Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	South Oxford Adventure Playground (SOAP)		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1157509
Set out on pages	1 & 2		

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for 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 Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

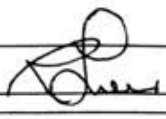
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

   have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:		**Date:**	9 October 2026
Name:	R Smith		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):			
Address:	5 The Ley Woodstock Oxon OX20 1UX		

South Oxford Adventure Playground (SOAP)
Balance Sheet at 31st December 2025

			2025	2024
Current Assets				
	Cash		£50.00	£0.00
	Balance at Barclays		£27,808.73	£38,502.51
	Balance in Paypal account		£0.00	£0.00
	Balance in Zettle account		£0.00	£676.39
	Total Current Assets		£27,858.73	£39,178.90
	Debtors			
		Guides Summer and Autumn site hire	£1,050.00	
		OCC Fostering	£60.00	
	Total Current Debtors		£1,110.00	
	Creditors			
		Kai Tabacek Expenses		£65.71
		Naomi Waite Expenses	£700.50	£307.14
		FIRST AID ACADEMY		£720.00
		Wages and NI (Dec 24)		£247.33
		DEC Electrical	£147.00	£96.60
		Jim Mellor Expenses	£129.46	
		Megan Expenses	£459.73	
		OCVA Grant for 2025		£12,000.00
		Community Insight Profile Grant (2026 allocation)	£2,663.50	
	Total Current Liabilities		£4,100.19	£13,436.78
Net Assets			**£24,868.54**	**£25,742.12**
Represented by:				
Accumulated Fund				
	Balance b/fwd		£25,742.11	£34,239.90
	Surplus/Deficit (-) of Income over Expenditure		-£873.58	-£8,497.79
	Balance c/fwd		£24,868.53	£25,742.11

Memorandum

Restricted Funds

Summer Playscheme 2025 £12,000 Grant received in 2024 (see Creditors) and fully spent in 2025

Community Insight Profile Grant £5,327 received in 2025 for years 2025 and 2026. £2663.50 spent in 2025

Designated Funds		
Reserves	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Building & Grounds Contingency Fund	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Contingency Fund	£4,000.00	£4,000.00
	£12,000.00	£12,000.00
Unrestricted Funds	£12,868.53	£13,742.11
Total Funds	**£24,868.53**	**£25,742.11**

Restricted Funds:

Summer Playscheme 2026	Oxford Community Insight Profile Grant Funding

Designated Funds:

Reserves	To cover the utilities, services and winding up costs that would be required if SOAP were to cease its activities.
Building & Grounds Contingency Fund	To cover any repairs or improvements to the premises and grounds.
Contingency Fund	To protect the organisation against predicted reductions in funding, particularly (but not exclusively) to be spent on payroll to protect core activities.

South Oxford Adventure Playground (SOAP)
Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ending 31st December 2025

		2025	2024
Income			
	Grants		
	Oxford City Council		£500.00
	Oxford City Council - Community Insight Profile Grant	£2,663.50	
	Woodward Trust	£1,000.00	
	OVCA Well Together grant	£12,000.00	
	Oxfordshire County Council - Councillor Priority Fund	£500.00	
	Lettings of Site	£13,983.00	£12,438.70
	Onsite donations	£3,217.45	£1,003.33
	Online donations	£3,770.67	£6,947.91
	Institutional donations	£1,500.00	£2,700.00
	Event sales and Miscellaneous	£9,569.94	£12,586.43
	Total Income	**£48,204.56**	**£36,176.37**
Expenditure			
	Staff		
	Wages and Employer's NI	£32,170.43	£26,314.23
	Pensions	£64.07	£59.59
	Payroll	£699.10	£511.00
	Staff Training	£781.07	£1,006.00
	DBS Checks	£700.50	£116.00
	Site rental and maintenance		
	Insurance (includes employee and public liability)	£4,108.29	£3,315.95
	Equipment	£207.00	£1,885.74
	Refuse Collection	£0.00	£0.00
	Telephone	£24.64	£18.48
	Electricity	£940.22	£806.22
	Rates	£517.85	£262.52
	Rent	£5.00	£5.00
	Hut and site expenses	£3,454.75	£2,542.94
	Materials (play & domestic)	£609.51	£333.92
	Activities	£16.99	£298.66
	Website	£129.46	£147.67
	Fundraising costs	£4,366.10	£6,483.43
	Account charges	£233.16	£315.78
	Refunds	£50.00	£150.00
	Sundry payments	£0.00	£101.03
	Total Expenditure	**£49,078.14**	**£44,674.16**
	Surplus/Deficit (-) of Income over Expenditure	**-£873.58**	**-£8,497.79**

