

Shrewsbury House Annual Report 2014



Ex club member, Nathan Stanton puts the finishing touches to a wall painting commissioned for the Club's 110th anniversary celebrations. The painting covers the back club wall and is 10 metres long by 3 m high and very impressive. The Rev. Digby Kittermaster, founder of the club in 1903 is depicted in grey outline on the left and the picture picks out other club stalwarts against the background of the now demolished old club at Portland Place.

Report of the Chair of the Board of Management

We are in good health and do thank all of our faithful supporters for their continuing generosity and commitment. The Shewsy is flourishing, whilst so many other Youth Work outlets, both here across Merseyside and all over the country have suffered wholesale cutbacks, closure and redundancy. We are very grateful. We have had to continue to make tough decisions, tough choices to get our finances in order, but this we have done and, coupled with an increase in giving from individuals, our draft accounts for 2013 – 2014 show a balanced set of books and the elimination of the deficit position shown in the previous years' accounts.

We have implemented a number of the positive recommendations contained in the review of the link between Shrewsbury School and Shrewsbury House and this has been of mutual benefit. In particular we have reviewed the Social Studies courses made available to the school's lower – sixth pupils, adding one extra course, raising the profile of the opportunity within the school and addressing the curriculum of each course to bring it into line with required learning. The feedback from both pupils and staff over the five courses held since October 2013 has been almost unanimously full of praise and gratitude for insights gained and contact made. Except of course for the beds !

Ah beds, just one of the many items of the centre's fabric and fittings which are fading fast. As we have had to cut our cloth, we have sought to protect our people service and sacrifice the need for new beds and baths ! We currently have no caretaker, almost impossible in a building of our size and complexity, and we really do emergency repairs only. We plan on changing this, but would ask our overnight guests to bear with us as we seek the further funds we need to take us forward.

Our Trustees, meeting annually in September, made changes last year which will, for the first time see us holding a formal Annual General Meeting on Monday 22 September 2014. This will be followed by a Board of Management meeting and the whole occasion contained within an Open Day from 4.00 p.m.at which any supporter, or ex staff, hostel or club member is welcome to

attend. Please do make a note of the date and time and feel free to attend.

We have marked two birthdays in the past 12 months. The club was founded in November 1903 and we had a week's long parties and events to celebrate that in fine style. And the St Peter's and Shrewsbury House centre is now 40 years old and our birthday party last Sunday was a fine occasion reminding us of the tough times endured and the very good place we are in currently. Above all, that health is gauged by our relationships, with our Maker, founders and ancestors, with our children, young people and each other, with our community and city. And with our supporters. Thanks again.

John Hutchison, Chair, Board of Management



The cake festival in November was a great success

Report of the Club's Team Leader

One of the most rewarding aspects of youth work is witnessing young people develop and grow in self-belief and confidence, make better informed decisions and make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live. We often don't give enough credence to the many successful outcomes of youth work

intervention. Perhaps this is because our energies are focussed on the challenges that current members face in their transition from child to young person and young person to adult.

We don't dwell on previous successes for fear of taking our eye off the "here and now" and are ever mindful of the ones who have slipped through the net - but it is important that the positive stories are acknowledged and learnt from. The progression of Michael Duffy from an angry, anti-authoritarian (and by his own admission) quite disrespectful youth, to a talented, well-respected youth worker epitomises the ethos and culture of Shrewsbury House. I interviewed Michael to gain his perspective on his journey so far and the impact the club has had on him.

Dave B: Michael, you have a long association with Shrewsbury House. When did this begin and how did it come about?

Michael D: I first came to the club when I was four. My sisters and ma used to come so that's why I did.

DB: What are your earliest memories of the club?

MD: I used to enjoy circle time with the then junior club leader Maureen Veney. Everyone got a chance to speak and tell some good news and Maureen was a great play leader.

DB: What sort of a member were you?

MD: A nuisance, a ragamuffin – quite disrespectful actually. I was told I was barred for life on a couple of occasions.

DB: Why? What sort of things did you get up to?

MD: One time the annual trip to Shrewsbury School was taking place and I was barred from going. I'd already been excluded from the previous three trips so I decided if I wasn't going no one was. As the coach was about to leave the club for the school I was trying to slash the tyres. Frank Kenny had to pull me away so the coach could leave. I was 14 at the time.

DB: Why did you keep coming?

MD: I loved it. When I was in junior club the summer play scheme was always brilliant with lots of trips and activities. In senior club it was the footy. Sometimes we would play for two hours and there was the odd skirmish – I hated getting beat at anything.

DB: Why were you so angry?

MD: I disliked authority and hated getting challenged. I would just get defensive and blame other people for my behaviour.

DB: Do you see similar behaviour that you displayed as a young person in any of our current members.

