

# Shrewsbury House

## ANNUAL REPORT



**2022**

## Warden's Final Report – Henry Corbett

Yes, I am going to miss the Shewsy massively. It has been such a transformative influence in my life from the day I arrived in September 1975 as a 22 year old outside the Shewsy hostel entrance. The Mazzini, Garibaldi, Cavour tower blocks were in place then, hovering over the Shrewsbury House with St Peter's Church Centre, recently opened the previous year. The then Bishop of Liverpool, Stuart Blanch, described the Centre as one of the most innovative initiatives during his time in the city. As I arrived out came Jane, a fellow volunteer at the Shewsy before heading for nursing training. Jane has been a transformative influence in my life too, as well as our children Emma, Sarah, Tom, all proud of their Everton-Shewsy roots.

As I leave living at the Centre for a house in Liverpool 8 where I will have a sabbatical and then help out in the Toxteth Deanery (I'm not keen on the word "retire": I prefer the thought of being a "freelance vicar") I will definitely take so many stories, memories, lessons learnt from my time in Everton. I have always tried to have as my anchor the words of Jesus "I have come not to be served but to serve", and, in my links with the community and beyond, the verse "Let your conversation always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:5-6) has been a guide.

The Shewsy is about serving young people and the community, and by serving I don't mean a doormat, anything goes serving, but the true service of developing potential, encouraging a right confidence, and equipping with skills and experiences to help make our world a more loving, more just, more beautiful place for all.

*Henry and Jane with their children Emma, Sarah and Tom in the 1990s when the area was going through hard times with much demolition before the rebuilding in the 2000s.*



*Henry and Jane at the 2022 Staff Christmas Night Out*



Junior Club and Senior club are flourishing as John Dumbell and our team get alongside the members and listen, encourage, enable. Youth work is as vital as ever. I have loved the Shewsy discussion groups and “hot seat” interviews where guests are asked questions by the club members: encouraging the skill of asking good questions is another life-skill the Shewsy encourages.

The Shewsy is also about working with others in serving the community and beyond. I’ve appreciated hosting the West Everton Lunch Club, bringing together people from local organisations, schools, police, housing associations, health workers and local activists 3 times a year to foster good relations and partnerships across the area and to hear a speaker on a relevant topic to our community.



Our partnership with Shrewsbury School continues to flourish and with other so helpful, good friends who support the Shewsy’s work. I have loved too putting together the Everton Telegraph our community newspaper which goes to every home in West Everton, letting people know of the good news from our area as well as the challenges and campaigns and keeping people informed of what happens at the club with the Shewsy news page.

Thank you so much for your interest, support, help, encouragement: it has been such a privilege to be at the Shewsy as helper, as warden, and long may the club flourish and continue to serve the Everton community and beyond.

*Henry Corbett*

## Senior Youth Worker's Report – John Dumbell

2022 has been an eventful and busy year for our young people. We have well and truly made the most of our ability to reopen fully by providing so many great opportunities for our members this year. In particular, we have managed to take 6 groups away on life-changing residentials both in the UK and Ireland. Charlie Hughes and I recently attended a contact-making seminar in Dublin with the hope of growing our list of contacts around Europe and beyond to provide more similar opportunities for our young people.



Looking back to March 2022, we took our relationship with Shrewsbury School a step further with our joint residential to Talargerwyn - the school's cottage near Penmachno in Snowdonia - where we each took 10 boys and girls aged 13-15 to participate in outward bound activities in a context which provided the opportunity to build positive relationships and to break down stereotypes and preconceptions.

Later in the year and despite some unpredictable weather, we had an excellent turnout for our annual summer fair with fabulous musical performances from club member and local crooner Jake Riley, Kenny O'Connell, Alba acoustic and X Factor's Anthony Russell to name but a few. Massive thanks to our great community for making it yet another day to remember. And perhaps a particular mention for our friends from Food for Thought for their time spent on the very busy BBQ.



*The Shewsy Summer Fair in full swing*

July saw a visit to the Junior Club from Assistant Chief Constable Jon Roy who joined our circle time, and answered some tough questions about his job and what it entails from our junior club panel. Jon later tweeted “some tough questions from a great group of young people. It was fantastic to meet you all.”

