

# Oasis annual report 2006





## Aims and objectives

Oasis Children's Venture provides facilities for recreation and other leisure-time occupations for school-aged children in the London Borough of Lambeth and neighbouring areas.

These facilities are available for such children with needs, by reason of their youth, poverty and economic circumstances, and seek to improve the quality of their lives by promoting their physical, social and emotional well-being.

## Chair's report

This last year, thanks to the Heritage project, Oasis has had a chance to rummage around in the attic and take stock of our past and our legacy to the local community.

We've been in the Stockwell area for over thirty years; long enough to be welcoming the children of children that once attended our activities in the early 1970s. Friendships have been formed in the mud at the nature garden, in the queue for the swing at the adventure playground and under the rumble of races at the karting track.

A recent survey\* from the Children's Society revealed that 69% of adult respondents said they were still in touch with a least one friend from their childhood. Among the children that contributed to the survey, a significant number said that friends were the most important things in their lives.

Thirty years on, Oasis are proud to be offering children neighbourhood play-sites that are open-access, free to enter and the ideal place to make friends to last a lifetime.

**Bella Caridade-Ferreira, Chairperson**

\* Source: The Good Childhood Inquiry, The Children's Society June 2007

## Director's report

As most annual reports will tell you, 'it's been a great year with much achieved by a committed team' and this annual report is not much different in that respect.

Our small team are committed to their work, committed to the organisation's environmental ethos and of course committed to the young people that view Oasis as a safe place to play and to make friends. Examples of great team work over the last twelve months have included;

- The Nature Garden team who all went well beyond the call of duty this February by taking a group of young environmentalists on a residential week to the Peak District and, in doing so, testing their sleep-deprivation limits.
- The karting team who worked through wet weather lugging slug-strewn tyres around the track as they revamped their site.
- The Cycle Project staff who have developed a team of young footballers that are making a name for themselves as the side to watch in the borough.

It is worth mentioning here that it is not just paid members of the team that continue to give so much. Oasis is headed up by a team of volunteers that form our management committee and who offer solid support and valuable wisdom for the princely reward of a couple of biscuits and a cup of juice at our regular committee meetings.

And we have achieved much these last twelve months. Prestigious Lottery and European Union funding has been secured to run new projects on our three play sites. The London Borough of Lambeth has shown their regard for our work by continuing to maintain our core funding [a full list of funders can be found at the back of the report]. As you'll read later, Oasis has begun a heritage project, tracking down the roots of the organisation and of the neighbourhood to create a lasting archive. Motorized karting has returned with new, quieter, cleaner-fuelled karts and the track has been redesigned to make it more exciting while incorporating state of the art safety mechanisms.

It has been a great year. As I discovered when I joined the team to cover Joanne Brown's maternity leave, Oasis has got deep roots in this community and it's a community that increasingly needs projects like Oasis to offer young people a space where respect is key - respect for themselves, for each other, for their ideas, beliefs and values, for the community and for the environment.

Oasis has always been what the community has needed it to be. We will continue to adapt to meet that need and in doing so, have many more 'great years with much achieved by a committed team'.

**Paul Hocker, Director**





## The nature garden

During 2006 the Oasis Children's Nature Garden opened its gate to 3,452 children. We now have a membership of 250 children and 12 primary schools have visited since Oct 07. The main users of the project are children between the ages of 5 - 13 years old living in the area of Stockwell.

The aim of the Children's Nature Garden is to provide environmental education and environmental play to children living in the London Borough of Lambeth and surrounding areas. The garden is a special place for many children who do not have access to a green space and the variety of services available in the garden help children explore their physical environment through play.

The nature garden is a carefully managed site and the children visiting the garden can enjoy a wide range of habitats including three ponds, a wildflower meadow, nectar garden, raised beds, cottage garden, vegetable patches, vegetable patches, greenhouses and a sensory trail. This year we have developed a new soft fruit area and a new rainwater irrigation system for the ponds. The garden promotes nature conservation and the children visiting the garden are actively engaged in protecting wildlife as well as learning about recycling and sustainability, new gardening and horticultural skills. **The nature garden has been designated a level 1 site of borough importance for nature conservation.**

**The Environmental Play project is open Tuesday – Saturday, throughout the year.** The project enables children to experience a vast range of activities focusing on learning about and exploring the natural environment. Seasonal activities included bird identification, hibernation, life cycles, propagation of seeds, harvesting the vegetable patches, planting and pond dipping, spring watch, snail races, minibeast hunts, plant sales and environmental arts and crafts. Throughout the year activities also focus on recycling, sustainability and conservation. This year the Saturday nature club has been extremely popular, with many families enjoying and relaxing in the beautiful green space.

