

Plus *Points*

Good news & developments from Adventure Plus

Phase two begins: Adventure awaits

Welcome, once again, to our annual update on encouragements, challenges, and hopes for our team and the work at A+.

It is exciting to pick up the story from last year's newsletter and realize how much has been achieved as we progress towards creating a cutting-edge Adventure Base, encouraging hundreds of children, young people, and adults along the way.

Our new ablutions block completed Phase 1: Provision of 'Affordable Accessible Accommodation' last year, and it was exciting to turn our attention to Phase 2: 'Affordable Accessible Adventure' facilities. The creation of the Adventure Lake will transform our site, not least because 100,000 tons of spoil will then become 'The Hill' on the neighbouring field, adding character and relief to an otherwise very flat site. However, there was the small matter of a high-voltage power line running right over the field where the lake would be! In total, 1.5 km of overhead wires required moving for safety and aesthetics. SSE estimated that the work would cost £600,000. Oh, help!

It feels almost surreal, therefore, to report that all 1.5 km of power lines were buried and rerouted by SSE this summer with A+ providing the trenching. The trenching cost £100,000, but that was significantly less than the costs we would have incurred had SSE not supported our request for the work.

Now that the cables are gone, we can turn our attention to the creation of the Adventure Lake, which will enable us to provide water sports throughout the year, even when the River Thames is flowing too fast for us to use safely. We will be able to work more efficiently without the need to tow boats off-site, and we know our groups and team will appreciate being closer to warm showers and hot chocolate as they come off the water in the colder months.

Another positive challenge has been the need for more affordable staff housing for



Gap team member Tim - Live the Adventure

our instructor team. We were delighted when Kari, Emily, and Rhoda, our trainee instructors from last year, all opted to stay on for an additional year. Unfortunately, our staff cottages were both already at capacity, we had four new Gap Year Instructors to welcome – and we were pleased to welcome Mike, an experienced coach to the team. What a dilemma. So many great people coming to boost our youth outreach, but so little space. And then a house came up for sale immediately adjacent to our fields! The perfect solution - except that A+, with our base development taking a significant portion of our budget, could not afford to purchase a house!

The team began to pray in earnest! You can imagine how delighted we were when long-term friends of A+ messaged to say they could buy the house and lease it to us for our instructors to live in.



AALA

Helping young people realise their potential through adventure and education in a positive Christian environment.

Registered Charity Number: 1081059 | Registered company in England and Wales: No. 3976979

Continued from front page...

What amazing timing!

What a wonderful provision!

Big thanks to John, our maintenance whiz, and Tim, Centre Manager, for responding so swiftly on the completion of the purchase to get the house ready for Benjie, Matthew, and Mike to move in.



View from the back of the house

Of course, A+ is primarily about encouraging young people, not developing property, but this provision of accommodation directly impacts our ability to hire instructors, so we can encourage more young people.

I hope you enjoy the updates from the rest of the team on the different areas of our Adventure Youthwork - and you will be excited by the new initiative described in our Christmas Appeal to create The Hub, a



Summer Drinks and Jazz

meeting and eating space for larger groups coming to stay at the Base. This new facility will allow us to have large groups at the Base and in our original hospitality spaces at Wellspring simultaneously, increasing the number of guests we can welcome.

As I close, memories of a lovely evening of Summer Drinks & Jazz and the incredible testimony of Ash, aged 17, still resonate as she shared the difference A+ has made in her life. There is not room to share it here, but you can find it under 'testimonials' on our website.

Thank you, Ash, for your fantastic encouragement as you shared so eloquently the importance of our work and the reason our supporters are so loyal.

We can only do this work with your prayer and support so thank you, A+ supporters, for your part in our life-changing Adventure Youthwork.

Jon Cox

The Gap Team

There have been exciting developments in the Gap and Internship team as we continue to grow, with the addition of four new trainees.

We are delighted to announce that Wayne has taken the role of Aim Instructor after two years of internship with us. Our specialist SEND team is using his strengths well.