10 senior club members spent a week in Mullingar, Ireland as part of our European Network for Youth Clubs. We were given the chance to meet up with young people from Ireland, Finland and Croatia. This was a fantastic experience for our young people and in addition to lots of fun and games we had some interesting topical discussions on women's rights, climate change and the importance of youth work and the underfunding of it. This enabled the young people to feel empowered and have a voice, creating a video that in due course would be sent around to our local MPs raising the issues that young people face today and how they could be supported. As a result of this, the Mayor of Liverpool granted us £8,000 enabling us to host the return leg in August.

Since the end of the summer play scheme and the return to school for many young people in the area, we have once again seen a huge rise in memberships/attendances with 84 new comers since September bringing our current membership to over 770 young people. As you could well imagine with numbers being so high the staff team have been extremely busy planning and delivering sessions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our fantastic team for their commitment to the cause ensuring we are able to deliver the best quality service for the young people in and around our community. We have also added Steve Holroyd as our new senior executive officer. His role is to enable the youth work team to concentrate on the real life changing work by providing support in the infrastructure and standards required to run an inner city youth club in the 21st Century.

In September our senior club members were fortunate enough to get a visit from Everton legend Duncan Ferguson who spoke brilliantly about his life as a footballer, his family and lessons he had learned along the way giving some really honest answers and great advice to our members.



Our Junior club members were also greeted with a local celebrity too, Liverpool ladies star Missy Bo Kearns called in and had a kick around just days after playing in the Merseyside derby at Anfield, which was attended by many of our members who had been given free tickets by the LFC foundation.

Nicola Coker and Jenny Edwards were pivotal in organising our “Lettuce Eat Together” event which was a follow on from our annual Know Your Neighbour Day where families from all different cultural backgrounds were invited to bring a traditional healthy dish from their country of origin and share recipes whilst meeting new people. Once again this proved to be a brilliant day with over 100 local people with food from 11 different countries.

On Mischief Night we opened specially for an extended period—5pm to 11pm—providing food and diversionary activities such as Nail Art, Reiki and various competitions to keep people busy and away from the temptation of anti-social behaviours. We had 60+ attendees this night and have again received feedback from local police that ASB has dropped on this night from previous years.

November saw the return of The Blue Run in Everton Park in memory of Joseph Lappin and I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped on the day and congratulate all the runners. Special thanks to the Friends of Everton Park, North Liverpool Academy School and Salisbury ABC for organising this year's event.

Once again I would like to thank everyone who was able to donate to our Big Give Campaign this year which once again had exceeded our initial £80,000 target in one week. Thanks also to our Champion Funder, the Four Acre Trust, and our own lead pledger for ensuring we had our match funding in place to make this possible.

I simply cannot finish this piece without giving a special mention to our outgoing Vicar Reverend Henry Corbett. Henry has been a vital cog in this community for over 40 years and unfortunately has to retire when he reaches 70 in January 2023. I personally have learned so much from such a tremendously humble man and would like to thank Henry for all he has done for Shrewsbury House, St Peters and the whole of the Everton community.

*John Dumbell*



*The First Joint Shewsy / Shewsy School Tally Ressie*

# Finance Report 2021-2022

Financial Year ended:

Mar 2020<sup>1</sup>

Mar 2021<sup>2</sup>

Mar 2022

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

### Income

Big Give Donations	£13,000	£40,958	£62,717
Other Donations and legacies	£85,066	£48,208	£67,292
Grants	(see note1)	£207,615	£176,326
Charitable activities	£137,241	£3,802	£26,000
5 yearly School Sponsored Walk	-	-	£79,253
Gift Aid Reclaimed	£21,099	£16,432	£18,308
Rent for room hire, hostel and house	£26,166	£21,067	£22,729
Investments	£71	£1,137	£21
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£282,643</b>	<b>£339,219</b>	<b>£452,645</b>

