



Adventure *Plus*®

Christmas Appeal 2011

21st Anniversary: 1990-2011

For many of us it's an amazing thought that **Adventure Plus** is 21 this year!

This October we were joined by 170 friends to celebrate this milestone at our 21st Anniversary Ball. It was a

wonderful evening and a valuable chance to reflect on the ways in which **A+** has grown and developed over the last 21 years. Thanks to all who supported us and generously helped raise £12,500. Hope you can join us for our next ball in 2013.



Jon 'encouraging' children at an early A+ Holiday

Since launching **A+** 21 years ago, we have had the opportunity to **impact the lives of over 40,000 children and young people**. Many of them have now grown up to join our team as volunteers, supporters and even staff members.

As you will read in this update, positive things are happening across **A+**. In particular, an increasing number of opportunities to work with local young people is focussing our mind on **an exciting new development** - as you may remember from our summer newsletter...



21 years on and still going strong:
on top of the world at this year's Total Adventure Summit Holiday

AdventureBase

An Adventure **Base** in Oxfordshire! This vision, first mentioned at our Directors' Day in February, is gaining momentum and support. Having a base of our own will support the work we are already doing as well as providing opportunities for us to reach more children each year.

As we discuss this with volunteers and staff, we are amazed at how timely this new initiative is for each area of our work:



Our growing team of A+ Staff and Volunteers: excited about the possibilities the new AdventureBase will offer

- For our DisTIL Gap Year, the need for improved and less-cramped accommodation and better training facilities is getting urgent.
- For Total Adventure Holidays, a base to which we can welcome children—and a familiar place to which they can return time and time again—will transform the way in which we can build on-going, encouraging relationships with them.



A purpose built wall will provide training facilities for our instructors as well an exciting venue for local children

- For local schools and youth organisations and for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people, a well-equipped Adventure **Base** will make a huge difference to the efficiency of our operation and the quality of activities we can provide.

Clearly the development of such a facility is a big challenge for A+. **The exciting news is that a property is emerging as an extremely suitable site** and the owners have indicated that they would like to sell to A+.

in Oxfordshire

Moreover, an informal but specific discussion with planners has indicated that a suitable planning application for this site could well be received positively!

So the challenge is this... we need to raise a **'Fighting Fund'** of £30,000 to launch this exciting project. The encouraging news is we have already raised nearly £15,000.

This fund will enable us to make a professional and credible application to the planners and prepare detailed plans and architect's drawings.

It will also enable us to create convincing and persuasive presentations to potential sponsors such as grant making trusts and charitable banks for the development costs of an Adventure **Base**, which will be around £2m.

This is a big project. As with the start of A+ 21 years ago, it could all feel a little overwhelming and even out of reach at the moment. Maybe we should

learn from history, and remember that ***'He can do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine.'***

One thing is certain. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to establish a centre which will reflect His light and His life into the lives of thousands of children and young people in this generation, and those to come.



Jeremy Vine, our New Patron

We are honoured to announce that Jeremy Vine, Radio 2 presenter and award-winning news commentator, has agreed to be a Patron of A+.

Jeremy says *“What a great charity A+ is. They really know what they're doing. They do it with tremendous enthusiasm and along the way the lives of youngsters are turned around. It is wonderful to meet a group of people who are so completely dedicated to helping others find their way in the world. They're inspiring people... and it's a hugely inspiring charity. Some people dream of changing the world - this lot actually do it.”*



Jeremy Vine, A+'s latest Patron

Thanks Jeremy for your significant, on-going support. What an encouragement!

Young Leaders Weekend

Our first ever Young Leaders Training Weekend will be held on 2-4th December 2011. Six young people who have completed one of our Adventure Impact programmes and who have shown leadership potential will be trained up as future volunteers and leaders.

This is the first of 4 weekends that have been funded jointly by The North Face and the Oxfordshire County Council's Chill Out Fund.



Your Support is Needed

We urgently need your support for the 'Fighting Fund' to make the Adventure **Base** a reality. Please give generously, either online or using the enclosed donation form.

Thank you for standing by us this year. From all of us at A+ I wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and may God bless you in the New Year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jon Cox'.

Jon Cox, Executive Director