Our Conservation Intern, Rhoda, continues working alongside Site Ranger Matt for a second year. Karen and Emily, last year's Gap intake, have also chosen to stay on for a second year, and their growth and maturity have already proved invaluable, helping train our new intake. Finin found a new role with Altitude Mission on a six-month adventure in Meribel, France. He will be a Ski Angel (think Street Pastor on skis), and we will keep him in our prayers as he seeks to continue to serve God in the Alps.

This year, we are excited to welcome four new team members, each with unique skills and experiences to contribute to our community. Grace has just completed her degree and joins us as an Office Skills and Adventure Activities Intern. As a regular volunteer with A+, Grace said, "It was the friendly, welcoming, and fun environment that drew me back to A+, as I was looking for the right environment to build my confidence with work."

Elizabeth has joined us from Cornwall, coming to A+ to spend more time outdoors in God's creation. She joined us over the summer for Peak and is already loving kayaking with the team.

Dom has just completed a BTEC in engineering and trained as a lifeguard. Since joining us in September, he has enjoyed mountain biking and archery.

Speaking about his summer experience as a Peak leader, Dom said, "I loved seeing how the

kids connected with God, and I am excited to develop my connection with God further."

Tim joined fresh from his A-levels with a passion for the great outdoors. He loves football, paddleboarding, and climbing and is excited to spend some time exploring his faith this year!

We are thrilled and deeply grateful to have these talented individuals on board as they contribute to our mission at Adventure *Plus*.

Each of them will undoubtedly enrich our team and the experiences we offer.

To enquire about the Adventure *Plus* Gap Year, contact Siôn: gaplead@adventureplus.uk



The Gap Team - Elizabeth, Karen, Dom, Emily, Rhoda, Grace, and Tim

"Adventure Plus are those pastures green spoken about in the Psalms." Ash, age 17 - returning camper for 10+ years

Hedgerow Conservation



It has been an eventful year at Adventure Plus, with significant progress in our conservation efforts, particularly towards our hedgerows. Last year, Matt and Sara had the privilege of attending an Oxfordshire Wild training event on the importance of hedgerows.



Emily, Rhoda & Jon collecting willow stakes

The maintenance and creation of hedgerows is vital for supporting wildlife, mitigating climate

change, and preserving cultural and ecological heritage. We appreciate your continued support and involvement in these crucial efforts.

Matt said his highlight for the year was spotting a fledgling tawny owl in the woodland on site. He also had a lovely encounter with a hare during team games at TA Beacon. The team are excited to see how the expansion of the copse increases biodiversity over the coming year.

We are looking forward to creating a new hedgerow around our existing copse to create a living boundary this winter. This project represents a significant step forward in our ongoing efforts to safeguard and enhance the natural habitats on our site, and we are confident it will make a substantial difference.



Tawny Owl spotted in the copse

We appreciate the support from our partner, A Rocha, and the community. We are keen to see more volunteers get involved. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact conservation@adventureplus.uk

Total Adventure Holidays

Total Adventure (TA) Beacon (ages 8-12) sold out early this year, with 107 children joining us for camp—the highest number of children we have had at an A+ camp to date! This significant increase in participation not only reflects the growing popularity of our camps but also the positive impact we are having on more children in our community. We were blessed to have Rachel Hodson share her faith during the daily evening roadshows. Rachel made the talks interactive and fun, and the roadshows were a real highlight of the week.

Our Jumpers (Junior campers) programme ran alongside the main camp activities and provided a creative and fun breakout space for any children who needed an alternative space or more sensory

options. Jumpers will remain an option, especially for our SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) campers next year.

TA Peak (ages 12-17) was also well attended with many of our campers returning from previous years. We love having the opportunity to continue contributing to their spiritual development as they grow throughout their teens and into adulthood.

We are delighted (and relieved!) to share that this year, we had a record number of volunteers, with over 30 individuals generously offering support at each camp. This overwhelming response is a testament to the strong community spirit and the shared commitment to our mission. We want to say a **huge thank you** to all of those who got stuck in this summer!