### Expenditure

Wages/Salaries including pensions and recruitment costs.	£144,432	£136,422	£165,422
Property repairs and maintenance	£129,687	£57,418	£53,588
Other Club running costs	£75,109	£52,608	£95,430
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£349,228</b>	<b>£246,448</b>	<b>£314,228</b>

### Surplus/Deficit for Year

**-£66,585      +£92,771      +£138,228**

## BALANCE SHEET

### Assets

Fixed assets	£4,113	£257	-
Debtors	£56,333	£17,410	£33,543
Cash at bank	£110,096	£246,920	£372,129

### Liabilities

Creditors	-£8,576	-£9,850	£-12,518
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### Total assets less liabilities

**£157,853      £254,737      £393,154**

### Funds

Unrestricted	£153,214	£233,255	£375,278
Restricted	£8,752	£21,482	£17,876

### Total Funds

**£161,966      £254,737      £393,154**

Note 1: The 2019/20 accounts did not separately identify Grants in the notes. Grant Income is spread between Other Donations and Charitable Activities

Note 2: The 2020/21 accounts have been restated, with the effect of increasing income for the year and debtors by £11,931

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.

**ASDA Foundation**

**Beacon Trust**

**City Safe - Operation Stonehaven**

**Four Acre Trust (As a matched Donor in the Big Give)**

**Garfield Weston Foundation (Year 2 of 2-year grant)**

**Hans & Julia Rausing Trust**

**Integrated Play Partnership - 3 x Out of School Holiday Scheme grants**

**John Moores Foundation (Year 2 of 2-year grant)**

**LCVS Covid Recovery Scheme Grant**

**LCVS Innovation in Communities**

**Liverpool Church of England Scripture Readers**

**Liverpool City Council Grant Aid - Via Your Edge Training**

**PH Holt Foundation Resilience Fund**

**Rushworths Trust**

**Shrewsbury School**

**The Salopian Club**

The generosity of our Donors and charitable grant-making trusts has allowed the club to weather the COVID storm. Coupled with the “one off” proceeds of the Shrewsbury School Sponsored walk that takes place every five years, this has resulted in an operating surplus for the year. This has allowed the Trustee Board to approve a number of critical improvements to the premises over the second half of 2022 and to boost the number and mix of staff, as well as recognising their critical contribution in difficult financial times with a healthy pay increase. The cumulative effect of this expenditure, combined with an ever-increasing cost base as inflationary pressures bite, is a large operating deficit in the first part of the current financial year. Notwithstanding a fantastic and record setting fund raise through the Big Give 2022 in early December, the club is still forecast to end March 2023 with a deficit for the financial year in excess of £100,000 As the prospective incoming Treasurer, I wanted our readers to be aware of what has happened since year end, and that moving into 2023, the club has a much larger cost base than a few years ago. The healthy bank balance at March 2022 is therefore somewhat deceptive, and I would appeal to Donors and Grant Funders alike to continue their generous support. Together with the new SEO and staff at the club, there is a real determination to ensure that the funds we raise are spent wisely and is spread between Other Donations and Charitable Activities efficiently.

*Jeremy Lees, Prospective Treasurer*

## Senior Executive Officer's Report – Steve Holroyd

A phone call from Henry Corbett is always welcome...but the one that came in late April 2022 was the most intriguing of all. We had known each other since 1988 and my association with the Shewsy stretched back to the era that John Hutch talked about in his last Chair's Report when that arc of high rise blocks dominated the Everton landscape. Walking to Goodison in the early 80's from Lime Street or the Pier Head, you felt watched over when you walked past those towers. Now, here was Henry quietly asking on the phone if I'd seen the vacancy for the newly conceived post of Senior Executive Officer at The Shewsy.

Two rigorous interviews later , I found myself walking back into a Youth and Community Centre where so much had changed and where so much was still exactly the same. The first 100 days in post has been a process of re-acclimatisation. Now, with the ear re-tuned and the senses re-fired, I find myself in the privileged position of contributing to the Annual Report.

Please allow me to start with what's NOT changed: Firstly, the joy on our members' faces as they cross the threshold into our safe haven where they know they will be stimulated, entertained, cared for and fed.



