

Shrewsbury House

ANNUAL REPORT



2021

Chair's Report – John Hutchison

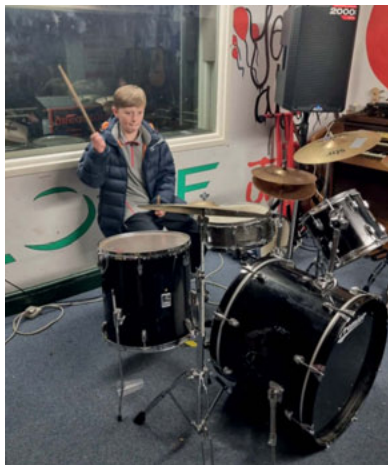
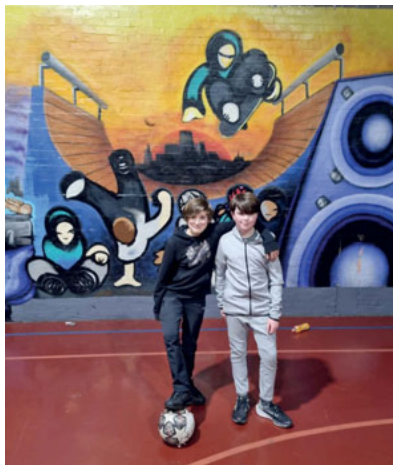
This is the last time I will write a report as chair of Shrewsbury House; so please forgive some brief reflections. I slept my first night in the old Shewsy club on a cold October night in 1971. Actually it may not have been that cold but there were three floor to ceiling windows in what was the bare woodwork room until a rickety partition had created a space for a bed. There was a sprinkling of sawdust on the lino floor! I didn't sleep much and was probably trembling for much of the night with a mixture of excitement and sheer fear. But the Shewsy, Everton, Liverpool all command an unusual attraction and a powerful magnetism and not just for me I know. I have never wanted or been able to leave and am a proud adopted native.

So it is interesting for me to look back over those fifty years and see that so much has changed for the city and Everton. If you had stood on the steps of the old club premises in Portland Place in 1971 you would have two cherry trees to your left and right in the small front garden and beyond that there was hardly a tree to be seen, certainly nothing mature. However there were 25 high rise blocks within close walking distance, now 3 remain. The housing landscape has been utterly transformed and so too the schools. Everton Park built in the 80s and 90s with its trees, grass and wildflower meadows, bird and butterfly life now stands on the remains of hundreds of terraced streets. Whilst the local corner shops have largely gone, plenty of the retail barns that we know so well have replaced them. In terms of work all those labour intensive huge operations such as the docks are history, youth clubs that offered services in every community are increasingly a thing of the past. Even the Shewsy club itself was rebuilt entirely on a new site with St Peters church in 1974. Everything has changed.



But the core business of the Shewsy mission has remained very much as it was. That is the key human to human activity of building trusting relationships and seeking the welfare in every respect of the other. In other words we do as Christ told us "love your neighbour as yourself". So we welcome, engage, encourage and listen to all of our children and young people. And we build up their confidence, help them access what they need, help them socialise and learn and grow into confident young men and women with strong values and high ambitions to lead honest, hard – working and creative lives. We love them. Nothing has changed at all.

It has been another extraordinary year but again, despite all the challenges the club has flourished and served its children and young people with great energy and real skill. Without doubt the staff team have added more well planned and structured work within the programme of activities and despite restrictions have also undertaken some very good residential work.



We are close to completing our change of constitution to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and that has seen seven members of the old Board of Management retire and make way for the new trustees group of 12 which will be chaired by the Headmaster, Leo Winkley. Can I thank each one of those retiring members for their sterling service, some over many decades and wish the new board a fair wind as they set sail. I am delighted to report that we are in good shape financially and can see into the future far enough to have confidence that we can meet our needs for the time being. We are very grateful to both individual donors and trust funds for their generosity and the trust placed in us.

And the past year has seen another brilliant effort by Shrewsbury School on the quinquennial sponsored walk with a total of £78,000 being raised in pretty testing times. We much appreciate this superb support from our key partner. The Big Give story is also now a very significant part of our fundraising; so thank you and please stay with us as we ride that train in early December each year.

