



MERIDEN ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND  
ASSOCIATION

# ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2023 - MARCH 2024







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# MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

It has been another busy and fruitful year of growing numbers, professional consolidation, and regularly rethinking our ongoing offer to ensure it is relevant, timely, and meeting needs. We are definitely still feeling the emotional impact of COVID-19 in terms of children and young people's ongoing anxiety and delayed development, due to those reduced opportunities for self-directed play, particularly outdoors. Parents, too, have needed a safe place to chat and find support, knowing their children are safe playing. We often see them visibly relax as they come on site, knowing this is also some personal time for them too.

We know, from both our observations and from feedback we have received throughout the year, that our sessions and services have had a significant positive impact on our community, providing essential support and enriching the lives of children, young people, and families. We are really glad but also humbled by this - supporting and serving our community has always been MAPA's mission and we are always striving to do that as well as we can. Funding our work is becoming an ever-increasing challenge and whilst this report is a healthy and positive one, it is only due to some significant savings and work on the part of our amazing team and we are already working hard to secure what we need for the next few years. Many thanks to everyone who has supported us and helped out this year – and if any of you reading this want to know more about volunteering with us, please do get in touch!

**ALI WOOD**

*Chair of the Board of Trustees*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

In response to the growing number of parents staying on site, we've expanded our family events and support services. The Adventure Tots program continues to thrive, fostering independence and outdoor exploration for young children. We've also provided essential second-hand clothes, emergency food parcels, and other necessities to families in need. Our 'Being a Parent' courses and weekly coffee mornings, often complete with toast and heartfelt discussions, have been a hit.

HAF funding has enabled us to hire the additional staff and secure the resources we need to be able to open our main play five days a week in the four main school holidays. Despite facing challenging weather conditions, we joyfully welcomed 6,792 visitors through our gates last summer. Holiday sessions are incredibly fun, brimming with new memories, friendships, and skill-building activities as well as enabling parents the chance to connect, take five and be signposted and supported into other organisations.

Community engagement is always at the heart of our efforts. We celebrated National Playday once again with a variety of play opportunities, attracting over 1,100 attendees. Despite heavy rain, our Fright Night event also saw impressive attendance as did our Christmas Craft sessions.

We also participated in local networking events, fostering collaboration with other organisations dedicated to children and families. Our work with YO (Young Opportunities) Solihull enables us to support other local voluntary organisations working with children and young people in Solihull.





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

Although our partnership with CAMHS psychologists concluded, we have remained committed to our essential self-directed therapeutic play sessions and have secured some funding to continue this important work. These sessions are crucial in helping children express their emotions and develop self-management skills. Our dedicated therapeutic playworker, and our wider team, continue to make a significant impact by supporting children with additional emotional, sensory or learning needs.

Youth nights have been bustling with activity, thanks to funding that allowed us to organise trips and adventurous activities including some day trips and a residential. Regular sessions have provided invaluable support to young people dealing with exams, school, college, job searches, and relationship issues alongside all that adolescence brings with it. We've offered a diverse range of activities, from crafts and cookery to drama and important discussions on topics like drugs and exploitation.

Our Forest School programmes have continued to flourish and expand, benefiting children not attending school, pre-schoolers, older children, and families. These sessions, which include foraging, shelter-building, camp cooking, and woodworking crafts, help children to thrive through outdoor exploration whatever their interests. The new family sessions at weekends and our “parents not Allowed” sessions for 11-13 year olds have been hugely popular, offering enriching experiences for all.

Site development remains a priority as we work to enhance our facilities and create an even better environment for our activities. This year has seen the biggest changes for a while with the installation of a slide thanks to support from the Airport Community Trust.





# OUR TEAM

This year we have had a total of 25 members of staff and 14 volunteers (including 3 young volunteers) supporting the work that we do and we are very proud of our team.

Not only did we win an award from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner as the West Midlands 'Outstanding Community Project' of the Year, but we are equally very proud that our Therapeutic Playworker Clair received the Professional Development Award at the 14th Annual Playwork Awards at the NAtional Playwork Conference.

Our team and trustee's are so passionate about the playground that a number of them even climbed Snowdon to raise funds for the playground. On a scorching hot day, they raised a huge total of £1932.

At MAPA we are proud to have a team that includes:

- 3 JNC qualified youth and community workers (including 2 at MA Level)
  - 2 Youth workers at L2/3
  - 7 Qualified playworkers at L2-5
  - 2 Early Years & Childcare staff
  - 1 qualified social worker
  - 12 x First Aiders
  - 10 people with Food Hygiene at Levels 1&2
  - 1 SEN Specialist (MA in Education - Inclusion & Special Educational Needs and Disability)
  - 3 qualified Forest School leaders at L2/3
  - 5 Walk leaders with Active Solihull
- Additionally, 2 of our team are Family Support Workers with SMBC, and we have staff qualified in Mentoring through Intentional Relationships (L3), Coaching (PGDip) as well as someone who is an Accredited Practitioner with the Institute for Outdoor Learning.



# WHAT WE DO AT MAPA



Meriden Adventure Playground is an immersive and engaging outdoor adventure playground serving the communities of Chelmsley Wood and surrounding areas as well as offering specialist provision across Birmingham and beyond.

Strongly rooted in our local community, what MAPA offers is much broader than 'Adventure Play'. We offer open access youth sessions, enabling positive engagement with young people from across the area. Our youth nights are well attended with over 200 members.

In addition to our youth work, we offer 4 fully staffed open play sessions a week - during the lighter months, these are after school on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 3.30-5.30pm and on Saturdays 1-5.30pm. Open play will often be attended by parents and family members as well and is a fantastic opportunity for community based work. Many parents come to MAPA as a first port of call due to the positive relationships we have. At MAPA, staff can support with referring to a wide range of agencies including Multi-Agency Safeguarding, Social Care, FoodBanks, debt advice and we also we have our own 'Swap Shop' Community resource for helping families out with clothing, toys and equipment.

We hold three Forest School sessions a week for pre-school and home educated children and have an 'Adventure Tots' play session and 'Home Educators' session which regularly has 50 people attending.

During the school holidays, we are open Tuesday - Saturdays 1-5.30pm and feed all children on-site regardless of HAF coding because we know that many families are struggling regardless of their eligibility. During Easter 2023 alone there were 822 visits by children and young people to MAPA and 397 parent/guardian visits.

We deliver specialist high ratio 'Inclusion Fusion' sessions for those with complex needs and this year we started a session outside the school holidays with thanks to funding from Short Breaks.

MAPA believes that quality play experiences for children and young people at this site can:

- Help them to express themselves and to just be in unique and varied ways.
- Support children and young people to feel sufficiently secure to explore and extend their physical, social and emotional capabilities.
- Create opportunities for Children and young people to navigate changes and differences in themselves and others
- Build children and young people's confidence to make their own decisions and to question the truth of things as it may first be presented
- Help children and young people to explore and feel part of the playground and local community
- Help children, young people and communities to grow together
- Create lasting individual and community resilience.



# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Our main programme is busier than ever and people are returning/accessing the playground more than ever. We have begun to change focus a little as we recognise the value in the 'work around the play' which we have always done but which, as an organisation, we haven't really recognised or explored.

Over the course of the last year, we have trialled a variety of new sessions:

- Coffee Mornings for parents/carers
- Women's walks to connect and be active during the day
- Family Forest School on Saturdays enabling those who aren't available in the week to attend.
- 'Parents not Allowed' Forest School sessions targeted at 11-13's
- 

ALL of our trials have been successful in meeting different needs and will continue to rotate into the programme wherever we can and where funding allows.

We are reaching out to connect people with other organisations and many of our parent events have invited/partnered with a whole host of other agencies/support such as Menopause Knowledge, SEN Parent support agencies and Solihull College.

Whilst our system currently doesn't support reporting over a financial year, we do know that over 21000 pairs of feet stepped through the gate at MAPA over the course of the academic year and more than 14700 of those belonged to visitors under the age of 18.

Last year we served more than 4000 meals to children in the holidays with a mixture of funding including that distributed through Solihull's Holiday Activity & Food Programme which supported 23 days of our provision across the year. Through the generosity of other funds and supporters and the hard work of our team, we are able to offer food across all of our weekday holiday provision. A partnership with Greggs also means that all of our youth sessions have a food offer.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## Unrestricted funds

Total £49,430

Invoiced & traded income (hire and group visits, home ed, forest schools etc)

Donations at the gate, swapshop, regular givers & ad-hoc/corporate donations.

