ISSUE 47 SPRING 2027

Adventure *Plus*
inspiring the next generation

Plus *Points*

Good news & developments from Adventure *Plus*



Adventure of Faith

What a year it has been!
Readers of Plus *Points* last year may remember that A+ was poised to begin excavating the Adventure Lake, enabling us to offer safe watersports on site year-round. The lake would produce 100,000 tons of spoil to form The Hill on the next field, with a Caving Trail beneath it; we also planned to install the UK's only inland artificial Coasteering Wall at the lake's top end.

The stage was set: power lines had been rerouted & buried, most of the funding had been raised, we had been assured that the required Planning Consent was in place and we had a contractor ready to start digging in mid-June… However, the past 12 months brought an array of unexpected challenges, interspersed with some real encouragements.

Fast forward to this year, and it is good to look back on the events that followed, because we wouldn't want to tread that path again! The biggest challenge came in January, when the planning authority said we needed further planning consent (two years after we had been assured it was all in place!). That led to consultation with the county archaeologist, who then required substantial ground investigations that could have cost £1m+ and taken three years or more! Aargh!

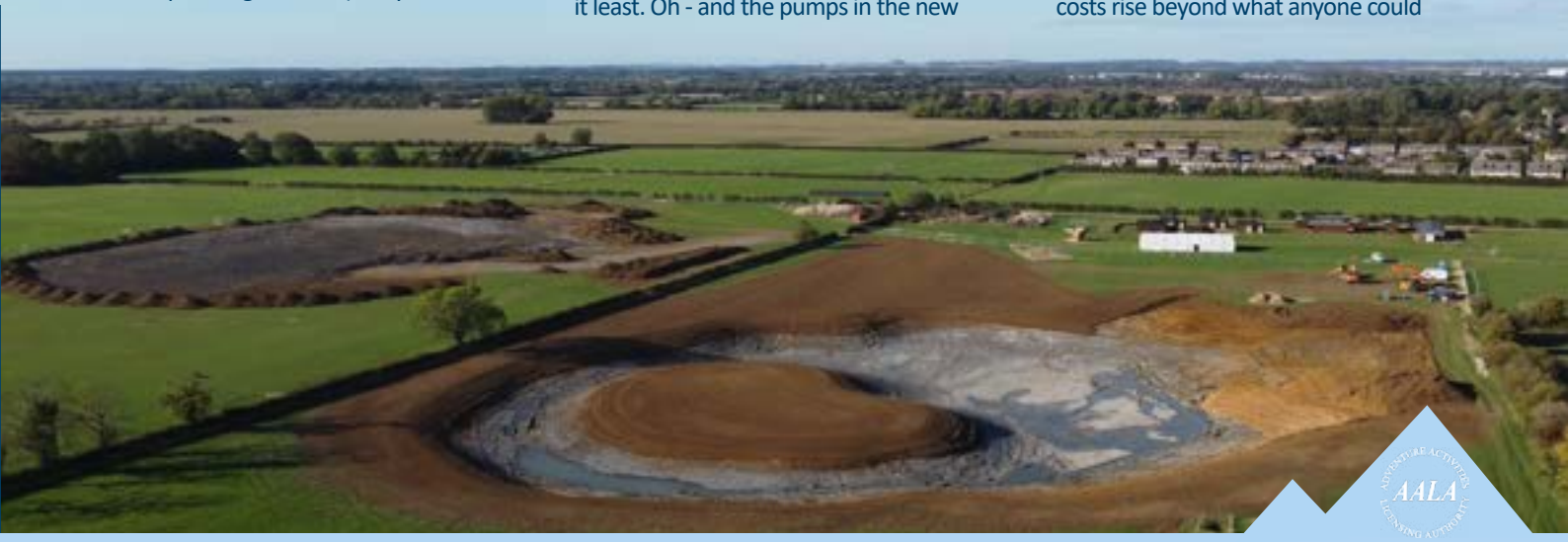
Suffice it to say this led to copious correspondence with the planners, engaging consultants, seeking advice, and a lot of heartache, and prayer! Cutting to the chase (until the next book can be written), a ground penetrating radar (costing £14k!) revealed nothing significant at the planned location of The Lake or The Hill. After further negotiation, permission to commence was granted, with specific, carefully worded conditions.

And in the midst of it all, events that A+ has run for years, including Canoe Instructor Award and Witney2Westminster, have required substantial additional background paperwork and evidence. Not a problem in themselves, but colliding with the major challenge of keeping The Lake dig on track, the extra workload hit just when we needed it least. Oh - and the pumps in the new shower block broke, just out of warranty! All this, plus several key staff leaving A+, each for good reason, has only added to the load. One of the team's comments resonated with us all: 'It feels like A+ is being stress-tested'. Perhaps we should not be surprised, as we press on to progress the work and follow God's calling.