South Oxford Adventure Playground
Annual Report 2025 (January – December 2025)
CIO Reg Number: 1157509
Address: Whitehouse Road, Oxford, OX1 4QH

INTRODUCTION
South Oxford Adventure Playground (SOAP) is a volunteer-run charity that provides a well-loved adventure playground for local children and those from further afield. Our ethos focuses on giving children the space to enjoy adventurous, outdoor, and child-led play where they can take risks and explore nature safely. We offer free, open-access sessions after school and during school holidays from Easter to October, meaning children can come and go as they please. SOAP also runs a popular weekly youth club for 11–15 year olds. All sessions are run by our team of trained play and youth workers, ensuring a safe and supportive environment.

Trustees on date when the report was approved: Naomi Waite, Megan Douthwaite, Phil Doubtfire

Committee on date when report was approved: Naomi Waite (Chair), John Appleby-Alis (Treasurer), Kai Tabacek, Sophie Bowell, Megan Douthwaite, Cath Unia, Emily Sharp

Reserves policy: £3,000 shall be kept in reserve, for emergency repairs/renovations and to cover 3 month's running costs for utilities and services.

The charity's trustees have had due regard to the Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Purpose according to SOAP's constitution: To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of children and young people in the St Ebbe's, Grandpont and New Hinksey area of the city of Oxford who have need of such facilities with the object of improving their conditions of life.

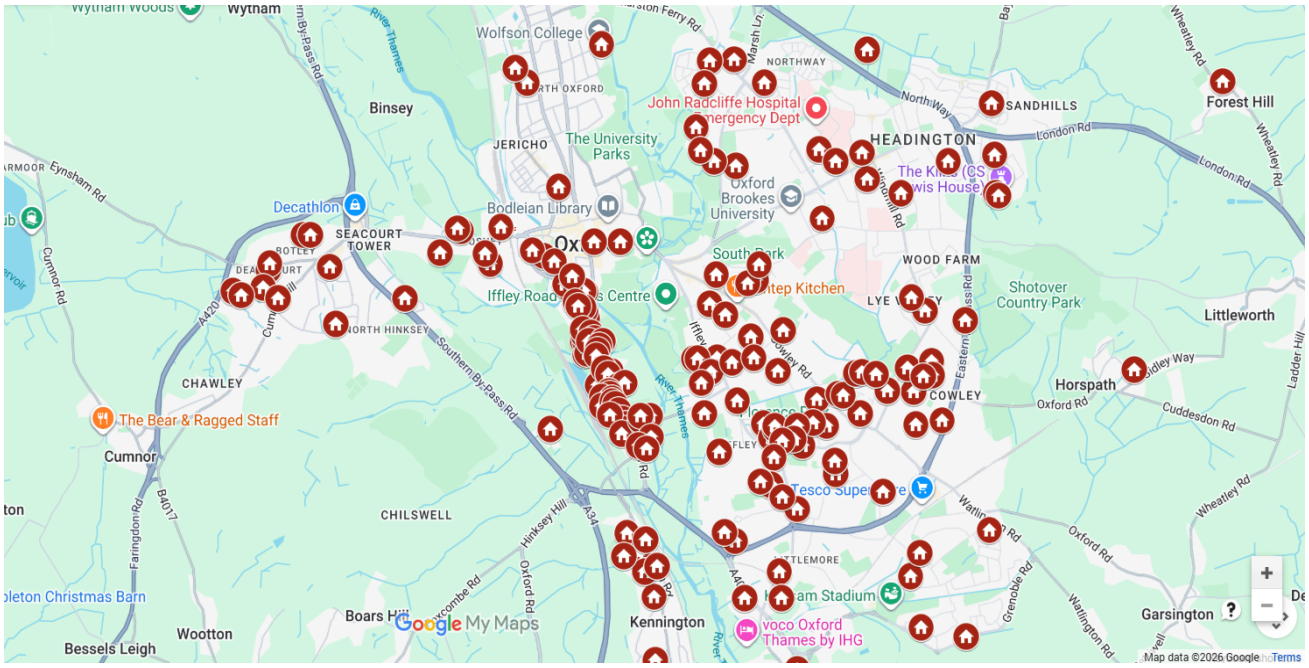
Changes to the management committee & trustees in 2025: Emily Sharp and Sophie Bowell stood down from the committee at the end of the year.