It is also hoped that we may at last be able to meet again as the Friends of the Shrewsbury House this year. We have a very tentative date for the 22nd April but we will confirm that in due course.

Thank you so much for taking an interest in and supporting this remarkable organisation. It does do a lot of good in a lot of lives, young and old.

John Hutchison

Team Leader's Report – John Dumbell

The year started with yet another government enforced lockdown. This meant our services had to be reduced again up until April. However, we persevered and were able to still offer some small issue based groupwork sessions with some of our most vulnerable young people. January also saw many of our members take part remotely in the Nike running challenge where they had to complete 50km in a month. This was a great way to keep in touch with members whilst promoting physical wellbeing.



The following couple of months saw us deliver a project with a group of male members who are at risk of engaging in crime and county lines activity. This was done in partnership with reformed ex-convict Marvin Herbert who delivered an eye opening and inspirational talk to the group.

Up until our re-opening in April some of the team also delivered some detached youth work sessions in and around the area including regular BBQs in Everton Park as a way of providing diversionary activities. Over lockdown the local all-weather football pitch had been used very frequently by young people and adults, often leaving the place a mess. In April a group of our younger senior club members had a day of action where they cleaned up the surrounding area collecting 9 bin bags full of empty bottles and other litter. They received a special thanks from the local junior football league for their efforts.

In mid April we received the news we had all been waiting for; the club could finally re-open and we could start to deliver regular sessions again, very similar to those pre-pandemic. Throughout the summer months we made great use of our wonderful surroundings and delivered many of our junior club sessions outdoors. The return to normality also saw us able to re-commence our early intervention work with local Schools. Merseyside Police's Operation Stonehaven funded an initial 12-week programme based around self-esteem, decision making and moral dilemmas. This was to provide the young people with the tools to make better informed choices and worked well.

We have had a great year of sport too; we have seen 2 of our 5 a side teams be successful in both the Premier league Kicks and Graeme Rooney Memorial Cups both hosted by Everton in the Community. At last in July we enjoyed the first exchange with Shrewsbury School since before the pandemic when the School made a visit to the club as part of their outdoor week. A group of 3rd form pupils visited to see what the Shewsy is all about and what they would be raising money for on their upcoming sponsored walk in September. That event did take place and it is always amazing to see the whole School come together for the occasion. Thanks again to the School, all who took part and to parents, families and friends who supported and helped in raising vital funds for the club.



These club staff joined the School's sponsored walk in late September

The summer play scheme saw us at the point where we were almost at capacity in terms of attendees, reaching up to 80 young people per day. Everyone was given a healthy meal each day and 80% of these young people would be entitled to free school meals. The extra funding, we received from Holiday Activity Fund initiative was a massive help in allowing us to ensure all young people were fed daily. The sheer demand for places at the summer play scheme proved to me what I have always known. Youth and Play provision IS an essential service.

Throughout this period 168 individuals (87 of whom were new members) attended over a 4 week period. In the process this meant that we had provided in excess of 1000 meals for junior club alone.

Over the 4 weeks we had a trip every Thursday based on the week's theme and the theme for the whole play scheme was based on the city of Liverpool. We broke down the themes into one each week and looked at each of the following; the skyline and docks, the seaside, the parks and wildflowers and the funfair.



Numbers were so high that by the final trip to Gulliver's world we had to book 2 coaches in order to not leave any one out. We took 100 people on the day.

Senior club has also been really busy with lots of positives, one of which is a recent rise in new members. For the past couple of years our main membership base has come from Notre Dame School; however since the start of September we have had a lot more young people from North Liverpool Academy attending. This is a positive as we want to serve a wide area and not be exclusive to a single school or community.

We had an eventful but overall successful day out to Blackpool pleasure beach with 50 senior club members in August. This always goes down well with the members and gives staff the chance to really get to know the young people with lots of opportunities for one to one discussions outside of their normal environment.



This happy group of landlubbers overcame some nerves to settle into a fabulous learning experience with the Sea Cadets who taught them wind-surfing, sailing and kayaking on Crosby marina last summer.