**A new addition to our services this year includes the education programme for primary schools.** Many school groups now visit the garden and take part in workshops, focusing on the national curriculum key stage 1 and 2 in Science. The aim of these workshops are to enhance primary school children's knowledge of science and to provide a "living classroom" and "hands on" opportunity for school children to see science in action.

Other new projects at the nature garden include an **Under 5s group for parents, carers and toddlers, one morning a week during summer time.** We have also started a new **Heritage Project** involving children and the local community in exploring the history, cultural identity and heritage of the nature garden and the local area of Stockwell.

**'Oasis have the best wild flower meadow in Lambeth'**

**London Wildlife trust**

Other highlights over the last year include:

- A 3-day environmental holiday to the Peak District for 11 children involving caving, cycling, rock climbing and walking.
- A 1-day Mosaic workshop.
- 5 day summer camping holiday to Surrey.
- 35 children involved in a Healthy eating project exploring composting, developing the soft fruit area, great vegetable give away days and plant sales.
- BBC film workshop.
- Half term trips to the natural history museum, the Wetlands Centre, Hampstead Heath, Lambeth Play Day and Epping Forest.
- Summer and Easter play schemes for local children and also for visiting playgroups to take part in focused environmental workshops.

**Jennifer Hindmoor, Nature Garden Manager**





## The heritage project

Following the award of a £16,300 grant by The Heritage Lottery Fund, Oasis has begun a project documenting our 35-year relationship with the Stockwell area.

Titled 'The Hidden History of Oasis,' the project involves archiving a substantial body of photographs and engaging local children in themes of heritage and local history via trips, activities and workshops.

The children will also be involved in making a booklet and short film about the Oasis Nature Garden. Staff at the Lambeth Archives have already expressed an interest in taking any resulting documents.

Did you know? Oasis is no stranger to television; in 1985 the Nature Garden was the site of a "mini-beast hunt" featured on the children's show 'Zig Zag,' while in 1993 an episode of ITV's 'The Bill' was filmed on location at Thessaly Playspace.

**Matt Brindley, Heritage Project Worker**





## The cycle and activity centre

In October 2006 I was appointed manager for the cycle project with a brief to develop a Young People's Project as funded by the Big Lottery.

The aim of the Young People's Project was to consult young people aged 12 – 18 and provide them with the facilities, equipment, knowledge and skills to run their own project including workshops and trips. The objectives also met the Every Child Matters agenda.

In November the Young People's Project kicked off with a successful launch party on Bonfire Night. Sessions for the 12 – 18-year-olds followed shortly after in January on Wednesday afternoons and more recently also on Saturday mornings.

Activities have included:

- Digital photography
- 5-a-side football team
- Youth Forum
- Youth Magazine
- Bicycle maintenance
- Bicycle proficiency
- Home work class

The Cycle Project team have also developed:

- A partnership with the Youth Offending Team re-started with structured workshops and certificates awarded for successful workshop attendance.
- Under 12s a homework class and arts & crafts started in February
- A girl's cycling club started practising cycle proficiency in Larkhall Park funded by London Cycling Campaign.
- New football 5-a-side teams that have taken part in several local tournaments (after ending quarter finalists, they now want to move into the first league).

During the year 2006/07 we have counted a total attendance of 3288 children + 616 during Easter.

**Philippe Montout, Cycle Project Manager**

## The karting project

2006 has been a year of exciting changes at the Karting Project. As a result of securing European ERDF Funding we are able to restart motorised karting.

We have also established a working relationship with Ilderton Motor Project which has taken over the Lambeth Motorcycle workshops with the aim of establishing a certificated series of karting workshops for older youths. We aim to use the Ilderton workshops to do the majority of the servicing of the new Oasis karts with the being carried out by the keen and the willing.

