

# **Shrewsbury House**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

### **2020**



*Members of our junior club out enjoying tree climbing in our nearby friend – Everton Park*

## Chair's Report – John Hutchison

In early December I was chatting away with a great crowd of old club members before and after the funeral of an old club lad. Charlie was a wonderful footballer, good enough to have been offered a trial for Spurs in the late 1960s, a great talker and a great walker and lover of nature too. In the good old bad old days of the Arkwright estate and the high rise blocks that surrounded the Shewsy, Charlie could be found on nearby Great Homer street chewing the cud with a couple of pals, and he knew every cranny and corner of every patch of concrete, brick, tarmac and steel on the estate...stairwells, landings, balconies, rooves and basements. Patrick Jenkin, Margaret Thatcher's Secretary of State for the Environment came to the old Arkwright estate in 1983 and exclaimed that he had never seen such dreadful housing in his entire life.



For Charlie, along with all the club members and their families living there and thereabouts, it was home, they loved it and they made the most of it. The Arky, as it was called, was gradually demolished from 1985 onwards and one of the most remarkable transformations has taken place on a part of it. Right next to the club now is the Nature Garden, an enclosed natural oasis which has a small lake at its heart. I happened upon

Charlie there on one still, Spring Sunday morning there two years ago and we fell into conversation. He was interested to know the name of the red-faced, black bird that was on the water. We walked round the lake, watching the moorhens, marvelling at the newts underwater, noting squirrels and chatting old times when we were stopped by a loud hammering. Sure enough above us was a woodpecker. We stared in wonder for a minute or so until it made off. Both of us were delighted.



And we are still delighted to have Everton Park's nature garden and the wider park and facilities right on our doorstep because it has proved to be a real lifesaver this past year for all ages across the Everton community. The park is about 40 hectares worth of mixed green space. Part of it affords the best views over Liverpool and beyond to Wales. The Shewsy has made huge use of the park and there are plenty of photos in this report that show that. We are grateful for the facility: its play spaces, natural landscapes and its educational value have been very well used over the past year. It has been a respite, a relief, a space to breathe in all that lovely lockdown weather. Charlie loved the park too.

But overall, as for us all, it has to be said that it's been challenging since March! We seem to have weathered the financial challenges with fair success, helped immensely by many generous gifts. We have been challenged to do better at our own fundraising and we have already made a good start to that, securing more support from applications made in house, increasing our standing orders and delivering an excellent Big Give result. (Page 12)

Our management team have coped with meeting via Zoom and are edging towards changing our constitution to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in due course. Whilst we have made a great deal of progress on refurbishing our premises, it has become slightly stop / start in recent weeks: we still need to gather further financial support and are still awaiting a Government verdict on a promised funding stream. However we are well placed to complete what we have started as we go into 2021 and that will equip us



with a much updated and repaired premises for the next few decades. I should like to thank again both Jon France and Mike Hughes for the exceptional help they have both provided to enable much of the refurbishment work to be done. It has also been brilliant to have many club members and ex – members becoming involved where they can, some building, others decorating, courtyard clearing, tidying and cleaning. The whole job has been a thoroughly cooperative effort.

Links with the School of course have been a much harder business this past year and we look forward to some sort of normality on that front. However it was wonderful to learn of the School's success in carrying off both the Independent School of the Year and the Community Outreach award at the Independent Schools national awards ceremony held in October 2020. And we're pleased and proud that the Shewsy has a part to play in that accolade.

We have been very well helped by the Blume.Life organisation this year. Through this help we have produced an Impact Report that covers our last 10 years. We plan to use this, where needed, in funding applications and will also have it available shortly on our website <https://www.shrewsburyhouse.org.uk/> shortly. We delivered our first E newsletter back in early December which seemed to be well received – “I've never read a more encouraging and upbeat report ever” wrote one ex staff member. If you didn't see that and would like to receive our next one then please do make sure we have your e mail, by just e mailing any of us with a note to say that.

A final note to thank all of our staff, volunteers and management for their work in a bumpy year and especially to single out Lesley Drew, now retired from teaching, who has provided tireless support to us for the past 11 years. We owe Lesley a huge amount of thanks. And many thanks too to all of you for reading this and supporting us throughout.

*John Hutchison, Chair*

## Team Leader's Report – John Dumbell

Looking back at my report for 2019 I started by stating “The current need for investment in youth services could not be more evident.” 12 months on and 3 lockdowns later the youth service has been recognised as an essential service by Government and not before time. The National Youth Agency reports that the demand for youth provision has since March jumped by an additional 1.5 million new young people wanting to access services.