Community fund-raising events

Café and other sales income

Smaller grants & gifts towards core costs

(Including Turner Trust, Barston Association, Cole Charitable Trust, William A Cadbury Charitable Trust, Gowling WLG Charitable Trust, Marsh Christian Trust, The Richard Cadbury Charitable Trust, WED Charitable Trust, 7Stars Foundation)

## Our Restricted grants & funds (ie. where funds have been received for a specific purpose) Total £296,676

### Large grants & Funds

Tudor Trust

Henry Smith

Sheldon Trust

The National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund

Trusthouse

Masonic Charitable MCF

Holiday Activities Fund Solihull

Holiday Activities Fund Birmingham

### Additional restricted funds

Grantham Yorke

Eveson Trust

Bleed Box

Extractor Fund

FitCap - Safe Space Sessions

Heart of England Playday

Sport Solihull

Stellantis - Circus equipment

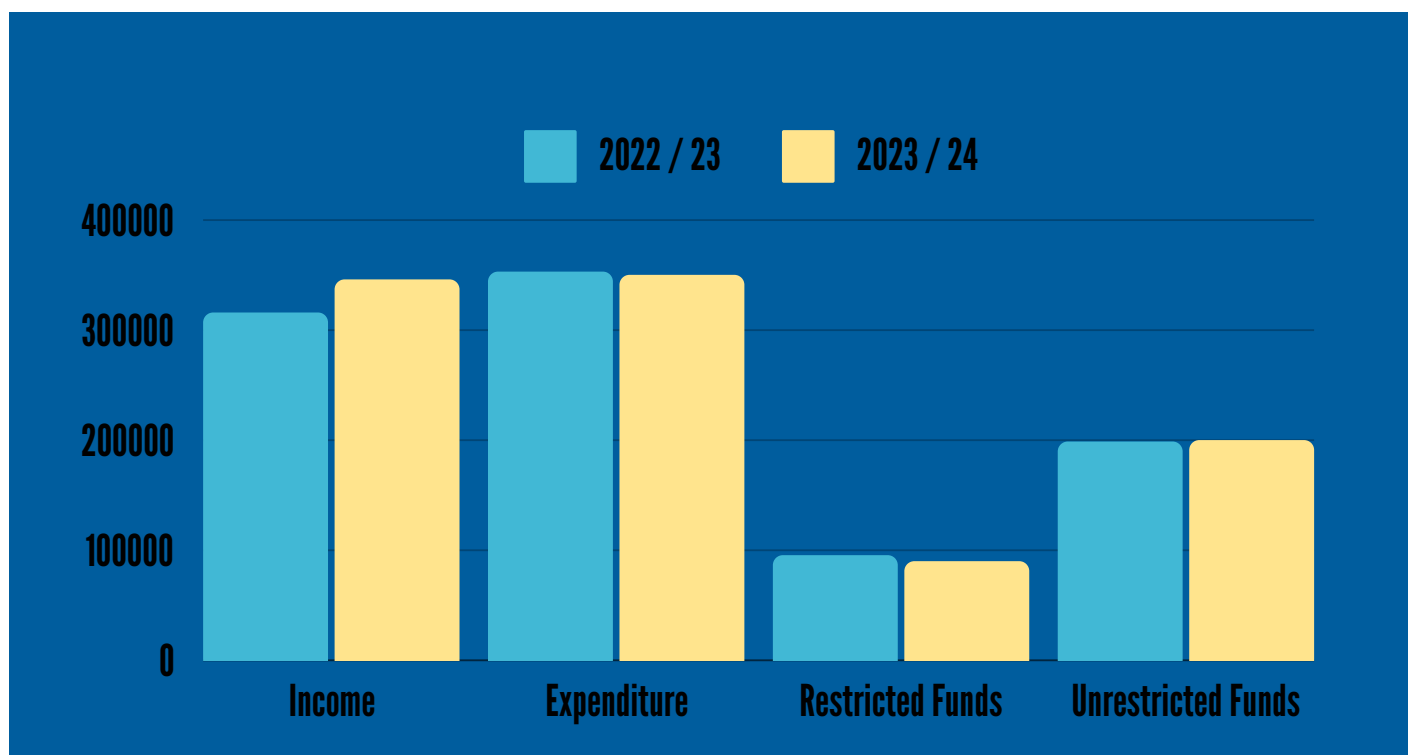
Grimmitt Trust

Airport Community Trust

Meals & More

ICS Project

## COMPARATIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE



NB: Unrestricted funds (for accounting purposes) include fixed asset values (eg. the value of containers).

# OUR FUNDERS

We have been very grateful to the funders we work with who recognise and support the work that we do at Meriden Adventure Playground. We rely heavily on grants and donations and the support from those partners has been amazing. Many of our applications are very heavily supported by work from our Board and Chair - it really is a whole team effort.



# OUR SUPPORTERS

Here at MAPA we have to raise every penny to fund our staff, pay our bills and buy whatever resources and equipment we need to run all our different sessions and we plan our use of resources carefully to ensure the greatest impact. It is our ethos and policy not to charge for public open sessions because we believe that play is everyone's right, but we are hugely grateful for everyone who can help us via donations or gifts in kind – if everyone who came put just a pound or two in our 'spinner' at each visit, it would make an even bigger difference! We are very lucky at MAPA to be supported by a very wide range of businesses, organisations and individuals. Some of them fundraise for us, others donate resources, raffle prizes or gifts for Easter/Christmas and some support our teams at events or by bringing a team for a work day on-site and helping with our repairs and maintenance.

We would like to extend our huge thanks to:  
Taj - The Simla Restaurant & Cocktail Bar  
Linda and John Williams, Stellantis, The Co op, Bear Grylls, Hollywood Bowl, Cineworld, Gourmet Burger, JLR, Brian Miles, NEC, Seeds of Hope, Bishop Wilson School, Relax and Unwind with Penny, Morrisons, MADL (Making a Difference Locally - NISA), Barston Residents Association & Jane, Birmingham Business Park, Co -Op University Locks, Caleb (Youth night attendee), Lola (Young Volunteer), Penny Clarke & Family, Caroline Middleton, Tony Woods, Solar (CAMHS) fundraisers, T Gascoigne and C Clayton (young fundraisers), greggs, James Eckloff, Mark Bassett and Gary @ Pied Piper.

We absolutely couldn't do it without them.





# LOOKING AHEAD

Play at MAPA should always involve changing, immersive and engaging activity and environments driven by the ages, interests and needs of the children, young people and communities we serve. To achieve this we need to enable our team the time and space to explore and develop our play spaces and this needs to be built into our programming and well resourced; something we are beginning to achieve.

In terms of delivery, we have a number of areas for development over the coming year. Firstly we would like to get out more! We would like to develop an outreach service to support play outside the playground and to be able to offer therapeutic play and Forest Schools in other area's. Engaging in and supporting well thought out and well resourced partnerships will also be key to reaching as many people as possible and sharing what we know.

Our youth team is hugely qualified and experienced and our sessions well attended; we need to better support this through some long term sustainable funding whilst continuing to develop our team to better meet the needs of our communities - by developing skills in outreach and detached youth work amongst other things.

Our SEN specific Inclusion Fusion sessions have continued to be a huge hit this year and the additional term-time session has had fabulous feedback from parents who have not only loved having this dedicated space for their children but who have also reported on the fantastic milestones some of their children have achieved. Moving forward, we need to work to secure these sessions in the longer term as well as finding them a winter home - for many children and young people with SEN-specific needs, the additional change and uncertainty that the weather brings alongside the additional sensory input can be too high for them to manage.

We need to plan and resource for bad weather and enable alternative spaces and activities and shelter. Enabling space outside the main playground will also help us to develop activities alongside our main play sessions and widen our reach.

Underpinning all of this is a need to develop a robust fundraising strategy to sit alongside our forward-thinking budget. Having spent the last 12 months consolidating all of our functions and thinking and establishing a true picture of MAPA, we now need to maximise our fundraising and funding opportunities to enable us to not only continue what we do but to grow it and to reach places we haven't reached before.

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1171350

**Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024  
for  
Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

Meriden Adventure Playground  
Moorend Avenue  
Chelmsley Wood  
Birmingham  
B37 5TE



**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

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**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Message from Our Chair**

It has been another busy and fruitful year of growing numbers, professional consolidation, and

We are definitely still feeling the emotional impact of COVID-19 in terms of children and young people's ongoing anxiety and delayed development, due to reduced opportunities for self-directed play, particularly outdoors. Parents, too, have needed a safe place to chat and find support, knowing their children are safe playing.

We often see them visibly relax as they come on site, knowing this is also some personal time for them.

We know from both our observations and from feedback we have received throughout the year, that our sessions and services have had a significant positive impact on our community, providing essential support and enriching the lives of children, young people, and families. We are really glad but also humbled by this - supporting and serving our community has always been MAPA's mission and we are always striving to do that as well as we can.