MD: Yes. You can see some of them don't have respect for authority – like I was.

DB: How do you deal with that?

MD: Smack em ! No I'm only messing. I try not to be like “what I say goes” I ask questions and try to get them to take ownership of their behaviour.

DB: How much has the club had an influence on your life?

MD: It's had an enormous impact on my life. Some of my friends became involved in crime and I may have done also if it wasn't for the role models at the club who influenced my thinking. I've had some fantastic experiences which would not have been possible had I not attended the Shewsy.



DB: What kind of experiences?

MD: When I was 16 I went to Romania to help build an orphanage and two years ago I volunteered in Malawi for 3 months. Both were life-changing for me and would not have been possible without my involvement with the club.

DB: What has been the highlight of the last year in club for you?

MD: The exchange with the groups from Belfast and Dublin. It was just such a great experience meeting people from different backgrounds and witnessing club members interact. The feedback I received from their workers and young people made me feel great

DB: Michael you have just become a father for the first time. How are feeling about this?

MD: Unbelievable! It's the best feeling ever but it hasn't quite sunk in yet.

DB: Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?

MD: Running the Shewsy!

DB: Good luck with that Michael and thanks for your time and thoughts.

MD: Sound Breo. Get the ale in lad!

One of the fundamental (and often misunderstood) principles of youth work is to start where the young person is at. The misunderstanding arises when this principle is portrayed as meaning the worker becomes some sort of apologist for negative behaviour and the expected norms and boundaries are seen to be compromised. Michael often found himself on the receiving end of punitive measures and missed out on numerous trips and activities because of his behaviour. The club, whilst acknowledging Michael had issues around anger, made the rules and expectations quite clear and didn't give up on him. Who knows what path he may have taken if it wasn't for the commitment and dedication of club staff in providing a safe, experiential learning environment in which he could grow and develop

Our current crop of members has had some amazing opportunities this past year to learn about themselves and the world in which they live.

The trilateral exchange with groups from Belfast and Dublin was considered to be a highlight by many. As well as outdoor adventure activities, members took part in workshops and discussions around culture, assertiveness, confidence and teamwork.



An ambitious trilateral exchange learning programme, supported by the Causeway Youth foundation, has been a highlight of the year. Young people from the Shewsy have exchanged with groups from Belfast and Dublin.

We have seen big improvements in members' communication skills and their confidence levels have also dramatically improved. They have made close relationships and now stay in regular contact with their new friends from across the Irish Sea.

The Social Studies visits from lower 6th pupils from Shrewsbury School continue to generate much excitement around the club and this year's five visits were no exception. The visits go down well in both junior and senior clubs and provide a fascinating insight into inner-city life for school pupils. The annual visit to Shrewsbury School took place in April and this also was a great success. Thanks to Lesley Drew for organising this year's trip.

Dave Brereton, Team Leader

Finance Report:

A summary of the club's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013 is set out below. A copy of the full accounts can be obtained by contacting the Club.

Income & Expenditure Account

	2013	2012
Income	£	£
Donations	72,802	52,938
Rent, subscriptions and other club income	58,462	64,729
Grants	7,293	4,473
Investment income	18	58
	<u>138,575</u>	<u>122,198</u>
Expenditure		
Wages and salaries	121,662	135,983
Property costs	30,945	32,986
Expenditure relating to grants received	3,173	4,356
Club running costs	26,065	41,898
Depreciation	18,877	19,006
	<u>200,723</u>	<u>234,229</u>
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	-62,148	- 113,031

Balance Sheet	£	£
Fixed Assets	123,189	142,066
Debtors	11,066	17,071
Cash at Bank	132,867	174,996
Creditors	11,814	16,667
	<u>255,308</u>	<u>317,456</u>

Funds

Unrestricted – General	242,407	2,308
Unrestricted – Designated	-	302,725
Restricted	12,901	12,423
	<u>255,308</u>	<u>317,456</u>

Income & Expenditure Account

The Club made an operating deficit of £62,148, compared to a deficit of £112,031 in the previous year. Income for the year totalled £138,575. Voluntary income in the form of unrestricted donations totalled £56,696. The Club continues to receive generous support from the Old Salopian community who donated £30,010 through the gift aid scheme.

One off and irregular donations totalled £26,685. A further £16,106 was received in the form of restricted donations, which was significantly more than the previous year. Incoming resources from charitable activities totalled £58,462. Resources expended totalled £200,723 for the year compared to £234,229 the previous year. The reduction in costs reflects the efforts to reduce expenditure following the deficit made in 2011/12, supplementing paid staff with volunteers to enable the quality of work to continue.