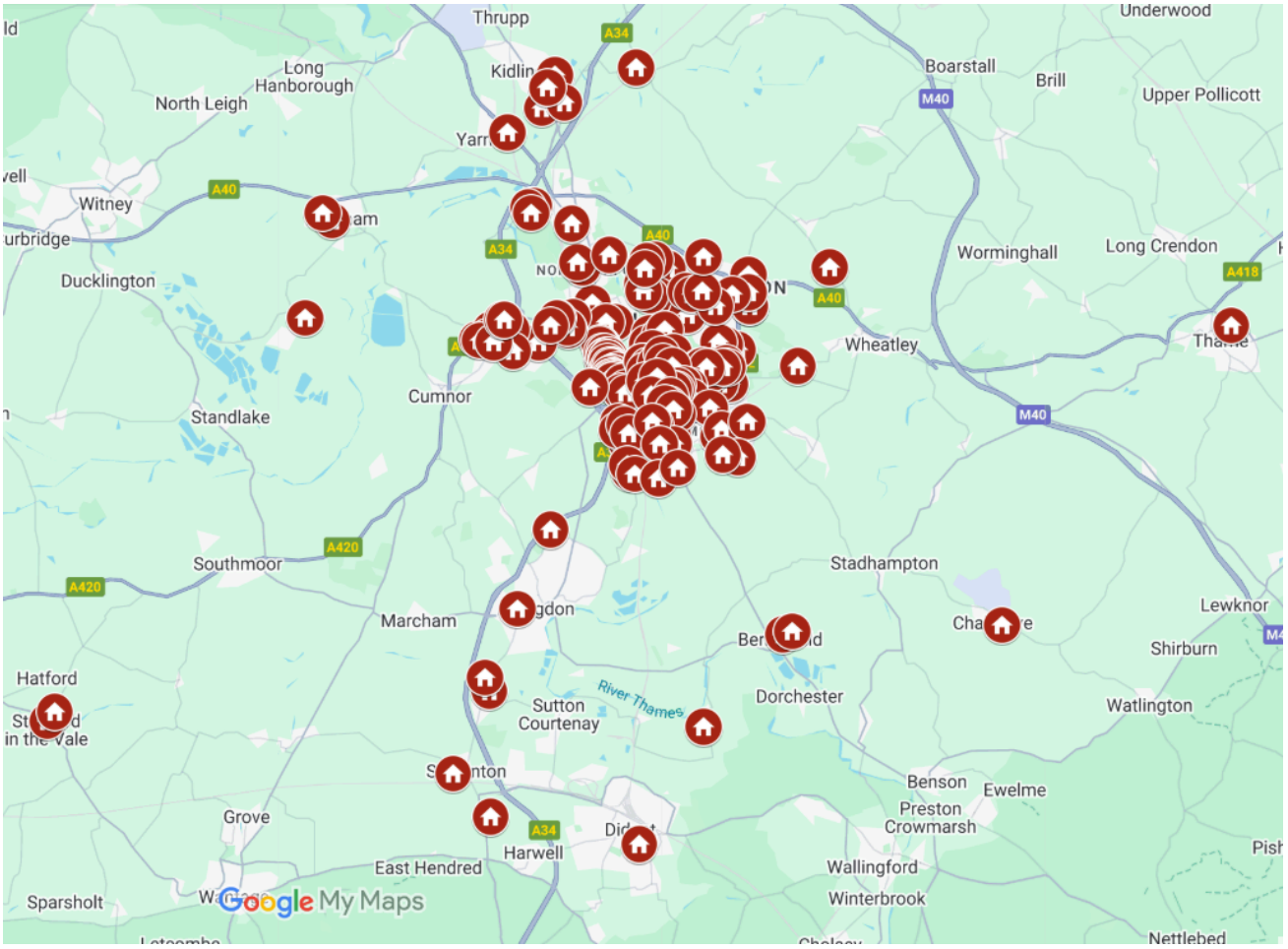
USE OF SOAP IN 2025
SOAP provided free, inclusive, supervised, adventurous outdoor play and activities for a total of 84 days in 2025. 523 children and young people aged 7 and above registered through the year. In total there were 3,294 child visits, of which 2,026 (62%) were by registered children and young people aged 7-15 years. Twenty percent of visits by 7+ year olds were accompanied by a parent or carer; and 18% were by children under 7 years accompanied by a parent/carer. Young people came from across Oxford, Oxfordshire and the United Kingdom as the visuals below show.

Most sessions fell between April and October, but Youth Club for Year 7s and upwards ran year round including during the Summer holidays. SOAP opened on Thursdays and Fridays after school before the

Summer holidays and on Fridays after, and ran holiday playschemes in the Easter Holidays (5 days), Summer Half Term (4 days), Summer Holidays (20 days), October Half Term (2 day).