Funding our work is becoming an ever-increasing challenge and whilst this report is a healthy and positive one, it is only due to some significant savings and work on the part of our amazing team and we are already working hard to secure what we need for the next few years.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported us and helped out this year – and if any of you reading this want to know more about volunteering with us, please do get in touch!



Ali Wood  
Chair of Trustees

## **Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

The trustees who present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

To provide, maintain and develop facilities at Meriden Adventure Playground for children, young people and families resident in Chelmsley Wood and its' surrounding areas, through the provision of safe and stimulating play opportunities so as to develop their physical, social and mental skills.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **Charitable activities**

##### ***What we do at MAPA***

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Strongly rooted in our local community, what MAPA offers is much broader than 'Adventure Play'. We offer open access youth sessions, enabling positive engagement with young people from across the area. Our youth group is well attended with over 200 members.

In addition to our youth work, we offer 4 fully staffed open play sessions a week - these are after school Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and on Saturdays 1-5.30pm. Open play will often be attended by parents and family members and is a fantastic opportunity for community based work. Many parents come to MAPA as a first port of call due to the positive relationships we have. At MAPA, staff can support with referring to a wide range of agencies including Multi-Agency Safeguarding, Social Care, Foodbanks, debt advice and we also we have our own 'Swap Shop' Community resource for helping families out with clothing, toys and equipment.

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**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE - continued**

MAPA believe that quality play experiences for children and young people at this site can:

- Help them to express themselves and to just be in unique and varied ways,
- Support Children and Young People to feel sufficiently secure to explore and extend their physical, social and emotional capabilities,
- Create Opportunities for Children and young people to navigate changes and differences in themselves and others,
- Build children and young people's confidence to make their own decisions and to question the truth of things as it may first be presented,
- Help children and young people explore and feel part of the playground and local community,
- Help children, young people and communities to grow together,
- Create lasting individual and community resilience.

***Overview of the year***

In response to the growing number of parents staying on site, we've expanded our family events and support services. The Adventure Tots program continues to thrive, fostering independence and outdoor exploration for young children. We've also provided essential second-hand clothes, emergency food parcels, and other necessities to families in need. Our 'Being a Parent' courses and weekly coffee mornings, complete with homemade soup and heartfelt discussions, have been a hit.

Additionally, expanding our Forest School programme to include some new family sessions at weekends and for unaccompanied 11-13 year olds immense popularity, offering enriching experiences for both children and parents.

HAF funding has enabled us to hire the additional staff and secure the resources we need to be able to open five days a week in the four main school holidays. Despite facing challenging weather conditions, we joyfully welcomed 6,792 visitors through our gates last summer. Holiday sessions are incredibly fun, brimming with new memories, friendships, and skill-building activities aswell as enabling parents the chance to connect, take 5 and be signposted and supported into other organisations.

Community engagement is always at the heart of our efforts. We celebrated National Playday once again with a variety of play opportunities, attracting over 1,100 attendees. Despite heavy rain, our Fright Night event saw impressive attendance.

We also participated in local networking events, fostering collaboration with other organisations dedicated to children and families. Our work with YO (Young Opportunities) Solihull enables us to support other local voluntary organisations working with children and young people in Solihull.

Although our partnership with CAMHS psychologists concluded, we have remained committed to our essential self-directed therapeutic play sessions and have secured some funding to support this. These sessions are crucial in helping children express their emotions and develop self-management skills. Our dedicated therapeutic playworker, and wider team continue to make a significant impact by supporting children with additional emotional, sensory or learning needs.

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE - continued**

Youth nights have been bustling with activity, thanks to funding that allowed us to organise trips and adventurous activities including some day trips and a residential. Regular sessions have provided invaluable support to young people dealing with exams, school, college, job searches, and relationship issues. We've offered a diverse range of activities, from crafts and cookery to drama and important discussions on topics like drugs and exploitation.

Our Forest School programmes have continued to flourish, benefiting children not attending school, pre-schoolers, older children, and families. These sessions, which include foraging, shelter-building, camp cooking, and woodworking crafts, help children to thrive through outdoor exploration whatever their interests.

Site development remains a priority as we work to enhance our facilities and create an even better environment for our activities and this year has seen the biggest changes for a while with the installation of a slide thanks to support from the Airport Community Trust.

We've welcomed new casual staff and volunteers, who are essential to our operations, particularly for community events and maintenance work. Our volunteers have been invaluable, ensuring the smooth running of events,

***Key Achievements***

Our main programme is busier than ever and people are returning/accessing the playground more than ever. We have begun to change focus a little as we recognise the value in the 'work around the play' which we have always done but which, as an organisation, we haven't really recognised or explored.

Over the course of the last year, we have trialled a variety of new sessions:

- Coffee Mornings for parents/carers
- Women's walks to connect and be active during the day
- Family Forest School on Saturdays enabling those who aren't available in the week to attend.
- 'Parents not Allowed' Forest School sessions targeted at 11-13's

ALL of our trials have been successful in meeting different needs and will continue to rotate into the programme wherever we can and where funding allows.

We are reaching out to connect people with other organisations and many of our parent events have invited/partnered with a whole host of other agencies/support such as Menopause Knowledge, SEN Parent support agencies and Solihull College.

## **Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE - continued**

##### ***Our Team***

This year we have had a total of 25 members of staff and 14 volunteers (including 3 young volunteers) support the work that we do and we are very proud of our team.

Not only did we win an award from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner as the West Midlands 'Outstanding Community Project' of the Year but we are equally very proud that our Therapeutic Playworker Clair received the Professional Development Award at the 14th Annual Playwork Awards.

Our team and trustee's are so passionate about the playground that a number of them even climbed Snowdon to raise funds for the playground. On a scorching hot day, they raised a huge total of £1,933.

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- 2 Youth workers at L2/3
- 7 Qualified playworkers at L2-5
- 2 Early Years & Childcare staff
- 1 qualified social worker
- 12 x First Aiders
- 10 people with Food Hygiene at Levels 1&2
- 1 SEN Specialist (MA in Education - Inclusion & Special Educational Needs and Disability)
- 3 qualified Forest School leaders at L2/3
- 5 Walk leaders with Active Solihull

Additionally, 2 of our team are Family Support Workers with SMBC, and we have staff qualified in Mentoring through Intentional Relationships (L3) Coaching (PGDip) as well as someone who is an Accredited Practitioner with the Institute for Outdoor Learning.

##### ***Our Supporters***

Here at MAPA we have to raise every penny to fund our staff, pay our bills and buy whatever resources and equipment we need to run all our different sessions and we plan our use of resources carefully to ensure the greatest impact.

It is our ethos and policy not to charge for public open sessions because we believe that play is children's birthright, but we are hugely grateful for everyone who does help us via donations or gifts in kind – if everyone who came put just a pound or two in our 'spinner' at each visit, it would make an even bigger difference!

We are very lucky at MAPA to be supported by a very wide range of businesses, organisations and individuals. Some of them fundraise for us, others donate resources, raffle prizes or gifts for Easter/Christmas and some support our teams at events or by bringing a team for a work day on-site and helping with our repairs and maintenance.



**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE - continued**

We would like to extend our huge thanks to:

Taj - The Simla Restaurant & Cocktail Bar Linda and John Williams, Stellantis, The Co op, Bear Grylls, Hollywood Bowl, Cineworld, Gourmet Burger, JLR, Brian Miles, NEC, Seeds of Hope, Bishop Wilson School, Relax and Unwind with Penny, Morrisons, MADL (Making a Difference Locally - NISA), Barston Association Jane - Barston Association, Birmingham Business Park, Co -Op University Locks, Caleb (Youth night attendee), Lola (Young Volunteer), Penny Clarke & Family, Caroline Middleton, Tony Woods, Solar (CAMHS) T Gascoigne and C Clayton (young fundraisers).

We absolutely couldn't do it without them.

**Financial Overview**

As shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 12, the Charity's total amounted to £346,106 for the year (2022-23: £316,029). The Charity's total expenditure amounted to £350,245 (2022-23: £353,187), resulting in a deficit of £4,139 (2022-23: £37,158 deficit).

At 31 March 2024 total funds were £290,186 (2022-23: £294,323) including £200,106 of unrestricted funds (2022-23: £198,972) and £90,080 of restricted funds (2022-23: £95,531).

**Reserves Policy**

A charity's free reserves are its general unrestricted funds (excluding any element represented by fixed assets) less any funds which have been designated for specific future projects by the Trustees. Details of designated funds are given in note 13 of these financial statements.

The charity's reserves policy is to hold a minimum level of free reserves equivalent to between three and six months expenditure, in order to ensure that any delay in the receipt of income by the charity, caused by the actions of third parties, does not affect the ability of the charity to meet its obligations to its beneficiaries.