Of course, it's not just about the number of children we can get through the door but also the quality of connection and teaching they enjoy when they are here. Jesus had a heart for those on the edge of societal acceptance, and we seek to follow his example.

Introducing a new TA holiday

This year, we reached record numbers of SEND children, which has provided us with an exciting opportunity to build upon our good reputation and offer a new SEND-specific holiday (as yet unnamed) for those who would benefit from a more relaxed camp. Developed with our Adventure Impact team, our new TA holiday, will enable us to connect with children who find the size of our other camps challenging or who might need more support from adults to engage with, or access our activities.

In summer 2025, we will offer a three-day residential camp for SEND children and their siblings. Open to any child age 8+, the camp will focus on accessibility with smaller groups and a tailored programme. This new holiday will have a limited number of places, so enquire now and be part of this exciting new programme!



Full camp at Total Adventure Beacon

"A+ meet young people where they are at, inspire them and build their confidence through adventure youth work and outdoor education. This work transforms lives for the long term". Jo Gambi, Record Breaking Mountaineer and A+ Patron

Training Weekends

Training weekends are back for our valued volunteers and friends of A+ who relish being outdoors and seek top-notch training provided by our experienced Instructor Team.

Intro to Whitewater Kayaking:

28th - 30th March 2025, Dartmoor

Intro to Mountain Skills:

22nd - 23rd March 2025, Snowdonia

Intro to Sea Kayaking and Wild Camping:

14th - 15th June 2025, Jurassic Coast

Intro to 'Real Rock' Climbing:

19th - 20th July 2025, Peak District

If the listed dates don't work for you, but you're eager to participate, please reach out. We're more than happy to arrange another course that suits you and your friends.

To enquire about training with us, contact Graham training@adventureplus.uk



Gap Team training session



This year, our fantastic canoe marathon fundraiser, Witney to Westminster was a true team effort. Together, we raised an incredible £25,000 for the work here at Adventure Plus. We are so grateful for all the team involved in making this challenging fundraiser happen. So, whether you paddled with us, came along to cheer, provided us with accommodation and food, or sponsored our paddlers, we want to thank you!

Your support is invaluable to us! Witney to Westminster will be back in 2026, but if you want to help with our fundraising this year, why not get involved in the Three Peaks challenge?

Join us for the next Witney to Westminster
Saturday 9th - Thursday 14th May 2026

A+ Hospitality

Windmill Farm

Whether you're looking for a relaxing week away in a stunning Cotswold stone farmhouse or a professional setting for a business meeting with 20 to 100 attendees, we have you covered. Our venue is perfect for school residentials, leadership retreats, and more.

Here's what sets us apart:

- Our beautiful rural location offers a serene and picturesque setting.
- A wide variety of accommodation styles to suit your preferences.
- Multiple event spaces, including a sports hall, lounge, conference hall, and 15th century stone barn.
- Our venue can comfortably accommodate groups of up to 200 people in our rooms, yurt village, cabins, and camping field.

“**What an incredible time with 200 amazing people from our local church community! We enjoyed delicious food, fantastic facilities, and inspiring speakers!**”

We look forward to helping you create a memorable experience.

01367 810258 - hospitality@adventureplus.uk



“What a great charity A+ is. Some people dream of changing the world - this lot actually do it!” Jeremy Vine, Patron



Step up for a cause! Join us hiking the Yorkshire Three Peaks to support A+

The Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge is a 38.6 km (24 mile) round trip route, with a staggering 1,585 m of ascent. Taking place on the peaks of Pen-y-Ghent (694 m), Whernside (736 m) and Ingleborough (723 m).

We will be offering either an ambitious 12-hour challenge or a gentler pace over two days, supported by A+ instructors and mountain leaders, in this scenic area of breathtaking beauty in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

30th May - 1st June 2025

Adventure *Impact*

Our specialist Youthwork and SEND team

Adventure *Impact* (Aim) has received valuable input over the past year to improve our offering.

We are very grateful for all the hard work Alda put into helping Aim grow. Josh has now taken on steering the team as our new Aim lead.