When we were first told we would be heading into a lockdown I had genuine concerns about what difficulties many of our members would face and was worried about the impact this would have on their mental health. With no proper schooling and all grass roots sports cancelled the staff team were concerned that young people would become isolated. We also had real concerns about young people who might not have a stable home life. What would they do for food? Do they have access to internet? Would the potential harm from some lockdowns become a reality? School and the Shewsy club is often a welcome break from what can be a chaotic life for many young people and at times offers the only positive relationship they have with an appropriate adult.

Like you all, we have had our fair share of bumps in the road this year such as the cancellation of the summer fair and the social studies visits. No loss has been more important to members than the missed opportunities to experience the Medic Malawi expedition, the Causeway exchange programme and all other residential activity. This type of work usually provides us with a great opportunity to really get to know the young people in an environment that is out of normal routine and will often see young people gain more confidence and go on to greater things. This often provides the narrative for many of the case studies we produce and also gives us the opportunity to put into practice some of the issue based work we cover.



It was really frustrating that the first lockdown prevented us from running these sessions as there was, and still is, a serious risk of young people getting involved in “county lines” (drugs trade) activity. Previous work we had carried out on our early intervention programme was aimed at providing young people with the tools to make the best informed choices when in challenging situations and diverting them from engaging in risk taking behaviour.

Lessons were learned after the first lockdown both on a local and national level with the importance of youth provision being highlighted and the “essential service” status being conferred. Whereas we were fully closed from last March to the end of June and operating only remote and occasional detached contact with our members, we are now allowed and encouraged to continue to deliver face to face work with some of our most vulnerable young people as we invite them, and do that in the building.

Overall, despite the year’s trials and restrictions we have still managed to deliver real quality youth work and have kept our service running throughout in one way or another. Some of the highlights this year have included our annual “Know Your Neighbour” day which we managed to squeeze in just before the first lockdown. This was very well attended and once again we had families from across the local area, sharing recipes from 9 different countries whilst creating new friendships with the children having the opportunity to pet a variety of farm animals and reptiles provided by local company “Ark 2 Ewe”.



Another positive that has come out of lockdown is the great progress made in terms of refurbishing the building. In early June I managed to persuade a group of ex members who had been furloughed to come in voluntarily and help with some of the works that needed doing. This resulted in the complete renovation of the sports hall and the new sensory room. We were also able to have new windows supplied and fitted free of

charge in a couple of hostel rooms, the club kitchen and the new computer suite. We have also replaced our canteen area. On the back of a kind grant from a charitable trust we have tested and upgraded all our electrical installations, replaced all our near 50 year old door locks and begun the creation of two new spaces, a new IT room and a bouldering space next door. We have also sorted out our courtyard with the help of club members.



After carrying out an extensive Covid risk assessment we were able to re-open in early July, albeit with many changes and restrictions in place. This included dividing the senior club session into 2 groups, ages 11-14 and 15-19. Upon our return we quickly noticed that although we had managed to remain in contact with the vast majority of our members it was evident that the demand to get back into the Shewsy was as high as it's ever been during my time here. We had queues forming outside and it was also noteworthy that the average age had crept up a bit. Due to sheer demand we had to introduce a booking system to keep in line with government guidelines as we could only offer limited spaces. Within minutes of the booking information going out we would be at full capacity and would have to start a reserve list !

When we were placed into autumn's new tier system we once again had to adapt the way we worked. Since then, we have successfully run 3 early intervention projects, including our first mixed gender one, with Notre Dame College and Faith Primary School respectively. In addition we have run an independent living course with a group of female members, and a healthy relationships programme with another group of females aged 15-18. The feedback indicates that all these courses have been really beneficial to the members involved.

Our staff team have been fantastic in the way in which they have responded to the challenges throughout the year. Throughout lockdowns and furlough we have always been sure that we have a staff team totally committed to the best interests of the young people. Their efforts to "covid- secure" the premises, adapt to the rules and conceive

so many excellent ideas and subsequent delivery of projects have been outstanding. One project I was particularly proud of was the “New Day- New Start” change programme led by Charlie Hughes. This was Charlie’s first attempt at taking the lead on a project. After volunteering for 12 months, Charlie became a paid staff member just before lockdown and it has been a pleasure to mentor him as he develops in to a really good youth worker. Some of the work Charlie produced has been outstanding: he has enrolled on to a youth work course due to commence soon. He has been the brains behind our monthly themed photo display and has also contributed hugely to our new monthly topic themes such as bullying, drugs and alcohol and mental health.