I recently shared a passage from Ephesians 3 at a meeting of prayer supporters, a great encouragement and a reminder that there is an order in things. I can't share it all here, but the key point as I reflect on these events is that God is with us in the tough times as well as the good times.

Particularly relevant, given all the digging apparent on site, is that He gives us the capacity to remember through it all: 'how wide and long and high and deep is His Love'.

We are thankful for many encouragements too: a remarkably patient and genuine contractor who stayed with us through six weeks of delay and uncertainty; remarkable generosity of so many as we watched costs rise beyond what anyone could



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Continued from front page...

have imagined: unexpected archaeological investigations and reports, the rocketing price of diesel (those machines guzzle £100 diesel/hr!) and oil-based products (including GRP climbing walls and caving trails), and plenty of other evidence of God working to bring his purposes about, despite so many hurdles.

It is wonderful to look back over the twists and turns of the summer and still be able to report that THE LAKE IS FULLY EXCAVATED, and foundations are in for The Coasteering Wall!

The maths is significant, and we need to watch that we do not over-commit, so I have to report that we have had to put The Caving Trail 'on-hold' until I can be certain that we definitely have sufficient funds to cover the costs. We put this out to supporters, and many have responded very generously. As I write, the maths shows we are about £12k short of the funds needed, so watch this space and let's be praying that Plus *Points* next year will not only be able to report that we were able to complete all four projects, but we will be able to show photos of children enjoying The Lake, The Hill, The Coasteering Wall and The Caving Trail.

And of course, the significance of our work on site is so much greater than this exciting development alone, because there is even more testimony to God's faithfulness through tough times, a truth the children we are here to inspire need to know, perhaps more than ever in this uncertain world. As Ephesians 3 reminds us: He is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine!

Jon Cox

Watch our lake development video by clicking here!



The Gap Team

Another A+ Gap Year has flown by, with plenty of highlights, learning, and blessings.

We are hugely grateful to Elizabeth for her second year here as a SEND Intern with Aim, and for the way she conducted herself with love and joy towards the Aim students. She has moved on to work nearby as a baker, but we are pleased that she is very keen to volunteer with A+ in the near future. Elsewhere, all Gap Years have stayed on for a second year of the Adventure Activities Internship, which we're very excited for after their first year of growth and development. Sonia, Harry, and Reuben have chosen to specialise in furthering their climbing skills and working towards Rock Climbing Instructor (RCI), so they'll be getting out to many crags soon.

When asked about some of his highlights from the past year, Harry said, *"I have really enjoyed all the activities, but some of my absolute favourites have been the water sports, especially kayaking and learning all the different skills out on the water. On land, slacklining has been my favourite as it is a completely new skill, and developing the skills for it and teaching the young people has been great fun."* In addition, Sonia said, *"I learnt so much last year and wanted to have the chance to put it more into action this year and pass it onto the new gap years."*

Meanwhile, Toby is continuing his excellent work from his first year as our Conservation & Land Management Intern. He says that, *"A+ provides excellent support and a safe space to grow in faith and life experience."* Expect many trees to be planted this winter under Toby's watch!

We have had the joy of welcoming four new Gap Year Trainees to A+ in September. Charlotte has previously studied welding at college, and when she came across A+, she said, *"...it seemed like the perfect fit that ticked every box I had been searching for; now a few months later I am here and part of the team. I am so grateful for this opportunity to serve others in this way while doing something I love."*

Like Charlotte, Victoria is also very keen on kayaking and has a great foundation to build on this year, as she did the Paddlesport Safety & Rescue Course with last year's Gap Year students at A+. Victoria has previously completed a motor vehicle course at college, and has really enjoyed getting stuck into new challenges on her Gap Year, including belaying and canoeing. Her sister, Violet, has also found A+ a great fit, as she wanted something practical, with reputable qualifications, while she works out her next steps in life in an active and engaging environment. Finally, Elijah, whose brother Dom, a previous Gap Year student, recommended A+, has joined us. He's previously been a teaching assistant in a primary school, which he says has given him *"great experience on top of past personal experiences to connect with the young people and help them learn."*

As we look ahead to another awesome year, we are expectant to see God move powerfully in the Gap Year as these young adults take steps in their instructing and life skills, and in their faith.