As indicated on page 19, note 12, the level of unrestricted reserves as at 31 March 2024 was £200,106 (2022-23: £198,792) which represents approximately 7 months total expenditure. The Trustees regularly review the appropriateness of the reserves policy with regard to the current environment in which the Charity operates and believe the level of reserves to be appropriate.

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE - continued**

**Looking Ahead**

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In terms of delivery, we have a number of areas for development over the coming year. Firstly we would like to get out more! We would like to develop an outreach service to support play outside the playground and to be able to offer therapeutic play and Forest Schools in other area's. Engaging in and supporting well thought out and well resourced partnerships will also be key to reaching as many people as possible and sharing what we know.

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**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Charity number**

1171350

**Registered office**

Meriden Adventure Playground Association  
Moorend Avenue  
Chelmsley Wood  
Birmingham  
B37 5TE

**Bankers**

The Co-operative Bank PLC  
1 Balloon Street  
Manchester  
M60 4EP

**Trustees**

Alison Wood  
David Wood  
Jeanette Burrows  
John Freeman  
Lisa Edwards (resigned 18 December 2023)  
Marcus Brain  
Mark Wilson  
Mccallmont Clarke

**Accountants**

SAB Accountancy Services Ltd  
102 Hamstead Road  
Great Barr  
Birmingham  
B43 5BN

**Independent Examiner**

Samantha Jackson  
Pearl Accountancy Services Limited  
61 Bridge Street  
Kington  
HR5 3DJ



**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the report of the trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP,
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 10 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Alison Wood  
Trustee

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages' 12 to 24.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Charity are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.
- 4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Samantha Jackson  
Pearl Accountancy Services Limited  
61 Bridge Street  
Kington  
HR5 3DJ

18 September 2024

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association****Statement of Financial Activities  
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)**

		Un- restricted funds	Restricted funds	2023-24 Total funds	2022-23 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	13,849	-	13,849	6,076
Charitable activities	3	30,489	296,676	327,165	306,636
Other trading activities	4	5,092	-	5,092	3,317
<b>Total income</b>		<b>49,430</b>	<b>296,676</b>	<b>346,106</b>	<b>316,029</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Charitable activities	5	47,119	301,934	349,053	351,063
Raising funds	6	997	195	1,192	2,124
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>48,116</b>	<b>302,129</b>	<b>350,245</b>	<b>353,187</b>
<b>Net income/-expenditure</b>		<b>1,314</b>	<b>- 5,451</b>	<b>- 4,139</b>	<b>- 37,158</b>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	12	<b>1,314</b>	<b>- 5,451</b>	<b>- 4,139</b>	<b>- 37,158</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward	12	<b>198,792</b>	<b>95,531</b>	<b>294,323</b>	<b>331,480</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>200,106</b>	<b>90,080</b>	<b>290,186</b>	<b>294,323</b>

**CONTINUING OPERATIONS**

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.



**Meriden Adventure Playground Association****Balance Sheet  
At 31 March 2024**

		Un- restricted funds	Restricted funds	2023-24 Total funds	2022-23 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible Fixed Assets	15	52,204	-	<b>52,204</b>	58,307
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash at bank and in hand		116,816	90,080	<b>206,896</b>	211,725
Debtors	8	38,010	-	<b>38,010</b>	33,625
		<b>154,826</b>	<b>90,080</b>	<b>244,906</b>	<b>245,349</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	6,924	-	<b>6,924</b>	9,333
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS / - LIABILITIES</b>		<b>147,902</b>	<b>90,080</b>	<b>237,982</b>	<b>236,017</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>200,106</b>	<b>90,080</b>	<b>290,186</b>	294,323
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>200,106</b>	<b>90,080</b>	<b>290,186</b>	<b>294,323</b>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>	12				
Unrestricted funds		<b>200,106</b>	-	<b>200,106</b>	198,792
Restricted funds		-	<b>90,080</b>	<b>90,080</b>	95,531
		<b>200,106</b>	<b>90,080</b>	<b>290,186</b>	<b>294,323</b>

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities with respect to the accounting records and the preparation of the accounts.

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year, under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) - in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 the accounts have been examined by an independent examiner whose report appears on page 11;

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 10 September 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Alison Wood  
Trustee

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Legal Status**

The charity was entered onto the Register of Charities of the Charity Commission of England and Wales on 27 January 2017, with registered charity number 1171350.

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements of the charitable entity have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis using the historic cost concept.

**Going Concern assumption**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the charity will continue to operate. The charity's business plan shows that the charity will be able to operate in the foreseeable future. Based on this understanding the director trustees believe that it remains appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. The financial statements do not include any adjustments, which would result from the basis of preparation being inappropriate.

**Charitable Status**

Meriden Adventure Playground Association (MAPA) is a registered charity and is exempt from corporation tax and capital gains tax provided its income and gains are applied for charitable purposes.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then the income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Income from grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

Income from trading activities includes income earned from the sale of food and drinks. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods, in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement occurs.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to a particular heading they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Expenditure is classified under the following heading:

Expenditure on charitable activities comprise the direct costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity, including grants payable and all associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which expenditure was incurred.

**Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**Creditors**

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event where it is probable that there will be an outflow of economic resources to settle the obligation and where creditors can be estimated or measured reliably.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

**Tangible Fixed Assets**

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of each asset, less its residual value, over its estimated useful economic life. The depreciation charge recognised each year relates to the class of the asset, the rates and classes are as follows:

Playground Equipment - *5 years straight line*

Container Structure - *15 years straight line*

Computer Equipment - *3 years straight line*

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association****Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024****1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued****Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor the year ended 31 March 2023.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor the year ended 31 March 2023 except for reasonable out of pocket expenses.

**2 INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
	£	£	£	£
Donations	13,849	-	13,849	6,076

**3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
	£	£	£	£
Events	19,773	-	19,773	16,833
Grants	10,716	296,676	307,392	289,803
	<u>30,489</u>	<u>296,676</u>	<u>327,165</u>	<u>306,636</u>

**4 INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
	£	£	£	£
Other sales	1,255	-	1,255	1,796
Café sales	3,837	-	3,837	1,521
	<u>5,092</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,092</u>	<u>3,317</u>

## Meriden Adventure Playground Association

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

## 5 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
	£	£	£	£
Accountancy	2,572	1,555	4,127	3,858
Casual Labour	-	4,623	4,623	7,421
Consultancy support	2,978	8,564	11,542	11,475
Depreciation	6,102	-	6,102	6,102
Insurance	19,891	1,526	21,417	20,119
Legal & professional	1,313	2,157	3,470	2,968
Low value tools & equipment	-	409	409	1,254
Office supplies & sundries	773	15,935	16,708	14,788
Play Resources	712	5,965	6,677	17,969
Site Development	1,136	6,463	7,599	5,394
Staff costs	10,190	254,594	264,784	250,270
Training	118	-	118	9,199
Travel	1,334	143	1,477	246
	<b>47,119</b>	<b>301,934</b>	<b>349,053</b>	<b>351,063</b>

## 6 EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
	£	£	£	£
Cost of goods sold	997	195	1,192	2,124

## 7 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
	£	£
Trade creditors	813	659
Accrued expenditure	1,450	1,430
Deferred income	225	-
Taxes and social Security	4,436	7,244
	<b>6,924</b>	<b>9,333</b>

## 8 DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
	£	£
Trade debtors	13,896	13,700
Prepaid expenditure	23,371	19,925
Accrued Income	743	-
	<b>38,010</b>	<b>33,625</b>



**Meriden Adventure Playground Association****Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024****9 STAFF COSTS AND ASSOCIATED EXPENSES**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	264,784	250,270

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Full time	4	3
Part time	12	15

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000

**10 COMMITMENTS**

There were no operating lease payments committed beyond the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**10 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no transactions with related parties in this reporting period.

**11 CONTROLLING INTEREST**

The Charity is controlled by its Trustees.