The trustees, following on from their review of the Charity's reserves policy last year, have updated the policy taking into account the income received during the year, future funding streams, the condition of the property and the need for designated reserves. At the year end the trustees agreed to transfer all of the designated reserves brought forward back into unrestricted reserves. The funds which had previously been internally designated were no longer considered relevant or necessary.

Fran Croft, Treasurer

Report of the Centre Warden

“It was the best thing I did in my life”, he said, a man in his 80s looking back on his life. I was visiting an old Shewsy club member Ken Jones with his sister Edith earlier this year. The “best thing”, he continued, “was to sit down as a young Everton teenager in a chair in the old Shewsy next to a man called Barr Adams. He was from Shrewsbury School, a classical scholar, loved literature, loved helping in the Shewsy. And he introduced me to Shakespeare, to poetry, to drama, and on a Sunday night in the Shewsy I would sit and chat with him about anything and everything.”

Ken began his career as an actor in the Shewsy with the Rev James Hill; he did his national service (a parcel came from Barr Adams containing the complete works of William Shakespeare); he returned to Liverpool and met a fellow actor Sheila Fay. They were married by James Hill in Everton in 1954, and both had outstanding acting careers, with Ken appearing in *Z Cars*, *Porridge*, *Jesus of Nazareth*, *the Liver Birds*, and writing and directing as well. “It’s all about the script” Ken commented, and a few weeks later he died this year and his funeral was back in St Peter’s and just 100 yards from where that conversation with Barr Adams took place.

Such conversations and meetings are still going on. This last week we have had a Social Studies Course from Shrewsbury School: “a very interesting 3 days.. really helpful..eye-opening.. full of insight..” were on their feedback sheets. Our local neighbourhood Police Inspector called in to Senior Club and was answering a mix of questions for nearly 45 minutes on his job, local issues, his best and worst moments, what he thinks of the drugs problem, how he sees young people. And the strength of the Shewsy remains its rootedness over 111 years in the Everton community and its willingness to work alongside local people and other agencies in serving that community’s best interests. Sometimes that is the one to one encouragement of a young person’s talents for acting, other times it is working with others for an improved Everton Park, a fairer society, better relations with the local police, and always with faith, hope and love. “Ken will be alright”, Barr Adams said, “he’ll go through life with Shakespeare in his knapsack and God in his heart.”

Rev Henry Corbett, Warden of Shrewsbury House and Vicar of St Peter’s and St Chrysostom’s churches

The Club 110th anniversary celebrations in Nov 2013



Jenny Sainsbury, Adrian Struve, Eddie Cartwright and Bishop Roger Sainsbury at the celebration

The Club celebrated its 110th birthday with a fine week long series of events in November 2013.

The highlights included a special music Showcase evening featuring ex club member Kenny O' Connell, now author of a wonderful new play about the area entitled "The Heart of Everton's Badge", an innovative Cake festival which drew together our star community of cake makers and lovers. This was an occasion to be repeated and we hope to become established as the venue for the North West's premier cake festival as we plan our repeat for later this coming year! There were parties for both juniors and seniors and a service of thanksgiving on the Sunday at which Bishop Roger Sainsbury spoke.

Best of all was a wonderful evening of reminiscence, insight and laughter as we interviewed Roger and Jenny and Eddie Cartwright. Each in turn provided notes of hilarious anecdote and gratitude for their years in the Shewsy in the 1960s and 70s. And the backdrop to the whole week is the fine wall painting produced by ex-club lad Nathan Stanton.

War Years' extract

It seems appropriate, in this WW1 anniversary year, to include some of the Club's wonderful archive material drawn from the Second World War years when Barr Adams was so diligent in corresponding with Club lads away in the armed forces. Many of the replies are recorded for posterity in the Club archives and below is a fine extract from a letter from Bob Alker in 1944.

"Apropos of the early stage of my nautical career it is extremely interesting to record of the strange reaction of the other budding Nelsons in my class when I casually unleashed the fact that prior to my joining the Andrew I was a resident in the built up jungle that is Scotland Rd. They were mostly southerners and believers in a strange rumour of the denizens of that area and I rather fancy that they never relaxed a vague suspicion that I was cat burglar by trade with nothing less than about ten razor battles to my credit to say nothing of a criminal record, longer than that. That was before the war however and no doubt the lost four years time have seen the gospel of "Scotland Rd " pacific mindedness broadcast by her native sons in the service - that is those sons who remain outside the irksome confinement of the glasshouse for periods sufficiently long to spread the gospel.