The spin off from this arrangement will be that the racing karts maintained during these sessions will be taken out to a commercial track to be raced on practice days. Only drivers who have reached a high level of driving aptitude will be able to do this, as the speeds involved are considerable greater than at the Oasis track.

During September and October we ran a pilot series of workshops with the older members of Oasis that resulted in three karts being stripped and rebuilt.

The karting team has also taken on the refurbishment of the workshop (now an activity room) and track. The track proved a massive challenge with thousands of tyres needing to be sorted, matched and removed and carried out during inhospitable winter weather.

Large areas were cleared of the debris from years of plant occupation and annual leaf fall during the Autumn. A hardy eco-system, including worms that were seemingly capable of burrowing up through tarmac, was carefully removed and placed into pots.

Big, fat modern tyres were brought in by the minibus load and then tied and bolted together with deflective banding (recycled coal mining conveyer belts) and bolted to the track side of these barriers. The work progressed into a complex arrangement of barriers which got more complicated at every step of the way.

The result has been to create a track which will be exciting and fast but at the same time playing a huge roll in controlling the driving and reducing the likelihood of serious impact, particularly for the younger drivers.

Pedal karting has continued in popularity although not reaching as many older kids as motorised did. The playschemes have been oversubscribed with bookings from Community groups from all over Lambeth that have regularly used us.

The karting track continues to draw young people away from their playstations and into either frantically pedalled karts or the new motorised karts offering them exciting challenges as well as the obvious social benefits of coming to the project.

### Malcolm Brebner, Karting Manager



## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2006

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2006 Total Funds £	2005 Total Funds £
<b>Incoming resources:</b>				
Incoming Resources from generated funds:				
Voluntary Income	99,083	250	99,333	160,971
Investment Income	-	7	7	7
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities	72,697	-	72,697	125,631
Other Incoming Resources	305	3,407	3,712	3,542
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>172,085</b>	<b>3,664</b>	<b>175,749</b>	<b>290,151</b>
<b>Resources expended:</b>				
<b>Charitable Expenditure</b>				
Charitable Activities	194,098	-	194,098	260,011
Governance Costs	-	2,850	2,850	2,000
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>194,098</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>196,948</b>	<b>262,011</b>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	(22,013)	814	(21,199)	28,140
Management Charge	(513)	513	0	0
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	(22,525)	1,327	(21,199)	28,140
<b>Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2005</b>	<b>58,495</b>	<b>6,828</b>	<b>65,323</b>	<b>37,183</b>
<b>Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2006</b>	<b>35,970</b>	<b>8,155</b>	<b>44,124</b>	<b>65,323</b>
<b>Balance Sheet at 31 March 2006</b>				
			2006 £	2005 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors			7,922	30,259
Prepayments			1,368	2,306
Cash in Hand and at Bank			47,691	46,964
			56,981	79,529
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Creditors			(9,275)	(5,518)
Deferred Income			(3,582)	(8,688)
Net Current Assets			44,124	65,323
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<b>44,124</b>	<b>65,323</b>
<b>Funds</b>				
Unrestricted Funds			8,155	6,828
Restricted Funds			35,969	58,495
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>44,124</b>	<b>65,323</b>

The Management Committee has agreed to a policy of developing the organisation's reserves to 10% of its total income over the next two years. The Management Committee has assessed the organisation's policies, structure and financial procedures. The Committee recognises the significant demands of fundraising over the next year and has the expectation that previous success will continue in the future.