Children visited us from across the city and beyond…





Special Events & Activities:

- Local coffee business Wide Awake Club joined for our after school sessions giving a percentage of their proceeds to SOAP. In the Autumn term after school hosted Camp Fire Fridays.
- An Easter Egg hunt proved popular during the Easter holidays
- We pioneered themed weeks throughout the Summer Playscheme to give some structure to the playworkers and variety to the kids who come every day whilst maintaining our commitment to free, child led play.



- Pumpkin carving at our Halloween opening has become a regular fixture.

Oxford City Schools & Community groups:

SOAP has provided Oxford City schools within the ring road free access to the site since 2018. We continued this through 2025 and 5 city primary schools were able to take advantage of this. The schools were St Nicholas, North Hinksey, New Hinksey, St Barnabas and St Ebbes. Other organizations with regular or one off paid sessions at SOAP included the Guides, Home Education, Oxford Legal Walk, Parasol, Kennington Youth Club, OASIS, Bloxham Grove School, Autism Mentors, 1st Osney Brownies, Social Services, Woodcraft Folk, Kingfisher School Abingdon and South Oxford Family Room.

Weekend and evening private hire:

There were 71 weekend and after school private hires between March – October. This compares with 70 in 2024, 103 in 2023, 124 in 2022, 70 in 2021 and 105 in 2019. This is comparable to last year but represents a considerable decrease from 2023 perhaps explained by the cost of living crisis, reduction in the number of children living in the area and poor weather at the beginning of the season.

FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

- Our annual ROSPA inspection identified that the ramp leading up to the hut was in need of fairly urgent repair, a significant and costly job that we undertook at the beginning of 2026. Megan Douthwaite dealt with the other necessary repairs throughout the year with support from local volunteers.

STAFFING

- Management of the playschemes throughout the year continued to be fulfilled by Michelle Keeler and over the Summer playscheme this was shared with long time playworker and local resident Saskia Cookson. Both were trained as Designated Safeguarding Leads to ensure there was always an onsite safeguarding lead.

- We took on some good new playworkers and were pleased to have a good number of staff returning from previous years. New staff included: Harry Foster, Otis Jarvis and George Lambert.

- We secured two years of funding from the Community Insight Profile Fund to host two apprenticeships from the County Council's Central Oxford priority area. The were Lewis Hart and Diane Ogbonna who were both great assets to the team and Lewis has continued working as a playworker at SOAP.

FUNDRAISING

- Grant funding: Community Insight Profile Fund, Well Together, County Councillor Priority Fund, Woodward Trust
- Donations: Jesus College, Magdalen College, New College, Trinity College, St Johns College, All Souls
- Income from site lettings included an increased number of schools and community groups
- SOAP hosted two successful fundraising events: Summer S(DR)izzle to coincide with the end of the Family Room Triathlon and the Christmas Tree Sale with added bicycle deliveries for 2025.
- We set up an Amazon Gift List for Summer Playscheme supplies which was very successful!





CONSIDERATIONS AND LEARNING

- Consider how to attract a wider range of active volunteers to the committee and make sure the position of Secretary and Chair is filled.
- Consider how to ensure grant fundraising returns to normal levels or explore additional streams of income to safeguard SOAP's future.
- Consider how to raise money for significant future capital costs in the event that the play equipment and/ or hut becomes unusable.
- Learn from the experience of having two Managers running the scheme and continue to nurture staff to ensure there is a good pipeline of future Senior Playworkers and Managers.
- Continue to develop and fine tune the registration app and SOAP's shared drive and calendar
- Continue to develop the use of the wood and consider how it can be incorporated more fully into the wider site.
- Continue to regularly monitor the proportion of unaccompanied children, those aged 7+, children accompanied by adults, and the proportion under 7.
- Explore options to better serve priority target groups, including strategies to increase access for over 7s. This should include how to improve the quality of age appropriate child-led free play and activities.

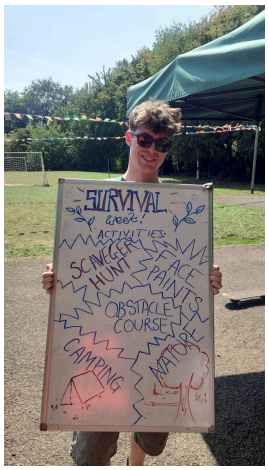
THANK YOUs

Thank you to our community, donors, and to all the volunteers who have made SOAP work this year with particular mentions for Megan Douthwaite, Phil Doubtfire, John Appleby-Alis, Kai Tabacek, Sophie Bowell, Emily Sharp, Tamar Shirley, Cath Unia, Graham Cowgill.








SURVIVAL
ACTIVITIES
SCAVENGER HUNT
FACE PAINTS
OBSTACLE COURSE
CAMPING








SAP










SNAP