It is also interesting to record, for the benefit of economists among club members and Old Boys that the remuneration of your constantly financially depressed scribe was the gluttonous stipend of five shillings and three pence which lavish extravagance was no doubt responsible for Montague Normans' inability to afford a shave. Anyway from Shotley's Spartan life I journeyed rather dubiously to a well known haven for naval ratings, the garden of Eden which in Devonport is better known to the said ratings as the Guzz. I guess practically the whole of the club's naval contingent has

been exiled at some time or other in Guzz. It is a queer joint peopled by dockyard maties and ex chief stokers who subsist, according to popular belief, on a staple diet of a demoralising concoction which has armoured bulkheads and bomb proof upper deck and as yet unidentified internals. Probably recognisable to Mrs Beaton as a Cornish Pasty, its appellation among the fleet are profuse and for the most part uncomplimentary.

They all converge on the common soubriquet of " hoggy". However legend has it that naval paymasters have made more millions out of this dish than any other known repast , even rissoles but I prefer to remain neutral on the subject lest the officer who guides our gastronomic destinies censors this missive. I spent an appreciably long time amongst this unusual hybrid tribe and even acquired a smattering of the language which in quite a few respects resembles the English. Eventually I made my debut upon the briny without encountering the dread mal de mer.

August 1939 saw me in Pompey aboard the cruiser Hawkins. whose commander incidentally refused to allow we boys to wear any other kind of footwear than the Adam and Eve mark 1 brand. At the end of that month I received a neat little slip with "Renown" typed across its virgin surface and I hied me across to the basin where the aforementioned battleship lay almost visible under three years of dockyard debris.

This period is of course history. Schickelgruber was all set to do a neat job on Poland, a la his own inimitable Sudetan style and the situation was getting so tense that three witnesses of sound mind and clear vision, definitely saw a dockyard matey break into a two knot cable - only sustained for a second or two mind you but, in the light of such a phenomenally prophetic occurrence there was no knowing what dark catastrophe was hovering above us. Sure enough war broke out the very next day “

Stage by Altrad/ NSG .Summer Fair by Shewsy plc

Increasingly, the Club depends on raising funds from individuals and companies. We have a superb exemplar of that in sustaining the club's activities. Below is a photo of our recent Summer Fair, an annual fun event which is a long tradition and well loved by the local community. Occasionally the event is blessed with beautiful weather and the donkeys and stall holders feel as if they're on holiday in the Costa del Langrove ! In recent years we have had our stage and stalls built by Altrad NSG as a free donation to the club. This allows us a first class performance space and is invaluable.

It comes as the result of an ex club member who works for the company and knows the value that he got from his time in the Shewsy when he was a kid in Arkwright street. Not only has he engaged his managers and colleagues at Altrad into regular support for the club, but the company is willing and able to offer training and employment to club members when they have that opportunity.

It is a first class example of real Corporate Social Responsibility in action, so often a token and ignored challenge in the business world. As well as that it, is also testament to how a club member can recognise and repay the investment and support shown to him in his formative years. Thanks Altrad / NSG and managing director Michael Carr, thanks Damien.



Gift Aid Declaration

Name of Charity: Shrewsbury House Youth & Community Centre

Details of donor

Title Forename(s) Surname
.....

Home address
.....
.....

..... Post Code

I want the charity to treat

- *the enclosed donation of £ as a Gift Aid donation
- *the donation(s) of £ which I made on
...../...../..... as (a) Gift Aid donation (s)
- *all donations that I make from the date of this declaration until I notify
you otherwise as Gift Aid donations
- *all donations I have made for this tax year and the six years prior to the
year of this declaration, **and** all donations I make from the date of this
declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

*delete as appropriate

You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give).

Signed:.....

Date:/...../.....

Please return to:- Finance Administrator, Shrewsbury House,
37 Langrove Street, Liverpool, L5 3PE

Notes:

1. You can cancel this Declaration at any time by notifying the charity.
2. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
3. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
4. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity.
5. Please notify the charity if you change your name or address

Contact us:

By phone 0151 207 0725

By Website: www.shrewsburyhouse.org.uk

By E mail : dave.brereton@shrewsburyhouse.org.uk

By Twitter Shewsy Twitter account [@TheShewsy](https://twitter.com/TheShewsy)

By Visit: We are less than a mile from Liverpool city centre and Lime Street. Our address is 37, Langrove Street, Everton, Liverpool L5 3PE

Our staff will be delighted to welcome you and show you round the club.

- Our Team Leader is Dave Brereton. The assistant team leader is John Dumbell
- Our part time Caretaker is Roy McGaw
- Our part time administrator is Erica Hedley
erica.hedley@shrewsburyhouse.org.uk

Our Centre Warden Henry Corbett lives on site and can be contacted on 0151 207 1948

or E mail at henry.corbett@btinternet.com

- Our Chair of the Board of Management is John Hutchison Contact him on 0151 525 6899 or Email at johnhutch2@yahoo.co.uk

Shrewsbury House is a registered charity (No1058694) and a company limited by guarantee (No 3245123)