## Meriden Adventure Playground Association

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

## 12 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance at beginning of year £	Income £	Exp- enditure £	Transfers between funds £	Balance at end of year £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>					
<b>General funds</b>					
General Funds	91,094	49,430	42,319	3,573	101,779
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Fixed assets	57,697	-	5,797	- 3,573	48,327
Site dilapidation	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Service development	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
	<u>107,697</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,797</u>	<u>- 3,573</u>	<u>98,327</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b><u>198,792</u></b>	<b><u>49,430</u></b>	<b><u>48,116</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>200,106</u></b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>					
Airport Community Trust	-	5,000	2,189	-	2,811
Bleed Box	-	500	500	-	-
Children In Need - Next Steps	2,158	-	2,158	-	-
Eveson Trust	-	5,000	2,808	-	2,192
Extractor Fan Fund	-	1,605	1,605	-	-
Grantham Yorke	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
Grimmitt Trust	-	1,200	1,200	-	-
HAF Programme	18,449	52,285	65,364	-	5,370
Heart of England	-	2,500	2,500	-	-
Henry Smith	22,139	50,000	52,664	-	19,475
ICS Fund	-	8,000	2,171	-	5,829
Inclusion Fusion	-	5,130	3,820	-	1,310
LGBTQ+	-	3,135	3,135	-	-
Masonic Charitable Trust	-	5,000	5,000	-	0
National Lottery Reaching Communities	44,890	37,033	70,070	-	11,853
Playday	-	2,003	2,003	-	-
Sheldon Trust	-	8,867	8,867	-	-
SMBC Online System	7,896	-	7,896	-	-
Sport Solihull	-	750	-	-	750
Stellantis	-	493	493	-	-
Trusthouse	-	23,176	23,176	-	-
Tudor Trust	-	80,000	39,509	-	40,491
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<b><u>95,531</u></b>	<b><u>296,676</u></b>	<b><u>302,127</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>90,080</u></b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b><u>294,323</u></b>	<b><u>346,106</u></b>	<b><u>350,243</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>290,186</u></b>

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**12 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Our **Unrestricted funds** come from public donations or income we generate via a) sale of refreshments, b) entry fees at seasonal community events we run, c) our community swapshop and d) hiring out the playground and our staff to other organisations, including running targeted sessions for groups who cannot access the site in open busier sessions.

Unrestricted funds cover our bills, our day to day expenses and the ongoing repair and maintenance of the site and buildings.

We have **Designated funds** for service development – which includes strategic planning and development and also for site dilapidation so that there are sufficient funds to cover the costs of electricians, plumbers or roofers as required.

The fixed asset fund within **Designated funds** represents funds utilised for the purpose of capital expenditure, depreciation is charged against the designated fund for each asset purchased. Transfers relate to restricted funding used for the purchase of fixed assets.

Funds from **Airport Community Trust** were utilised to to change our playspace and install a slide on-site.

The **Bleed Box** fund was a restricted donation to install a bleed box on the building linked to the site.

Funding from **Children In Need** was used to pay for staffing to support therapeutic, sensory & environmental play.

A grant provided by **Eveson Trust** was used to develop short four week pilots with young people.

The **Extractor Fan Fund** was provided by Solihull MBC to install a much needed extractor in our kitchen.

**Grantham Yorke** provided fundings towards our youth sessions.

A grant provided by **Grimmitt Trust** contributed towards the running costs of the charity.

Funding for the **HAF Programme** was holiday activity funding from Solihull MMB & Bring it on Brum towards our Summer, Easter & Christmas provision (23-24 days in total).

**Heart of England** provided a grant to pay towards resources for playday.

Funding from **Henry Smith** is part of a three year grant towards the running costs of the charity.

**ICS Funding** was provided to the charity towards community connections development work.

Funding for **Inclusion Fusion** was provided to support our specialist SEN sessions.

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**12 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

**LGBTQ+** funding was provided to MAPA as part of partnership work to support small LGBTQ youth groups.

Funding from the **Mason Charitable Trust** was provided in order to fund our sessional youth work over a three year period.

**National Lottery Reaching Communities** funding is part of a five year grant towards salaries and other running costs.

**Playday** funding is a contribution from YO Solihull (YOBS at the time) for the development and management of Playday 2023.

A grant from the **Sheldon Trust** contributed towards our youth sessions and paid towards the salaries of two of our youth workers.

Funding from Solihull MBC which is referred to in the accounts as **SMBC Online System** was provided to develop our registration system to enable us to report on HAF and access the

Funding from **Sport Solihull** paid for some canoeing sessions for youth to take place before the end of 2024.

**Stellantis** was a restricted donation for circus skills & play equipment.

Funding from **Trusthouse** is part of a three year grant which contributes towards staff salaries.

The **Tudor Trust** awarded MAPA a grant toward the charity's operating costs for a period of three years.

**13 EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS**

The pension costs charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represent the amount of the contributions payable to the schemes in respect of the accounting period.

## Meriden Adventure Playground Association

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 202414 COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Un- restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022-23 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	6,076	-	6,076
Charitable activities	19,799	286,837	306,636
Other trading activities	3,317	-	3,317
<b>Total income</b>	<b>29,192</b>	<b>286,837</b>	<b>316,029</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Charitable activities	47,074	303,989	351,063
Raising funds	2,124	-	2,124
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>49,198</b>	<b>303,989</b>	<b>353,187</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>- 20,006</b>	<b>- 17,152</b>	<b>- 37,158</b>
Transfer between funds	4,866	- 4,866	-
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	213,931	117,549	331,480
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>198,792</b>	<b>95,531</b>	<b>294,323</b>

## 15 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Container Structure £	Office Equipment £	Playground Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1st April 2023	66,087	3,137	3,253	72,477
Additions	-	-	-	-
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<b>66,087</b>	<b>3,137</b>	<b>3,253</b>	<b>72,477</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1st April 2023	11,865	1,046	1,259	14,170
Charge for the year	4,406	1,046	651	6,103
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<b>16,271</b>	<b>2,092</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>20,273</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
At 31 March 2024	<b>49,816</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>1,343</b>	<b>52,204</b>
At 31 March 2023	54,222	2,091	1,994	58,307



## Meriden Adventure Playground Association

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 202417 COMPARATIVE MOVEMENT IN FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Balance at beginning of year £	Income £	Exp- enditure £	Transfers between funds £	Balance at end of year £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>					
<b>General funds</b>					
General Funds	105,303	29,192	43,401	-	91,094
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Fixed assets	58,628	-	5,797	4,866	57,697
Site dilapidation	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Service development	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
	<u>108,628</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,797</u>	<u>4,866</u>	<u>107,697</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b><u>213,931</u></b>	<b><u>29,192</u></b>	<b><u>49,198</u></b>	<b><u>4,866</u></b>	<b><u>198,792</u></b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>					
Trusthouse	7,413	23,176	30,589	-	-
Active Wellbeing	1,000	-	1,000	-	-
National Lottery	-	71,749	26,859	-	44,890
Henry Smith	26,258	50,000	54,120	-	22,139
Tudor Trust	20,034	-	20,034	-	-
Sport England	9,185	-	8,279	- 906	-
Grantham Yorke	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
Children In Need - Next Steps	23,548	53,333	74,724	-	2,158
HS2	464	5,774	4,101	- 2,137	-
VRU	3,695	-	3,695	-	-
HAF Programme	19,070	54,042	52,840	- 1,823	18,449
Masonic CT	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
Harry Payne Fund	-	2,000	2,000	-	-
SMBC Online System	-	7,896	-	-	7,896
Ironmongers	5,000	-	5,000	-	-
Sheldon Trust	1,882	8,867	10,749	-	-
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<b><u>117,549</u></b>	<b><u>286,837</u></b>	<b><u>303,989</u></b>	<b><u>- 4,866</u></b>	<b><u>95,531</u></b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b><u>331,480</u></b>	<b><u>316,029</u></b>	<b><u>353,187</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>294,323</u></b>

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1171350

**Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024  
for  
Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

Meriden Adventure Playground  
Moorend Avenue  
Chelmsley Wood  
Birmingham  
B37 5TE

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

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**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Message from Our Chair**

It has been another busy and fruitful year of growing numbers, professional consolidation, and

We are definitely still feeling the emotional impact of COVID-19 in terms of children and young people's ongoing anxiety and delayed development, due to reduced opportunities for self-directed play, particularly outdoors. Parents, too, have needed a safe place to chat and find support, knowing their children are safe playing.

We often see them visibly relax as they come on site, knowing this is also some personal time for them.

We know from both our observations and from feedback we have received throughout the year, that our sessions and services have had a significant positive impact on our community, providing essential support and enriching the lives of children, young people, and families. We are really glad but also humbled by this - supporting and serving our community has always been MAPA's mission and we are always striving to do that as well as we can.

Funding our work is becoming an ever-increasing challenge and whilst this report is a healthy and positive one, it is only due to some significant savings and work on the part of our amazing team and we are already working hard to secure what we need for the next few years.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported us and helped out this year – and if any of you reading this want to know more about volunteering with us, please do get in touch!



Ali Wood  
Chair of Trustees

## **Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

The trustees who present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

To provide, maintain and develop facilities at Meriden Adventure Playground for children, young people and families resident in Chelmsley Wood and its' surrounding areas, through the provision of safe and stimulating play opportunities so as to develop their physical, social and mental skills.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **Charitable activities**

##### ***What we do at MAPA***

Meriden Adventure Playground is an immersive and engaging outdoor adventure playground serving the communities of Chelmsley Wood and surrounding areas as well as offering specialist provision across Birmingham and beyond.