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



The Gap Team and Intern team: Charlotte, Victoria, Reuben, Violet, Harry , Sonia, Elijah, and Toby

"With fun-filled adventures and inspiring leaders, it was the perfect way to end the school year on a high." Windrush CofE Primary School

Conservation

This year brought exciting conservation wins! Rangers was a huge success, giving young people on our TA holidays the chance to experience conservation first-hand. Groups of children enjoyed a hike around the woodland and wildflower areas, identifying species of plants, animals, insects, and fungi. We even spotted a clouded yellow butterfly, which is usually rare in Oxfordshire, but this year has been sighted in higher numbers! We are keen to offer Rangers to school groups, particularly from urban areas, to deepen their understanding of conservation and introduce them to some of the wonders of God's creation.



Rangers adventuring on TA Beacon

We will soon begin planting around the lake, creating reed beds, wet scrapes and ponds, and planting directly on the lakebed. These plants will support the ecosystem by providing breeding and feeding areas for wildlife, including migratory species.

We have 2,500 trees being delivered to the site this winter for planting around the lake's edge. These will provide shade and habitat for wildlife and create woodland corridors.

We appreciate the support from our partner, A Rocha, and the community. We would value your volunteer support for ongoing conservation work, including managing diseased trees in the existing woodland, creating wildflower meadows, planting trees, and repairing hedgerows. If you are keen, please get in touch today and help us continue this work!

To enquire about this exciting work, contact Toby: conservation@adventureplus.uk



Gap team working on hedgerows

Volunteer

Volunteers are vital to the life and operations of Adventure *Plus*, directly impacting the lives of many children and young people. Over the last year, we have been truly thankful to those who have given time, energy, and support across our Total Adventure camps, dedicated volunteer weeks, our Adventure Impact team, site maintenance, admin tasks, and various other events.

We were encouraged by two volunteer weeks in 2026, painting the conference hall and kitchen block in spring, then weatherproofing the timber cabins and activity hall in autumn. The team's improvements were dramatic! During the spring 2026 volunteer week, we hosted a team from Atkins Realis, who used their company volunteer day for team building, so we included a BBQ and team climbing session. In September, we hosted four volunteers from CAP (Christians Against Poverty).

So, if you are interested in volunteering with us, no matter how much or how often, please get in touch today. You'll have fun and work with a great team!

Please contact Marian, volunteer@adventureplus.uk to secure your space at the **A+ Volunteer week 26th - 29th April 2027** or to enquire about other opportunities.



Volunteers Repainting the Kitchen

OFFGRID

AN ADVENTURE WEEKEND FOR 20s & 30s



Escape the everyday. Switch off, explore and connect.

FIND OUT MORE
adventureplus.org.uk/offgrid

Wilder.

MADE FOR MORE

A WOMEN'S ACTIVE DISCIPLESHIP WEEKEND



Live wilder with God. Go braver into the world.

FIND OUT MORE
adventureplus.org.uk/wilder

"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



SAVE THE DATE

Open Afternoon

Discover our Christian adventure youthwork and the developing Adventure Base

Saturday 13 March 2027

2–5.30pm · All welcome



SAVE THE DATE

Summer Drinks & Jazz

Live jazz, drinks and canapés, plus the unveiling of The Lake and The Hill

Friday 4 June 2027

7–10pm · In the marquee

Witney to Westminster

Challenge 2028

The unique A+ canoe marathon fundraiser, Witney to Westminster was a true team effort this year. Together, we raised over £20,000 toward The Coasteering Wall. Congratulations to 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 2028, and 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

A+ Hospitality

Windmill Farm

If you want a peaceful getaway in a beautiful Cotswold stone farmhouse or need a professional space for a business meeting with 20 to 100 people, we can help. Our venue also suits school trips, leadership retreats, and training events.

What makes us different:

- Our rural location is peaceful and scenic.
- We offer different types of accommodation to fit your needs.
- There are several event spaces, such as a sports hall, lounge, conference hall, and a 15th-century stone barn.
- We can host groups of up to 250 people in our rooms, yurt village, cabins, and camping field.











"We've always had a good experience - the facilities suit a mixed group. The bedrooms are clean, simple and comfortable. The large lounge area has been perfect for our informal meetings. We always have a warm welcome from the team, and we recommend them for other groups...." - Harlesden Community Church - April 26