This was also the case with the water sports week that a group of 15 senior club attended. The free water sports event was sponsored and organised by the Royal Yachting Association and took place on nearby Crosby Marina. For the majority of the group this was a brand new opportunity and we had a few standout lads who the instructors described as "naturals". All in all it was a testing challenge and a great experience for members.

After a year without one we were able to see the return of our annual Summer Fair in September and naturally there was an element of fear and excitement wondering if it would all go to plan. Overall the day was really successful with some fantastic local talent performing on stage and watched by around 500 people throughout the day.

We were also able to begin hosting our “gapper” placement from Shrewsbury School and this years’ placement was Sam Evans. Sam was a great asset to the team and made some really positive progress during his stay here. Thanks Sam and good luck with your new placement in Tasmania. Furthermore, we also enjoyed the return of face-to-face Social Studies Courses with a great group from the School’s lower sixth visiting in late November.

The annual Christmas parties were also a huge success. I would like to thank all at St Hilda’s church and All Saints, Crosby for their continued support towards our Christmas parties, and a special thanks to all at Brakes food for once again supplying food and presents for all our members.

I simply cannot write this report without expressing my sincere thanks to outgoing chair John Hutchison. John has been a real top class role model for myself and many other youth workers in this city. He has often shared his wisdom with the staff team and is well known and loved by many young people in the Everton area. So thank you John; have a well-deserved break and rest assured I will be in touch regularly for more advice and guidance, not just for the Shewsy but for everything.

John Dumbell



Finance report

A summary of the club's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 is set out below.

A copy of the certified accounts can be obtained by contacting the club.

Income and Expenditure Account

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Income			
Donations and legacies	£168,283	£98,066	£124,220
Charitable activities	£21,827	£158,340	£180,864
Rent for room hire, hostel and house	£28,473	£26,166	£21,067
Investments	£79	£71	£1,137
Total Income	£226,562	£282,643	£327,288
Expenditure			
Wages and salaries including pensions	£118,278	£144,432	£135,990
Property costs	£37,552	£129,687	£63,143
Club running costs	£42,562	£32,448	£17,639
Expenditure relating to grants received	£14,564	£15,688	£25,820
Depreciation	£18,609	£26,973	£3,856
Others	£3,628	£0	£0
Total Expenditure	£235,193	£349,228	£246,448
 Total Income	 £218,662	 £282,643	 £327,288
Total Expenditure	£235,193	£349,228	£246,448
 Surplus/Deficit for Year	 -£16,531	 -£66,585	 +£80,840

Please note these accounts reflect a large difference between our loss in 2019-20 and our surplus this year. This is explained by both the heavy expenditure on the building refurbishment in 2019-20 and the excellent donations and charitable giving in 2020-21.

Balance Sheet

Fixed assets	£21,263	£4,113	£257
Debtors	£11,683	£56,333	£5,479
Cash at bank	£204,287	£110,096	£246,920
Creditors	-£8,682	-£8,576	-£9,850

Total assets	£228,551	£157,853	£242,806
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Funds

Unrestricted	£211,576	£153,214	£221,324
Restricted	£16,975	£8,752	£21,482

Total Funds	£228,551	£161,966	£242,806
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We acknowledge many donations from individual subscribers and donors and thank them wholeheartedly for their wonderful perseverance in believing in the work that we do and enabling it to flourish. A sincere thank you to each and every one.

We also acknowledge receipt of grants from the following list of charitable grant-making trusts in the past financial year. We are extremely grateful to each of the organisations for trusting us with their funds and supporting the work we do.

PH Holt Foundation	£10,000
Steve Morgan Foundation	£5,642
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust	£5,000
Community Foundation for Merseyside	£5,000
John Moore's Foundation	£10,000
Four Acre Trust	£10,000
LCVS Community Impact Fund	£3,500
Garfield Weston Foundation	£60,000 (2 years)

Brian Canfer, Outgoing Treasurer

Warden's Report – Henry Corbett

This last year has seen some sad losses for us at the Shewsy, some to Covid, others to underlying illnesses, as for so many families and organisations. And the funerals have been difficult with limited numbers, the wearing of masks, and less socialising possible afterwards.

