Ley
FUNDED BY	
PROJECT DETAILS	<p>Starting in Autumn 2023 and delivered in partnership with our friends from the Oxford HUB, Neighbour-Ley is a project that delivers Fortnightly Stay & Play sessions at the Oxford HUB base at Windale Primary School in Blackbird Leys and offers Stay & Play for the Children and Parental Support for Parents & Carers</p> <div data-bbox="687 909 1126 1541" data-label="Complex-Block">  </div> <div data-bbox="459 1603 879 1917" data-label="Image">  </div> <div data-bbox="938 1603 1342 1917" data-label="Image">  </div>



OXFORDSHIRE PLAY ASSOCIATION

☎ 07436 270267

🖱 www.oxonplay.org.uk

🖱 enquiries@oxonplay.org.uk

💻 Facebook = Oxfordshire Play Association – OPA

💻 Twitter = @oxonplay

Oxfordshire Play Association

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