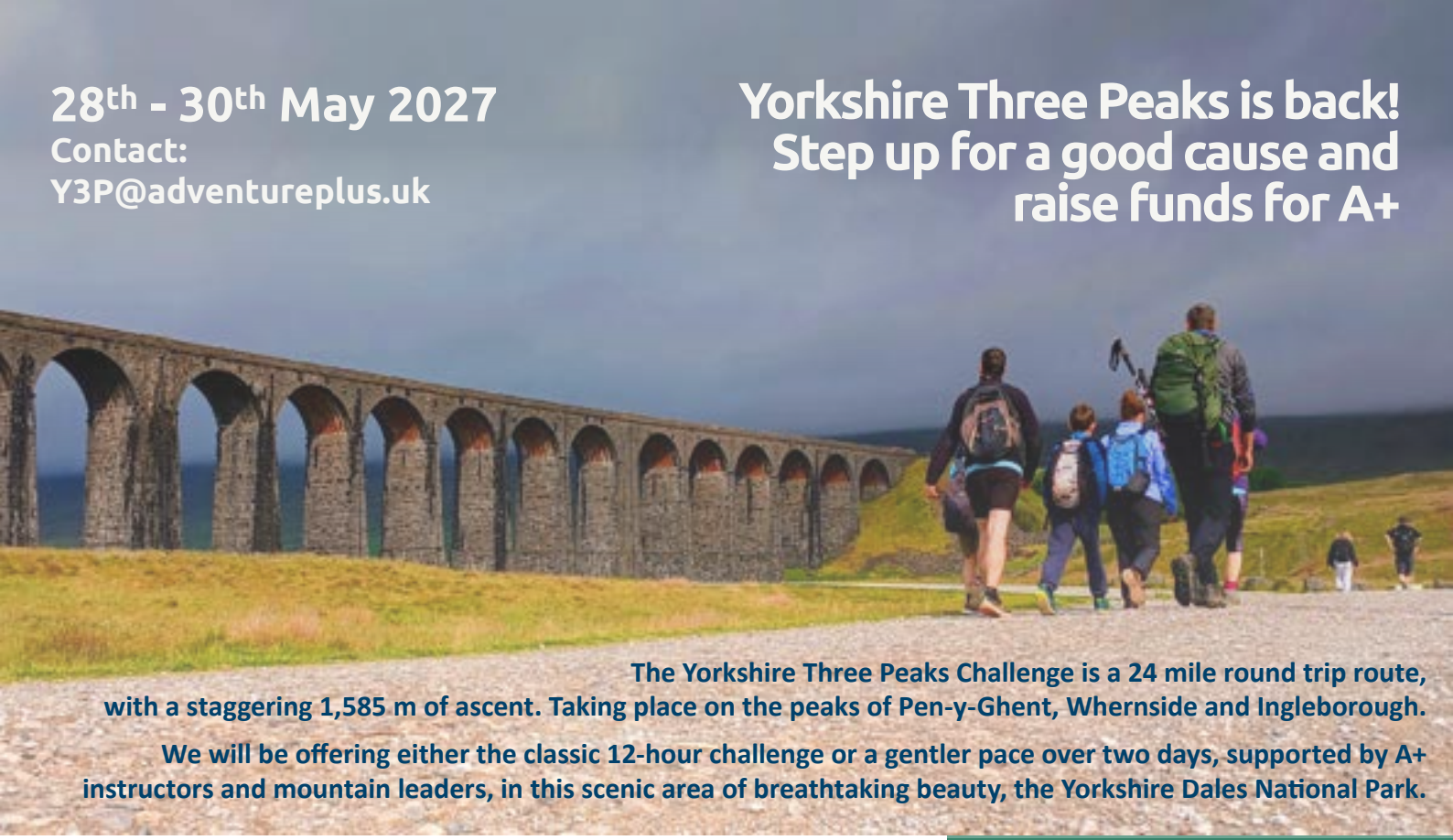
01367 810258 - hospitality@adventureplus.uk

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

28th - 30th May 2027

Contact:
Y3P@adventureplus.uk

Yorkshire Three Peaks is back! Step up for a good cause and raise funds for A+



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

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

Adventure *Impact*

Our specialist Youthwork and SEND team

Adventure *Impact* (Aim) is now supporting eight children and one young adult weekly.

At the end of August, we said goodbye to Josh, who brilliantly led the Aim team over the last two years. We thank him for all he has done with A+ over the years and hope to see him around the site!

In September, Andy and Joan joined the team and now share Josh's former role, both with strong backgrounds in mental health support. We also welcomed Charissa to the full-time team at the start of the summer, and she, Wayne, and long-time regular volunteer, Sue, enjoy supporting these young people as part of the team.

This academic year we have three returning children and five new ones, most of them aged 9 to 11. It is a real privilege and a blessing to work with these young people and support them as they grow in their giftings and abilities.

We were thrilled when five of our Aim referrals did not want their time at A+ to end so they joined us for Total Adventure holidays over the summer.