But there has been the opportunity to pay tribute to some very special people who have had strong links to the Shewsy, whether as staff or as supporters and friends. Davey Reid was a great caretaker and site manager for many years at the Shewsy after first being a supervisor at the club in the days of the 1980s Youth Opportunities Programmes: he helped start a Wednesday Over 50s club which was a great gathering point for stories and laughter and also did the tough task of being secretary for a Shewsy open-age team in a local Liverpool amateur football league. Most of all his heart was in the Shewsy and after an accident meant he felt he couldn't continue his job at the Shewsy he would always still inquire after the club and was delighted it was going so well.

Sam Perry was a club member back in the 1950s but called back in a few years ago and became part of the Shewsy Archive group that would meet each Friday morning. If you wanted a great story from the Shewsy's past or an engaging perspective on the present then Sam would provide it, and he would put together little collections of old pictures as well as being a stalwart member of the local Everton History group.



Tony Healy was a great, supportive parent with his wife Margaret to their 3 children Tony, Michael and Anne when they attended the club and he was also a regular speaker at Social Studies Courses for groups of Sixth formers from Shewsy School: he would speak movingly about his experiences as a docker on the Liverpool docks, balancing the joy of friendships and the value of work with the dangers and lack of safety that he had at times to work under.



Phylis Morris and Irene Hogg (right) running the cake stall at the Shewsy's annual fair

And there are too many others whose funerals I have preached at or been involved with during this last year: Irene Hogg always helping at the Shewsy Summer Fair, Mark Loudon teaching photography and taking great pictures of club activities, Ros Groves a club member in the 1970s working as a local Councillor in the Anfield ward in the important world of politics, and an encourager from afar, my mother Patricia Corbett, who was always so pleased to hear about the Shewsy's work and thought it so important. They will all, and others I haven't mentioned, be missed, and as you can tell from the above they will be remembered not for the amount of money they made or the status they reached but for their kindness, their love, their encouragement, their service to the Shewsy, to our city, our world.

With much thanks for your interest and encouragement

Henry Corbett, Warden



The first week of December 2021 was dominated by our third consecutive year of participation in the Big Give Christmas Challenge. After last year's success, we decided to increase our target to raise £30,000 in online donations in just 7 days. We secured a £15,000 pledge from a very generous supporter earlier in the year, and yet again the Four Acre Trust joined in with the same amount to produce a potential total of £60,000.....but only if we made the target. Well, we did it again and the actual sum raised including Gift Aid was almost £70,000.

Our campaign was entitled **Fresh Challenges for Shrewsbury House.**

"After a tough year, Shrewsbury House is back up and running at full capacity. With 306 children registered, we provide a safe environment for learning through play to develop and learn skills but this is not enough. We need to respond to the wellbeing needs of our children and young people exacerbated by the Covid pandemic. At both primary and secondary education levels, there is a lot of catching up to do against a background of deprivation if these young people's futures are to be salvaged."

Thank you to all who contributed.....Four Acre Trust, our pledger and 99 online donors. Also, a special thank you to Shewsy staff and the team in Everton, and to all those supporters - old, new, local and from further afield. Prominent amongst our donors are alumni of both Shrewsbury School and The Shewsy itself, and both institutions will be striving to address the **Fresh Challenges for Shrewsbury House** as we provide quality youth and play facilities, including work with school leavers who are bearing the brunt of the worst Covid-19 effects.

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

Alan McCarthy

Interview with staff member Charlie Hughes

Charlie Hughes has been one of the Shewsy club's star volunteers since he first found the place in Sept 2018. Like many of us over the years, an initial volunteering role has turned into a part time paid position for Charlie now and he hopes to train further and eventually make a full time career in Youth Work. He loves the club work, especially residential trips and visits out and has been instrumental in improving our social media output. I sat him down and got him to tell me a bit of his life story recently and this is what I found.



Charlie is the oldest of three boys born and raised in Norris Green. His compulsive love of the outdoors owes plenty to his energetic parents who often took the family on expeditions and camping trips. Wales is wonderfully accessible to Liverpool residents. In addition, Charlie developed a love and skills in many sports as well. Unusually this included both Rugby codes by the age of 12. Charlie reckons the mud was the main attraction.