*Josef Rooney meeting with Steve Holroyd in Rigg's Hall at Shrewsbury School*



Recently, we have been focusing on the Safeguarding procedures to ensure that the children from Faith Primary School are carefully handed over and then, in our Hi-Vis Walking Bus, make their way slowly and carefully - two-by-two - across the skate park, Roscommon Street and two well used car parks. The problem is that as soon as they glimpse the door to the Shewsy and sense the toast popping up in the kitchen - they're off at full speed. It's a lovely problem to have to fix.



Then, the Senior Club continues to cater for dozens of young people in the weekday evenings who feel that the Shewsy is their home. Inside, the same iconic snooker tables loom over the main hall with activities, card games, pool, video games, “the match” on the big screen, karaoke, chat and high jinks. The music might be at nightclub levels but those influential conversations still take place between the youth workers and our members in quiet nooks and crannies.

And then, the Youth Workers names have changed since the days of Torch, Eddie McCracken, Kathy Riley but their passion for the community and especially its young people haven't. I was sharing a video of Neville Southall with John Dumbell (now Team Leader) reminding him of a save from an Imre Varadi volley in 1985 to which he replied, “Hey, mate, I wasn't born until 1982!”

However, in John Dumbell, The Shewsy possesses another in the long line of heroes whose passion, knowledge and fearlessness are legendary. He would want me too to pay tribute to Nicola Coker and the emerging team of new generation Youth Workers whose commitment and talent are truly inspiring.

But this is the 21st Century - and things do change. I can't really believe that on 31st January 2023, Henry will celebrate his 70th birthday and, with it, will come a move away from St Peter's, away from Everton to Toxteth. There will soon be a new vicar of St Peter's and a new Warden of the Shewsy but Henry's legacy for everyone associated with the Shewsy will live on. For each person, there will be a different suite of memories as Henry's touch was deeply personal. Henry's is a true living faith from which a kindness emerges which has rubbed off on so many - myself included - and we look forward to a new friend of the Shewsy in the vicarage whose door will remain wide open to all. Jane will, of course, remain as a Labour Councillor for the Everton Ward and her attachment to and engagement with the people in our community will keep her deeply rooted here.

John Hutch reported last year on the "brilliant fund-raising effort" by Shrewsbury School - and this link, now on the verge of 120 years strong, remains a truly unique feature of the Shewsy. Both partners are so proud of the association which continues to strengthen. All Year 9 students at Shrewsbury School now visit us and enjoy an introduction to our work and meet with Junior Club Members. More Lower Sixth students than ever before now have the opportunity to visit, stay over in The Hostel, rub shoulders with our Junior and Senior Club members and engage with some of the issues facing The Shewsy in its Liverpool context. Equally, the legendary Shewsy residential visits to Shropshire continue to evolve and planning is already underway for the second joint ressie to Talargerwyn. All parties testify as to how much good work happens when our young people are away from their known, local environments.

And so, as we look forward to the 120th Anniversary of the Founding of The Shewsy and the association with The School, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed financially in this last year and who is planning to do so again - especially as The Big Give good news comes in. Your kindness and generosity enables lives to be changed.

*Steve Holroyd*



The first week of December 2022 was dominated by our fourth consecutive year of participation in the Big Give Christmas Challenge. After last year's success, we decided to increase our target to raise £40,000 in online donations in just 7 days. We were delighted to secure again a £20,000 pledge from a very generous supporter earlier in the year, and yet again the Four Acre Trust - as our Champion Funder - joined in with the same amount to produce a potential total of £80,000... but only if we made the target. Well, we did it again—and in five days! The actual sum raised including Gift Aid was £90,802. Our campaign was simply entitled **Shrewsbury House**.

“After another tough year, Shrewsbury House is up and running at full capacity. With over 770 children registered, we provide a safe environment for learning through play to develop and learn skills. We also need to respond to the wellbeing needs of our children and young people impacted by financial hardship. “

Thank you to all who contributed.....Four Acre Trust, our pledger and 169 online donors (up from 99 last year) 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 challenges we face 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.