The Aim students appreciate dedicated use of our 15th century stone barn providing a safe, familiar space while they are with us. It allows us to chat with the students when they arrive to assess their feelings and discuss the various session options. We have seen our instructors build trust with the students as they help them express their feelings more efficiently, which allows us to deliver the best possible programmes.

Aim offers AQA UAS certificates in all the outdoor activities we offer at A+. This initiative has not only given the students tangible goals to work towards but also helped to structure our sessions. We have been overjoyed to witness the students' happiness and pride when they receive their certificates, a testament to their hard work and dedication.

We are branching out with our AQA offerings based on individual students' interests. As a result, the team has benefitted from the students' planning and leading personal training and football sessions.

This year, the Aim instructors are improving their qualifications with SEND-specific courses to better understand the students' needs and how we can help them overcome challenges.

The Aim team is eagerly looking forward to the challenges of the year ahead. With a number of new students joining us and a couple continuing from last year, we are excited about the opportunities for learning and growth that each day brings. We hope you share our enthusiasm for the journey ahead and are reassured about the programme's future.

The Aim team deeply appreciate your continued support and prayers for the Aim students and instructors throughout the year. Your involvement is vital to our mission, and we are grateful for it.



Aim Team canoeing session

"He has thrived at Adventure *Plus*, an environment which encourages him to live by positive values and push himself to achieve his goals. I know that he has learnt lifelong lessons at Adventure *Plus* that will help him to grow and develop into a healthy and happy person who is respectful towards others. Thank you to all at Adventure *Plus* who have given him a chance to show what an amazing young person he is and for always believing in him."

**- Support worker from
Oxfordshire County Council**

"Without your excellent provision we would not have been able to make the difference to those children" Local Teacher

Total Adventure Holidays 2025

Book now

www.adventureplus.uk

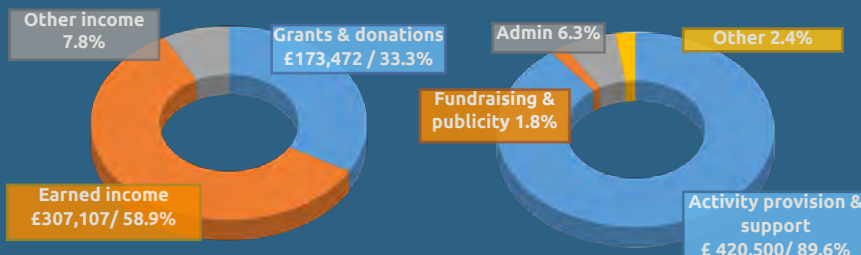
"Our boys had a brilliant time at Beacon. Not only did they love the range of activities but also the friendships they made with children from all over. Thank you for encouraging and inspiring them and for sharing more about God's love for us all."
- TA camper parent

Ski A+	14 th - 22 nd Feb
Easter (8 - 11 years)	7 th - 11 th April
One 2 One	16 th - 18 th May
Beacon (8 - 12 years)	28 th Jul - 1 st Aug
Peak (12 - 17 years)	4 th - 8 th Aug
NEW (8+ SEND)	12 th - 14 th Aug
One 2 One	3 rd - 5 th Oct
Adventures in Worship	29 th - 31 st Oct
Active Retreat for adults Canoe Camping	10 th - 18 th May

Finance 2023

Income
£521,375

Expenditure
£469,512



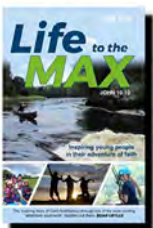
Donate now

Volunteer

We have been blessed with a record number of volunteers this year but we can always use more support.

- Worship leading and music
- Minibus driving
- Adventure holiday team
- Dorm leader
- Technical support
- Conservation
- Fundraising
- Prayer support

Your investment in A+ can make a difference.
Contact us for details!



If you want to know more about what is at the heart of our work here at A+ and our testimony to God's amazing faithfulness, you should pick up a copy of "Life to the Max" by Jon Cox.

Summer Drinks and Jazz
6th June 2025

Directors Day
15th March 2025

Summer Drinks and Jazz
5th June 2026

Directors Day
14th March 2026