Strongly rooted in our local community, what MAPA offers is much broader than 'Adventure Play'. We offer open access youth sessions, enabling positive engagement with young people from across the area. Our youth group is well attended with over 200 members.

In addition to our youth work, we offer 4 fully staffed open play sessions a week - these are after school Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and on Saturdays 1-5.30pm. Open play will often be attended by parents and family members and is a fantastic opportunity for community based work. Many parents come to MAPA as a first port of call due to the positive relationships we have. At MAPA, staff can support with referring to a wide range of agencies including Multi-Agency Safeguarding, Social Care, Foodbanks, debt advice and we also we have our own 'Swap Shop' Community resource for helping families out with clothing, toys and equipment.

We hold three Forest School sessions a week for pre-school and home educated children and have an 'Adventure Tots' play session and 'Home Educators' session which regularly has 50 people attending.

During the school holidays, we are open Tuesday - Saturdays 1-5.30pm and feed all children on-site regardless of HAF coding because we know that many families are struggling regardless of their eligibility. This Easter alone there were 822 visits by children and young people to MAPA and 397 parent/guardian visits.

We deliver specialist high ratio 'Inclusion Fusion' sessions for those with complex needs and this year we started a session outside the school holidays with thanks to funding from Short Breaks.



**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE - continued**

MAPA believe that quality play experiences for children and young people at this site can:

- Help them to express themselves and to just be in unique and varied ways,
- Support Children and Young People to feel sufficiently secure to explore and extend their physical, social and emotional capabilities,
- Create Opportunities for Children and young people to navigate changes and differences in themselves and others,
- Build children and young people's confidence to make their own decisions and to question the truth of things as it may first be presented,
- Help children and young people explore and feel part of the playground and local community,
- Help children, young people and communities to grow together,
- Create lasting individual and community resilience.

***Overview of the year***

In response to the growing number of parents staying on site, we've expanded our family events and support services. The Adventure Tots program continues to thrive, fostering independence and outdoor exploration for young children. We've also provided essential second-hand clothes, emergency food parcels, and other necessities to families in need. Our 'Being a Parent' courses and weekly coffee mornings, complete with homemade soup and heartfelt discussions, have been a hit.

Additionally, expanding our Forest School programme to include some new family sessions at weekends and for unaccompanied 11-13 year olds immense popularity, offering enriching experiences for both children and parents.

HAF funding has enabled us to hire the additional staff and secure the resources we need to be able to open five days a week in the four main school holidays. Despite facing challenging weather conditions, we joyfully welcomed 6,792 visitors through our gates last summer. Holiday sessions are incredibly fun, brimming with new memories, friendships, and skill-building activities aswell as enabling parents the chance to connect, take 5 and be signposted and supported into other organisations.

Community engagement is always at the heart of our efforts. We celebrated National Playday once again with a variety of play opportunities, attracting over 1,100 attendees. Despite heavy rain, our Fright Night event saw impressive attendance.

We also participated in local networking events, fostering collaboration with other organisations dedicated to children and families. Our work with YO (Young Opportunities) Solihull enables us to support other local voluntary organisations working with children and young people in Solihull.

Although our partnership with CAMHS psychologists concluded, we have remained committed to our essential self-directed therapeutic play sessions and have secured some funding to support this. These sessions are crucial in helping children express their emotions and develop self-management skills. Our dedicated therapeutic playworker, and wider team continue to make a significant impact by supporting children with additional emotional, sensory or learning needs.

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE - continued**

Youth nights have been bustling with activity, thanks to funding that allowed us to organise trips and adventurous activities including some day trips and a residential. Regular sessions have provided invaluable support to young people dealing with exams, school, college, job searches, and relationship issues. We've offered a diverse range of activities, from crafts and cookery to drama and important discussions on topics like drugs and exploitation.

Our Forest School programmes have continued to flourish, benefiting children not attending school, pre-schoolers, older children, and families. These sessions, which include foraging, shelter-building, camp cooking, and woodworking crafts, help children to thrive through outdoor exploration whatever their interests.

Site development remains a priority as we work to enhance our facilities and create an even better environment for our activities and this year has seen the biggest changes for a while with the installation of a slide thanks to support from the Airport Community Trust.

We've welcomed new casual staff and volunteers, who are essential to our operations, particularly for community events and maintenance work. Our volunteers have been invaluable, ensuring the smooth running of events,

***Key Achievements***

Our main programme is busier than ever and people are returning/accessing the playground more than ever. We have begun to change focus a little as we recognise the value in the 'work around the play' which we have always done but which, as an organisation, we haven't really recognised or explored.

Over the course of the last year, we have trialled a variety of new sessions:

- Coffee Mornings for parents/carers
- Women's walks to connect and be active during the day
- Family Forest School on Saturdays enabling those who aren't available in the week to attend.
- 'Parents not Allowed' Forest School sessions targeted at 11-13's

ALL of our trials have been successful in meeting different needs and will continue to rotate into the programme wherever we can and where funding allows.

We are reaching out to connect people with other organisations and many of our parent events have invited/partnered with a whole host of other agencies/support such as Menopause Knowledge, SEN Parent support agencies and Solihull College.

## **Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE - continued**

##### ***Our Team***

This year we have had a total of 25 members of staff and 14 volunteers (including 3 young volunteers) support the work that we do and we are very proud of our team.

Not only did we win an award from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner as the West Midlands 'Outstanding Community Project' of the Year but we are equally very proud that our Therapeutic Playworker Clair received the Professional Development Award at the 14th Annual Playwork Awards.

Our team and trustee's are so passionate about the playground that a number of them even climbed Snowdon to raise funds for the playground. On a scorching hot day, they raised a huge total of £1,933.

At MAPA we are proud to have a team that includes:

- 3 JNC qualified youth and community workers (including 2 at MA Level)
- 2 Youth workers at L2/3
- 7 Qualified playworkers at L2-5
- 2 Early Years & Childcare staff
- 1 qualified social worker
- 12 x First Aiders
- 10 people with Food Hygiene at Levels 1&2
- 1 SEN Specialist (MA in Education - Inclusion & Special Educational Needs and Disability)
- 3 qualified Forest School leaders at L2/3
- 5 Walk leaders with Active Solihull

Additionally, 2 of our team are Family Support Workers with SMBC, and we have staff qualified in Mentoring through Intentional Relationships (L3) Coaching (PGDip) as well as someone who is an Accredited Practitioner with the Institute for Outdoor Learning.

##### ***Our Supporters***

Here at MAPA we have to raise every penny to fund our staff, pay our bills and buy whatever resources and equipment we need to run all our different sessions and we plan our use of resources carefully to ensure the greatest impact.

It is our ethos and policy not to charge for public open sessions because we believe that play is children's birthright, but we are hugely grateful for everyone who does help us via donations or gifts in kind – if everyone who came put just a pound or two in our 'spinner' at each visit, it would make an even bigger difference!

We are very lucky at MAPA to be supported by a very wide range of businesses, organisations and individuals. Some of them fundraise for us, others donate resources, raffle prizes or gifts for Easter/Christmas and some support our teams at events or by bringing a team for a work day on-site and helping with our repairs and maintenance.

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE - continued**

We would like to extend our huge thanks to:

Taj - The Simla Restaurant & Cocktail Bar Linda and John Williams, Stellantis, The Co op, Bear Grylls, Hollywood Bowl, Cineworld, Gourmet Burger, JLR, Brian Miles, NEC, Seeds of Hope, Bishop Wilson School, Relax and Unwind with Penny, Morrisons, MADL (Making a Difference Locally - NISA), Barston Association Jane - Barston Association, Birmingham Business Park, Co -Op University Locks, Caleb (Youth night attendee), Lola (Young Volunteer), Penny Clarke & Family, Caroline Middleton, Tony Woods, Solar (CAMHS) T Gascoigne and C Clayton (young fundraisers).

We absolutely couldn't do it without them.

**Financial Overview**

As shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 12, the Charity's total amounted to £346,106 for the year (2022-23: £316,029). The Charity's total expenditure amounted to £350,245 (2022-23: £353,187), resulting in a deficit of £4,139 (2022-23: £37,158 deficit).

At 31 March 2024 total funds were £290,186 (2022-23: £294,323) including £200,106 of unrestricted funds (2022-23: £198,972) and £90,080 of restricted funds (2022-23: £95,531).

**Reserves Policy**

A charity's free reserves are its general unrestricted funds (excluding any element represented by fixed assets) less any funds which have been designated for specific future projects by the Trustees. Details of designated funds are given in note 13 of these financial statements.

The charity's reserves policy is to hold a minimum level of free reserves equivalent to between three and six months expenditure, in order to ensure that any delay in the receipt of income by the charity, caused by the actions of third parties, does not affect the ability of the charity to meet its obligations to its beneficiaries.