By the time of secondary school, it was wall to wall sport at least 5 afternoons and evenings each week. There was also mischief – making and some mild trouble as the 20 minute walk home from school took more like 90 minutes. Charlie learned the skills of sagging school as well. It was all going a little bit haywire until the school stepped in positively, recognising the talent that was being wasted, moved Charlie into the top class to stretch him and surrounded him with new influences. They also assigned him a mentor in the form of Mr Mitchell the PE teacher. It all worked a treat and today Charlie will say that he now models his relationship work in the Shewsy on that of his mentor from those days.

The bad reports ceased and Charlie ran out with 7 A-C grade GCSE's and came to a clear conclusion that he wanted to work in the field of some sort of "helping" public service. He completed a stint of work experience with the Ambulance service and joined up with the Fire Service cadets for the first of 3 years learning the ropes there. Charlie reflects on the faith shown in him by his school and mentor. "I revisited my retiring head teacher recently and he confirmed that they were on the brink of suspending me but instead they showed faith that I could come good.... and they were right."



Residential Social Studies from Shrewsbury School 6th form have been difficult this past two years but the School's Outdoor Week provided a day trip. Here in the Nature Garden.

Meanwhile the sport just kept on giving and Charlie fell into a dream job with Coaching Connections. Showing commendable initiative after a period with the company, Charlie proposed and won agreement that he be allowed to develop a role in the company as a producer of football match analyses. He finished an B tec in Sports Performance and learned all the techniques required in filming live action and then feeding this back with analyses. In time this experience won him a treasured offer from Liverpool Football club to work weekends within their academy. Here he found himself on occasions mixing with Gary McAllister, Steve McManaman and Robbie Fowler and sitting opposite one Steven Gerrard as he set out on his managerial career.



Shrewsbury School vs Shrewsbury Club - the result never in doubt

It was in this period that Charlie was dragooned into filling in for an absent referee and set out to learn that skill. He reflects that he made loads of mistakes and got threatened and called everything but persevered and learned to cope with the flak and the stick all for the love of the game. He quickly got his level one coaching badges and was refereeing regularly which he still does every weekend. Whilst he was still enjoying his work with Coaching Connections Charlie set out to fulfil his lifelong ambition by applying to the Fire Service. Now let me say that Charlie looks every inch the archetypal fireman, but he was knocked back on the grounds of failing the manual dexterity test! He was devastated and his sadness was only matched by loss of confidence that really knocked him. And when the dream job of coaching and football analysis work came to an end, Charlie needed a new direction and a big lift. He slowly set about seeking out places where he could work with young people and in due course found the Shewsy.

That is the beginning of a lovely tale of discovery, learning and service within the club. Charlie models his simple approach on the great mentoring he received as a wayward schoolboy. He has completed a mentoring course which has helped further and also sits on the Youth Advisory Board of the national Youth Endowment Fund undertaking training, campaigning and scrutiny work in their field of supporting initiatives directed at reducing youth violence. He plans to start a degree course in Youth Work in September. He describes his work in the Shewsy as follows "always being available and open, spending a lot of time listening and supporting and making sure I am encouraging and building confidence " He describes the club as a centre of excellence and describes the school and club partnership as follows "My first experience of Shrewsbury School came in June 2019 when we took 2 groups down for a day visit. Before going I was a bit sceptical about how their staff and students would react to us and our young people. Would there be a class divide? Would we have stuff in common? Straight away the staff from the School were fantastic with our young people and made us all feel welcome. Lesley Drew was so eager to speak to me and our young people about how important the Shewsy is to the School and their students. We had a busy day doing bubble football, archery and kayaking. I made some great memories with our young people and always look forward to a visit to the School or a Social Studies visit to the Shewsy-we are all one family.

John Hutchison

Contact us



 0151 207 0725  SHREWSBURYHOUSE.ORG.UK   [THESHEWSY](https://www.instagram.com/THESHEWSY)

By email:

john.dumbell@shrewsburyhouse.org.uk
carol.bennett@shrewsburyhouse.org.uk
henry.corbett@btinternet.com

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

We acknowledge all photos as the work of club staff