*Professor Alan McCarthy (Trustee)*

## **Interview with Josef Rooney—the first member of The Shewsy to attend Shrewsbury School full-time and Steve Holroyd**

*Steve: Josef, what are your first memories of the Shewsy and how did your association with it come about?*

Josef: I'd be about 12 years old and some of my mates from Anfield said they were going down to this place called the Shewsy in Everton. I'd never heard of it but we turned up and started knocking a ball around in the gym. I met John Dumbell, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Michael Duffy and Henry Corbett - and I really enjoyed it. I've only ever lived in Anfield and I'd been to school at Christ the King in Childwall and then to SFX in Woolton - and at that time football and cricket were my two passions. I was playing footie for Rochdale Academy and, on a Saturday in Liverpool, for Predator. This team won the U13's national championships and I started to understand that I was good at football and had leadership qualities.

*Steve: What did the youth workers at the Shewsy mean to you?*

Josef: They were always very helpful and built my confidence. Actually, John Dumbell approached me and, knowing that I was good at cricket and seeing that I was good at football, mentioned Shewsy School to me for the first time. I didn't even know it existed. I felt like John, Henry and Hutch were my mates always approachable and supporting me. After training at Rochdale, I would drop by The Shewsy to meet up with my mates and I was always made to feel welcome.

*Steve: So, looking back, what do you think the Shewsy gave you?*

Josef: I was quite naive at this time when I was 12 or 13 and the Shewsy gave me confidence in my own ability and I think that this is where I started to develop my leadership qualities. If you see me now on the footie pitch, I set the standards and insist on them from everyone else. Playing in central midfield, everyone around me has got to be on the ball. This came from the Shewsy - and, of course, John Dumbell put in front of me the best opportunity in the world.



*Steve: Are you still in touch with your mates from The Shewsy?*

Josef: Yes, for sure. I speak with them regularly, keep in touch through social media and go out with them when I get home. My 18th Birthday was actually a Shewsy reunion. I'm in touch with Lewis Holmes, Anthony Gallagher and Ben Quigg - and I think that the Shewsy has helped us all to make good decisions about our lives. When I'm back, I like to drop into The Shewsy too.

*Steve: Tell me a bit more about your football and cricket in Liverpool?*

Josef: I was a left arm spin bowler for SFX and playing club cricket for Wavertree in the Merseyside Competition. I'd always played footie for club sides in Liverpool on my journey to the academy in Rochdale. I remember playing for Park View, Sporting Woolton and then Predator.

*Steve: So how did the association with Shewsy School come about?*

Josef: I'd never heard of it but on 4th November 2017, a group of us from the Shewsy were invited down for a postors' Open Day. (Praepostors or postors are school prefects.) We played footie and beat the school team about 10-0 and I went to the cricket centre and played some cricket. I was able to meet with Andrew Murfin (Director of Sport) and Steve Wilderspin (First Team Football Coach) and they asked me if I was offered a sports scholarship would I like to come. "I think I'm good but it's up to you." As soon as I arrived, I'd said to myself, "I need to come here."



*Steve: So, Josef...you've certainly made the most of this opportunity. What's next?*

Josef: I'm going to apply to the college system in America and I have a showcase trial in two weeks' time when 22 US college directors of sport will be coming to watch me play. Ultimately, I want to play football and then gain the qualifications to go into Sports Management.

*Steve: If there was a young person back at The Shewsy who wanted to follow in your footsteps, what advice would you give?*

Josef: I'd say be brave. The Shewsy gave me the confidence to make the correct decision at the right time and if an opportunity comes your way, I'd say give it a go. And if anyone from the Shewsy ever got the chance to come here, I'd drive them down myself.

*Josef Rooney & Steve Holroyd*



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Our Chair of the Board of Trustees is **Leo Winkley**

Our Senior Youth Worker is **John Dumbell**

Our Senior Executive Officer is **Steve Holroyd**

Our Site Manager is **Lorraine Mangan**

Our Administrator is **Carol Bennett**

We acknowledge all photos as the work of club staff