We are pursuing our bid with Oxfordshire County Council to become an 'Approved Provider'of alternative provision, listed on their recommended register of alternatives to school placements. Josh completed most of this application before his departure, and once we're on this list, more schools should feel confident referring their children with SEND to the Aim team.

There has been plenty of laughter this term as the children play and learn together. 'Karaoke Nerf wars' and Charades have been firm favourites, while canoeing, paddleboarding, bushcraft, biking, and climbing have promoted responsibility and teamwork. One older student is progressing an AQA Unit Award in maths.

It's great to see how our welcoming, safe space here in the barn and on the grounds of A+ helps the children feel valued and loved, and helps us enable them to reach their potential.

We welcome your prayers for our children and team as we continue this valuable work together, and appreciate your support for what we do.

If you want to know more about our adventure SEND work contact the team on aimlead@adventureplus.uk



Aim bushcraft campfire cooking

"Absolutely amazing with my son who has autism, ADHD and pathological demand avoidance they do so many fun activities with the children and are really patient and compassionate towards the children!"

- Adventure *Impact* parent

Wayne at TA Beacon



"We really value the leaders and role models that you are, the seeds you're planting now really do matter" - TA Parent





Total Adventure

Total Adventure Holidays give young people who join us for residential and group bookings the opportunity to return during the holidays, revisit their favourite experiences, and learn about Christianity from our leaders.

This year, our theme reminded us that our loving Creator made us with purpose. We explored how His creation fills us with awe and wonder, and how Psalm 139 reminds us that we are "awesomely and wonderfully made." We're incredibly grateful to our guest speakers, Heather Wilson at TA Easter, Anna Thomas at TA Beacon, and Megan Marais at TA Peak, for giving their time and helping bring this theme to life.

If you sent your children to one of our camps this year, we hope they've already shared fantastic experiences and impactful stories with you.

Some of the most impactful moments happened in the dorms, where our leaders had meaningful conversations with the children and young people. They listened, walked alongside them through difficult questions and made time for the conversations that really matter. We're so thankful for our brilliant leaders who help make Total Adventure about so much more than just the activities!

We're also particularly excited about the growth in our Scampers programme! 'Senior campers' are age 16 -17, and this year we welcomed a fantastic dozen. They were brilliant mentors and role models for the younger campers, getting stuck in wherever they were needed, from clearing tables to helping plan the AMAZING TA's Got Talent Show!

Thank you for being part of the A+ family and helping us create spaces where young people can grow in confidence, build friendships and discover more about their Creator.

Speaking of A+ family, we are thrilled to announce that in 2027 we are offering the whole family the chance to come away together for an Adventure week! Enjoy quality outdoor adventures, stay in a family yurt or cabin, and build memories that will last a lifetime. Family Team challenges, lake adventures and the chance to make new family friends all await you in summer 2027!

We'd love to welcome you and your children back to Total Adventure next year.

2027

Reunion 12–17	12th – 14th Feb
Easter 8–11	5th – 9th Apr
One 2 One	14th – 16th May
Beacon 8–12	26th – 30th Jul
Peak 12–17	2nd – 6th Aug
TA Family	15th – 20th Aug
One 2 One	1st – 3rd Oct
Adventures in Worship	26th – 29th Oct

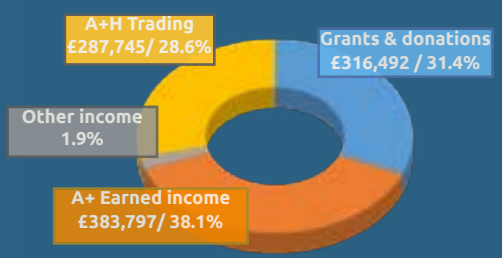
2028

Reunion 12–17	11th – 13th Feb
Easter 8–11	10th – 13th Apr
One 2 One	12th – 14th May
Beacon 8–12	24th – 28th Jul
Peak 12–17	31st Jul – 4th Aug
TA Family	13th – 18th Aug
One 2 One	6th – 8th Oct
Adventures in Worship	24th – 27th Oct

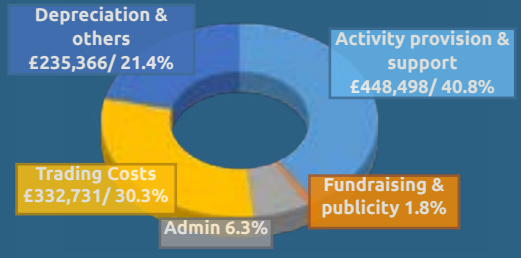
Contact the team at ta@adventureplus.uk for more information about any of our holidays!

Finance 2025

Income £1,007,564



Expenditure £1,098,987



Donate Here