The team have also managed to carry out a number of one to one interventions this year in addition to our group work projects. This has had a real positive impact on the members involved and we have reaped the benefits of increased participation in club activity and have also seen the courtyard renovated by club members, who have done a great job.

Our recent Christmas parties (not guaranteed in the current circumstances) were wonderfully supported by All Saints, Southport and St Hilda’s, Hunt’s Cross parishioners who provided presents for the children, and also with party food supplied again by our good friends Brakes Food Company. We are very grateful for this superb support which goes to further prove our national appetite for giving and the common good.

On behalf of everyone at the Shewsy I would like to wish you all the best for 2021.

*John Dumbell*

## Finance report

A summary of the club's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 is set out below.  
A copy of the certified accounts can be obtained by contacting the club.

### Income and Expenditure Account

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
<b>Income</b>			
Donations and legacies	£125,981	£168,283	£98,066 <sup>1</sup>
Charitable activities	£27,607	£21,827	£158,340 <sup>2</sup>
Rent for room hire, hostel and house	£25,272	£28,473	£26,166
Investments	£17	£79	£71
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£187,167</b>	<b>£226,562</b>	<b>£282,643</b>
 <b>Expenditure</b>			
Wages and salaries including pensions	£110,613	£118,278	£144,432
Property costs	£35,849	£37,552	£129,687 <sup>3</sup>
Club running costs	£17,695	£42,562	£32,448
Expenditure relating to grants received	£14,881	£14,564	£15,688
Depreciation	£18,805	£18,609	£26,973
Others	£1,412	£3,628	£0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£199,255</b>	<b>£235,193</b>	<b>£349,228</b>
Total Income	£178,880	£218,662	£282,643
Total Expenditure	£199,255	£235,193	£349,228
<b>Surplus/Deficit for Year</b>	<b>-£20,375</b>	<b>-£16,531</b>	<b>-£66,585</b>

<sup>1</sup> There were no legacies received and we did not receive a club leader grant this year.

<sup>2</sup> Our accountants have changed the way this is recorded, full details are on the next page.

<sup>3</sup> This includes the £93,000 spent on the roof work.

## Balance Sheet

Fixed assets	£39,872	£21,263	£4,113
Debtors	£18,058	£11,683	£56,333
Cash at bank	£194,571	£204,287	£110,096
Creditors	-£7,419	-£8,682	-£8,576
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>£245,082</b>	<b>£228,551</b>	<b>£157,853</b>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted	£229,782	£211,576	£153,214
Restricted	£15,300	£16,975	£8,752
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£245,082</b>	<b>£228,551</b>	<b>£161,966</b>

Note : The reduction in fixed assets is normal write off procedure.

## Charitable Activities Breakdown

Item	
Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund (EIYF)	£47,130.00
Everton in the community	£40,000.00
John Moore's Foundation	£5,000.00
All playscheme income from the Integrated Play Partnership	£2,050.00
ACC Liverpool	£500.00
Police Property Act	£500.00
Police Operation Banger	£250.00
DM Thomas	£2,500.00
Bauer Radio/cash for kids	£500.00
ASDA Foundation	£500.00
Mayor's Fund	£3,000.00
Big Give Christmas Challenge	£13,000.00
Merseyside Police Domestic Violence Unit	£3,200.00
Masonic Charitable Trust	£400.00
Daneway	£1,500.00
LCVS Ways to wellbeing	£1,000.00
Table Tennis England	£270.00
Club Subscriptions	£10,652.00
Club trip fees	£2,398.00
Summer Fair	£2,267.00
Gift Aid tax reclaimed for last 2 years, but all received in this FY	£21,099.00
Malawi	£180.00
Other	£444.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£158,340.00</b>

The largest single change in this set of accounts is the £93,000 spent on the substantial repairs on the various roofs of the club's buildings following a decision to remain on this site and refurbish it.

*Brian Canfer, Treasurer*

## Warden's Report – Henry Corbett

What a tough year for the Shewsy, for our Everton community, for the world!

It was said in the early days of the pandemic that “We’re all in this together”. Then as the figures came in it became increasingly realised that we are all in the same Covid 19 sea but, as I put in the Shewsy twitter, “we’re not in the same boat: we are in different boats and some of those boats are leaking. Some have tankers bearing down on them. Let’s continue to look out for each other and make a fairer world.”