As indicated on page 19, note 12, the level of unrestricted reserves as at 31 March 2024 was £200,106 (2022-23: £198,792) which represents approximately 7 months total expenditure. The Trustees regularly review the appropriateness of the reserves policy with regard to the current environment in which the Charity operates and believe the level of reserves to be appropriate.

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE - continued**

**Looking Ahead**

Play at MAPA should always involve changing, immersive and engaging activity and environments driven by the ages, interests and needs of the children, young people and communities we serve. To achieve this we need to enable our team the time and space to explore and develop our play spaces and this needs to be built into our programming and well resourced; something we are beginning to achieve. Play at MAPA should always involve changing, immersive and engaging activity and environments driven by the ages, interests and needs of the children, young people and communities we serve. To achieve this we need to enable our team the time and space to explore and develop our play spaces and this needs to be built into our programming and well resourced; something we are beginning to achieve.

In terms of delivery, we have a number of areas for development over the coming year. Firstly we would like to get out more! We would like to develop an outreach service to support play outside the playground and to be able to offer therapeutic play and Forest Schools in other area's. Engaging in and supporting well thought out and well resourced partnerships will also be key to reaching as many people as possible and sharing what we know.

Our youth team is hugely qualified and experienced and our sessions well attended; we need to better support this through some long term sustainable funding whilst continuing to develop our team to better meet the needs of our communities - by developing skills in outreach and detached youth work amongst other things.

Our SEN specific Inclusion Fusion sessions have continued to be a huge hit this year and the additional term-time session has had fabulous feedback from parents who have not only loved having this dedicated space for their children but who have also reported on the fantastic milestones some of their children have achieved. Moving forward, we need to work to secure these sessions in the longer term as well as finding them a winter home - for many children and young people with SEN-specific needs, the additional change and uncertainty that the weather brings alongside the additional sensory input can be too high for them to manage.

We need to plan and resource for bad weather and enable alternative spaces and activities and shelter. Enabling space outside the main playground will also help us to develop activities alongside our main play sessions and widen our reach.

Underpinning all of this is a need to develop a robust fundraising strategy to sit alongside our forward- thinking budget. Having spent the last 12 months consolidating all of our functions and thinking and establishing a true picture of MAPA, we now need to maximise our fundraising and funding opportunities to enable us to not only continue what we do but to grow it and to reach places we haven't reached before.



**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Charity number**

1171350

**Registered office**

Meriden Adventure Playground Association  
Moorend Avenue  
Chelmsley Wood  
Birmingham  
B37 5TE

**Bankers**

The Co-operative Bank PLC  
1 Balloon Street  
Manchester  
M60 4EP

**Trustees**

Alison Wood  
David Wood  
Jeanette Burrows  
John Freeman  
Lisa Edwards (resigned 18 December 2023)  
Marcus Brain  
Mark Wilson  
Mccallmont Clarke

**Accountants**

SAB Accountancy Services Ltd  
102 Hamstead Road  
Great Barr  
Birmingham  
B43 5BN

**Independent Examiner**

Samantha Jackson  
Pearl Accountancy Services Limited  
61 Bridge Street  
Kington  
HR5 3DJ

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the report of the trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP,
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 10 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Alison Wood  
Trustee

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages' 12 to 24.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Charity are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.
- 4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Samantha Jackson  
Pearl Accountancy Services Limited  
61 Bridge Street  
Kington  
HR5 3DJ

18 September 2024

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association****Statement of Financial Activities  
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)**

		Un- restricted funds	Restricted funds	2023-24 Total funds	2022-23 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	13,849	-	13,849	6,076
Charitable activities	3	30,489	296,676	327,165	306,636
Other trading activities	4	5,092	-	5,092	3,317
<b>Total income</b>		<b>49,430</b>	<b>296,676</b>	<b>346,106</b>	<b>316,029</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Charitable activities	5	47,119	301,934	349,053	351,063
Raising funds	6	997	195	1,192	2,124
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>48,116</b>	<b>302,129</b>	<b>350,245</b>	<b>353,187</b>
<b>Net income/-expenditure</b>		<b>1,314</b>	<b>- 5,451</b>	<b>- 4,139</b>	<b>- 37,158</b>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	12	<b>1,314</b>	<b>- 5,451</b>	<b>- 4,139</b>	<b>- 37,158</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward	12	<b>198,792</b>	<b>95,531</b>	<b>294,323</b>	<b>331,480</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>200,106</b>	<b>90,080</b>	<b>290,186</b>	<b>294,323</b>

**CONTINUING OPERATIONS**

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association****Balance Sheet  
At 31 March 2024**

		Un- restricted funds	Restricted funds	2023-24 Total funds	2022-23 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible Fixed Assets	15	52,204	-	<b>52,204</b>	58,307
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash at bank and in hand		116,816	90,080	<b>206,896</b>	211,725
Debtors	8	38,010	-	<b>38,010</b>	33,625
		<b>154,826</b>	<b>90,080</b>	<b>244,906</b>	<b>245,349</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	6,924	-	<b>6,924</b>	9,333
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS / - LIABILITIES</b>		<b>147,902</b>	<b>90,080</b>	<b>237,982</b>	<b>236,017</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>200,106</b>	<b>90,080</b>	<b>290,186</b>	294,323
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>200,106</b>	<b>90,080</b>	<b>290,186</b>	<b>294,323</b>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>	12				
Unrestricted funds		<b>200,106</b>	-	<b>200,106</b>	198,792
Restricted funds		-	<b>90,080</b>	<b>90,080</b>	95,531
		<b>200,106</b>	<b>90,080</b>	<b>290,186</b>	<b>294,323</b>

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities with respect to the accounting records and the preparation of the accounts.

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year, under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) - in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 the accounts have been examined by an independent examiner whose report appears on page 11;

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 10 September 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Alison Wood  
Trustee

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Legal Status**

The charity was entered onto the Register of Charities of the Charity Commission of England and Wales on 27 January 2017, with registered charity number 1171350.

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements of the charitable entity have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis using the historic cost concept.

**Going Concern assumption**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the charity will continue to operate. The charity's business plan shows that the charity will be able to operate in the foreseeable future. Based on this understanding the director trustees believe that it remains appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. The financial statements do not include any adjustments, which would result from the basis of preparation being inappropriate.

**Charitable Status**

Meriden Adventure Playground Association (MAPA) is a registered charity and is exempt from corporation tax and capital gains tax provided its income and gains are applied for charitable purposes.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then the income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Income from grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.



**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

Income from trading activities includes income earned from the sale of food and drinks. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods, in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement occurs.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to a particular heading they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Expenditure is classified under the following heading:

Expenditure on charitable activities comprise the direct costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity, including grants payable and all associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which expenditure was incurred.

**Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**Creditors**

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event where it is probable that there will be an outflow of economic resources to settle the obligation and where creditors can be estimated or measured reliably.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

**Tangible Fixed Assets**

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of each asset, less its residual value, over its estimated useful economic life. The depreciation charge recognised each year relates to the class of the asset, the rates and classes are as follows:

Playground Equipment - *5 years straight line*

Container Structure - *15 years straight line*

Computer Equipment - *3 years straight line*

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association****Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024****1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued****Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor the year ended 31 March 2023.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor the year ended 31 March 2023 except for reasonable out of pocket expenses.

**2 INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
	£	£	£	£
Donations	13,849	-	13,849	6,076

**3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
	£	£	£	£
Events	19,773	-	19,773	16,833
Grants	10,716	296,676	307,392	289,803
	<u>30,489</u>	<u>296,676</u>	<u>327,165</u>	<u>306,636</u>

**4 INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
	£	£	£	£
Other sales	1,255	-	1,255	1,796
Café sales	3,837	-	3,837	1,521
	<u>5,092</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,092</u>	<u>3,317</u>

## Meriden Adventure Playground Association

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

## 5 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
	£	£	£	£
Accountancy	2,572	1,555	4,127	3,858
Casual Labour	-	4,623	4,623	7,421
Consultancy support	2,978	8,564	11,542	11,475
Depreciation	6,102	-	6,102	6,102
Insurance	19,891	1,526	21,417	20,119
Legal & professional	1,313	2,157	3,470	2,968
Low value tools & equipment	-	409	409	1,254
Office supplies & sundries	773	15,935	16,708	14,788
Play Resources	712	5,965	6,677	17,969
Site Development	1,136	6,463	7,599	5,394
Staff costs	10,190	254,594	264,784	250,270
Training	118	-	118	9,199
Travel	1,334	143	1,477	246
	<b>47,119</b>	<b>301,934</b>	<b>349,053</b>	<b>351,063</b>

## 6 EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
	£	£	£	£
Cost of goods sold	997	195	1,192	2,124

## 7 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
	£	£
Trade creditors	813	659
Accrued expenditure	1,450	1,430
Deferred income	225	-
Taxes and social Security	4,436	7,244
	<b>6,924</b>	<b>9,333</b>

## 8 DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
	£	£
Trade debtors	13,896	13,700
Prepaid expenditure	23,371	19,925
Accrued Income	743	-
	<b>38,010</b>	<b>33,625</b>

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association****Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024****9 STAFF COSTS AND ASSOCIATED EXPENSES**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	264,784	250,270

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Full time	4	3
Part time	12	15

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000

**10 COMMITMENTS**

There were no operating lease payments committed beyond the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**10 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no transactions with related parties in this reporting period.