## Staff and committee members

<b>Management Committee</b> <b>Chairperson</b> Bella Caridade Ferreira, <b>Vice Chairperson</b> Musa Garba, <b>Company Secretary</b> Simon Pring, <b>Treasurer</b> Cathy Harvey Tim Bowker, Mary Edwards, Hen Boxer, Leah McNally <b>Special non voting advisor</b> Colin Leggatt <b>President</b> Andrew Sawdon				
<b>Director</b> Paul Hocker, Joanne Brown (maternity leave)				
<b>Karting Project Manager</b> Malcolm Brebner	<b>Environmental Project Manager</b> Jenny Hindmoor	<b>Cycle and Youth Project Manager</b> Phillipe Montout		<b>Finance Manager</b> Aaron Obelley
<b>Senior Karting Youth Worker</b> David Grant (David is acting up to cover maternity leave)	<b>Gardener</b> Stuart Barber <b>Education worker</b> Eva Hernandez Garay <b>Heritage Project</b> Matt Brindley <b>Senior Environmental</b> Pedro Leitao De Sousa	<b>Senior Cycle Youth Worker</b> Michael Small	<b>Volunteer Coordinator</b> Olimpia Pabian	<b>Bookkeeper</b> Alan Chitty
<b>Karting Youth Workers</b> Chimaraoke Ammajouyi Edward Gordon Mark Fearon	<b>Environmental Playleaders</b> Angi Richards Sandra Ronca Rita Grant Stuart Barber	<b>Cycle Youth Workers</b> Nathaniel Mallett Edward Gordon Simone Addison Rebecca Frampton	<b>Volunteers</b> Samantha Frampton (Karting volunteer) Pascale Pressicaud	

## Donors and funding partners

The London Borough of Lambeth  
 Education Business Partnership  
 European Regional Development Fund  
 Stockwell Urban II  
 The Bridge House Trust  
 The Peter Minet Trust  
 Hyde Southbank Homes  
 Lambeth Endowed Charities  
 The Walter St John Educational Charity  
 The Ernest Cook Charitable Trust  
 Help a London Child  
 The Rufford Foundation  
 Lambeth Endowed Charities  
 Sir Walter St John

Lambeth Children's Fund  
 The Big Lottery Fund  
 Awards for All  
 The Hilden Charitable Trust  
 The St James Charitable Trust  
 The Filton Trust  
 Sports Relief  
 Home Office  
 BBC Children in Need  
 Ernest Cook Charitable Trust  
 Awards for All  
 Heritage Lottery Fund

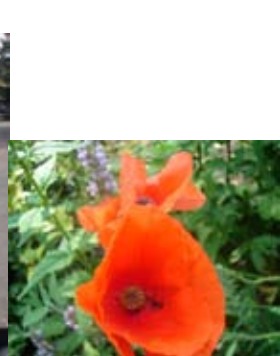
## Donate

Oasis Children's Venture provides facilities for recreation and other leisure-time occupations for school aged children in the London Borough of Lambeth and neighbouring areas.

To help us continue our work with these children we need financial support. Whatever you can give, either personally, or by persuading your organisation to sponsor or make a donation, will help us to do even more in the future.

Please call 020 7720 4276  
or email [info@oasisplay.org.uk](mailto:info@oasisplay.org.uk)  
to find out how you can support us.





### Cycle and Young People's Project

21-60 Priory Grove  
Stockwell  
London SW8 2PD  
020 7627 3793  
cycleproject@oasisplay.org.uk  
Contact: Philippe Montout

Wednesday 4 – 7pm  
Thursday 4 – 7pm  
Saturday 2 – 5pm

Age range 5 – 18

Activities – Football under (over 12's), BMX track, Photography, Art, Adventure playground, Cycling proficiency, bike maintenance,

Note some activities are age appropriate with some designated for young people aged 12 – 18 years such as the Youth forum and Youth magazine.

### Karting Track

30-32 Priory Grove  
Stockwell  
London SW8 2PD  
020 7720 6939  
karting@oasisplay.org.uk  
Contact: Malcolm Brebner

Wednesday 4:30 – 6:30pm  
(Girl's night)  
Thursday 4:30 – 6:30pm  
(Visiting groups)  
Friday 4:30 – 6:30pm  
(13 – 18 years)  
Saturday 10:30 – 12:30pm  
(Visiting groups)  
Saturday 2:30 – 4:30pm  
(8 – 12 years)

Activities – motorized and pedal karts, karting maintenance

### Nature Garden

Corner of Larkhall Lane and Studley Road  
London SW4  
020 7498 2329  
heritage@oasisplay.org.uk  
Contact: Jennifer Hindmoor

Tuesday 3:30 – 5:30pm  
– Friday (Afterschool clubs)  
Friday 10:30 – 12:30  
(Under 5's accompanied by parent/carer, Summer)  
Saturday 10 – 3:30pm  
(families welcome)

Age range: 5 and above

Activities environmentally theme arts, crafts, play and games.

All three sites run playschemes during school holidays. Check the website for dates or email info@oasisplay.org.uk