Well, people did look out for each other in the Shewsy and in our Everton community. West Everton Community Council’s foodbank and their own Food Project were very important in helping to provide food for physical health, and we were also very aware of the anxiety and stress that was affecting the mental health of many, young and old. The number of households on Universal Credit in Liverpool City Council area went from 30,000 in February to 58,000 in October, and the number of children on free school meals in Liverpool reached 20,000. The need for thoughtful, empathetic youth and community work was clear. Even under the necessary restrictions, through careful bubbles, wise liaison with our local Primary and Secondary Schools, and through sensitive use of social media, the Shewsy was able to offer vital listening, mentoring, support and encouragement both for the young people and for the families and the community.

And a fairer world? That is the great hope for 2021 and beyond. The Shewsy, along with our friends in the Everton community, will continue to work for that, and your support and interest and your own working for that better, fairer world are hugely appreciated.

With much thanks

*Henry Corbett, Warden*





# theBigGive

The first week of December 2020 was dominated by our second consecutive year of participation in the Big Give Christmas Challenge, this time with the challenging target to raise £20,000 in online donations in just 7 days. We secured £10,000 in pledges from a group of our supporters earlier in the year, and the Four Acre Trust then joined in with the same amount to produce a potential total amount of £40,000.....but only if we made the target. Well, we did it and the actual total raised including Gift Aid was almost £45,000.

Our campaign was entitled **Refreshing Shrewsbury House**.

"Shrewsbury House is undergoing a much needed refurbishment but beyond basic replacement and maintenance we need to respond to the needs of our children partially highlighted by the Covid pandemic. There are over 50 children per after school club session where we provide a warm and welcoming environment, but this is not enough. We need to provide sensory space, a computer room and disabled access with specialist staff to deliver life coping skills for all our children and teenagers."

Thank you to all who contributed.....Four Acre Trust, 12 pledgers and 147 online donors. Also, a special thank you to Shewsy staff and the team in Everton, and to colleagues at Shrewsbury School for tireless efforts prior to and during that hectic first week of December. As well as money, we raised the profile of The Shewsy and reinforced that special and longstanding relationship with the Shrewsbury School pupils, staff and alumni.

This means so much to us as we can get on with refurbishing Shrewsbury House, continuing to make it a useable space during the Coronavirus pandemic and ensuring it is future proofed for the generations of new users to come.

Your generosity is overwhelming. THANK YOU everyone for continuing to support our work at The Shewsy.

*Alan McCarthy*

## Case Study

This Case study focuses on a senior club male member, who has been a member at the club for many years. The name has been changed to protect identity.

John has recently become really disengaged, has lost a fair bit of weight and has developed a bad temper, often becoming violent and abusive towards Mum.

Mum contacted the club for advice and the team leader arranged to meet up for some 1-2-1 sessions with the young person. It was evident from the first session that the mood swings and weight loss were a direct result of his frequent use of a strong form of cannabis.

Over the next few sessions John really opened up on issues around identity, self-esteem and his use of cannabis. This led to more sessions around drug misuse, confidence building and healthy vs unhealthy relationships.

We also established the dangers involved in “county lines” and the importance of self-awareness and the ability to make the best informed choice.

John finished school before lockdown and was now classed as NEET(not in education or employment) and it was clear the uncertainty was also impacting on his mental health.

Fast forward 4 weeks and John is no longer smoking cannabis and has cut down a great deal on cigarettes. His relationship with his mum has improved a great deal after a meeting was set up by the team leader. John and another member have just started an external programme for the 12 weeks based on personal development.





## Update

Unfortunately the programme John was attending had to stop due to a Covid outbreak. This had a negative impact on his mental health and his routine, leading him to once again become isolated and reliant on cannabis.

One member of staff reached out to see how he was doing out of courtesy and he disclosed that he wasn't doing great. John was offered to come in of a daytime to engage in some positive activity and agreed to do so. He remains engaged on a one to one basis and has since been involved in the renovation of the club and has been introduced to a new more positive group of friends. John is still smoking but has cut down significantly as none of his new friendship group are smokers. We are hopeful.





## Contact us



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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 around the club.

Our team leader is **John Dumbell**

Our caretaker is **Lorraine Mangan**

Our part-time administrator is **Carol Bennett**

Our Centre Warden **Henry Corbett** lives on site and can be contacted  
on 0151 207 1948 or the email above

Our Chair of the Board of Management is **John Hutchison**  
He can be contacted on 0151 525 6899 or [johnhutch2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:johnhutch2@yahoo.co.uk)

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We acknowledge all photos as the work of club staff  
except for the shot on page 2 which was taken by Rob Bremner