**11 CONTROLLING INTEREST**

The Charity is controlled by its Trustees.

## Meriden Adventure Playground Association

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

## 12 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance at beginning of year £	Income £	Exp- enditure £	Transfers between funds £	Balance at end of year £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>					
<b>General funds</b>					
General Funds	91,094	49,430	42,319	3,573	101,779
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Fixed assets	57,697	-	5,797	- 3,573	48,327
Site dilapidation	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Service development	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
	<u>107,697</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,797</u>	<u>- 3,573</u>	<u>98,327</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b><u>198,792</u></b>	<b><u>49,430</u></b>	<b><u>48,116</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>200,106</u></b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>					
Airport Community Trust	-	5,000	2,189	-	2,811
Bleed Box	-	500	500	-	-
Children In Need - Next Steps	2,158	-	2,158	-	-
Eveson Trust	-	5,000	2,808	-	2,192
Extractor Fan Fund	-	1,605	1,605	-	-
Grantham Yorke	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
Grimmitt Trust	-	1,200	1,200	-	-
HAF Programme	18,449	52,285	65,364	-	5,370
Heart of England	-	2,500	2,500	-	-
Henry Smith	22,139	50,000	52,664	-	19,475
ICS Fund	-	8,000	2,171	-	5,829
Inclusion Fusion	-	5,130	3,820	-	1,310
LGBTQ+	-	3,135	3,135	-	-
Masonic Charitable Trust	-	5,000	5,000	-	0
National Lottery Reaching Communities	44,890	37,033	70,070	-	11,853
Playday	-	2,003	2,003	-	-
Sheldon Trust	-	8,867	8,867	-	-
SMBC Online System	7,896	-	7,896	-	-
Sport Solihull	-	750	-	-	750
Stellantis	-	493	493	-	-
Trusthouse	-	23,176	23,176	-	-
Tudor Trust	-	80,000	39,509	-	40,491
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<b><u>95,531</u></b>	<b><u>296,676</u></b>	<b><u>302,127</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>90,080</u></b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b><u>294,323</u></b>	<b><u>346,106</u></b>	<b><u>350,243</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>290,186</u></b>

**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**12 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Our **Unrestricted funds** come from public donations or income we generate via a) sale of refreshments, b) entry fees at seasonal community events we run, c) our community swapshop and d) hiring out the playground and our staff to other organisations, including running targeted sessions for groups who cannot access the site in open busier sessions.

Unrestricted funds cover our bills, our day to day expenses and the ongoing repair and maintenance of the site and buildings.

We have **Designated funds** for service development – which includes strategic planning and development and also for site dilapidation so that there are sufficient funds to cover the costs of electricians, plumbers or roofers as required.

The fixed asset fund within **Designated funds** represents funds utilised for the purpose of capital expenditure, depreciation is charged against the designated fund for each asset purchased. Transfers relate to restricted funding used for the purchase of fixed assets.

Funds from **Airport Community Trust** were utilised to to change our playspace and install a slide on-site.

The **Bleed Box** fund was a restricted donation to install a bleed box on the building linked to the site.

Funding from **Children In Need** was used to pay for staffing to support therapeutic, sensory & environmental play.

A grant provided by **Eveson Trust** was used to develop short four week pilots with young people.

The **Extractor Fan Fund** was provided by Solihull MBC to install a much needed extractor in our kitchen.

**Grantham Yorke** provided fundings towards our youth sessions.

A grant provided by **Grimmitt Trust** contributed towards the running costs of the charity.

Funding for the **HAF Programme** was holiday activity funding from Solihull MMB & Bring it on Brum towards our Summer, Easter & Christmas provision (23-24 days in total).

**Heart of England** provided a grant to pay towards resources for playday.

Funding from **Henry Smith** is part of a three year grant towards the running costs of the charity.

**ICS Funding** was provided to the charity towards community connections development work.

Funding for **Inclusion Fusion** was provided to support our specialist SEN sessions.



**Meriden Adventure Playground Association**

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**12 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

**LGBTQ+** funding was provided to MAPA as part of partnership work to support small LGBTQ youth groups.

Funding from the **Mason Charitable Trust** was provided in order to fund our sessional youth work over a three year period.

**National Lottery Reaching Communities** funding is part of a five year grant towards salaries and other running costs.

**Playday** funding is a contribution from YO Solihull (YOBS at the time) for the development and management of Playday 2023.

A grant from the **Sheldon Trust** contributed towards our youth sessions and paid towards the salaries of two of our youth workers.

Funding from Solihull MBC which is referred to in the accounts as **SMBC Online System** was provided to develop our registration system to enable us to report on HAF and access the

Funding from **Sport Solihull** paid for some canoeing sessions for youth to take place before the end of 2024.

**Stellantis** was a restricted donation for circus skills & play equipment.

Funding from **Trusthouse** is part of a three year grant which contributes towards staff salaries.

The **Tudor Trust** awarded MAPA a grant toward the charity's operating costs for a period of three years.

**13 EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS**

The pension costs charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represent the amount of the contributions payable to the schemes in respect of the accounting period.

## Meriden Adventure Playground Association

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 202414 COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Un- restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022-23 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	6,076	-	6,076
Charitable activities	19,799	286,837	306,636
Other trading activities	3,317	-	3,317
<b>Total income</b>	<b>29,192</b>	<b>286,837</b>	<b>316,029</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Charitable activities	47,074	303,989	351,063
Raising funds	2,124	-	2,124
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>49,198</b>	<b>303,989</b>	<b>353,187</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>- 20,006</b>	<b>- 17,152</b>	<b>- 37,158</b>
Transfer between funds	4,866	- 4,866	-
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	213,931	117,549	331,480
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>198,792</b>	<b>95,531</b>	<b>294,323</b>

## 15 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Container Structure £	Office Equipment £	Playground Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1st April 2023	66,087	3,137	3,253	72,477
Additions	-	-	-	-
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<b>66,087</b>	<b>3,137</b>	<b>3,253</b>	<b>72,477</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1st April 2023	11,865	1,046	1,259	14,170
Charge for the year	4,406	1,046	651	6,103
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<b>16,271</b>	<b>2,092</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>20,273</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
At 31 March 2024	<b>49,816</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>1,343</b>	<b>52,204</b>
At 31 March 2023	54,222	2,091	1,994	58,307

## Meriden Adventure Playground Association

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 202417 COMPARATIVE MOVEMENT IN FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Balance at beginning of year £	Income £	Exp- enditure £	Transfers between funds £	Balance at end of year £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>					
<b>General funds</b>					
General Funds	105,303	29,192	43,401	-	91,094
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Fixed assets	58,628	-	5,797	4,866	57,697
Site dilapidation	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Service development	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
	<u>108,628</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,797</u>	<u>4,866</u>	<u>107,697</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b><u>213,931</u></b>	<b><u>29,192</u></b>	<b><u>49,198</u></b>	<b><u>4,866</u></b>	<b><u>198,792</u></b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>					
Trusthouse	7,413	23,176	30,589	-	-
Active Wellbeing	1,000	-	1,000	-	-
National Lottery	-	71,749	26,859	-	44,890
Henry Smith	26,258	50,000	54,120	-	22,139
Tudor Trust	20,034	-	20,034	-	-
Sport England	9,185	-	8,279	- 906	-
Grantham Yorke	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
Children In Need - Next Steps	23,548	53,333	74,724	-	2,158
HS2	464	5,774	4,101	- 2,137	-
VRU	3,695	-	3,695	-	-
HAF Programme	19,070	54,042	52,840	- 1,823	18,449
Masonic CT	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
Harry Payne Fund	-	2,000	2,000	-	-
SMBC Online System	-	7,896	-	-	7,896
Ironmongers	5,000	-	5,000	-	-
Sheldon Trust	1,882	8,867	10,749	-	-
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<b><u>117,549</u></b>	<b><u>286,837</u></b>	<b><u>303,989</u></b>	<b><u>- 4,866</u></b>	<b><u>95,531</u></b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b><u>331,480</u></b>	<b><u>316,029</u></b>	<b><u>353,187</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>294,323</u></b>