

The Chronicle

Autumn/Winter 2021



150 YEARS
St Andrew's - the world's
oldest youth club

Message from the Chair

The Club is off to a flying start this Autumn Term – and it's been fantastic to welcome many new members and to see the Club getting busier and busier. We continue to reach out to the local community to let them know we are here for the benefit of all young people. We continue to follow the National Youth Agency guidelines and are thrilled to be able to run our programmes without restrictions.

We are delighted to be marking our 155th birthday this year, with celebrations coinciding with those of receiving the London Youth GOLD Quality Mark (read more below).

Read in this issue about our recent news, achievements and accomplishments – none of which would be possible without your continued support.



Elizabeth Cuffy

Mental Health Youth Worker – Lucy Jonas

The Club is thrilled to introduce Lucy Jonas, our new mental health youth worker; who visits St Andrew's Club each week. She works for the mental health charity, MIND, across the boroughs of Brent, Wandsworth, and Westminster. Her responsibilities include supporting our members and staff with their well-being. Lucy aims to empower and support young people on a broad range of issues, from friendships and relationships to common mental health symptoms such as anxiety, low mood, or challenging behaviours. Welcome Lucy!



Lucy prioritises early intervention when working with young people

Prevention is better than cure

At St Andrew's Club, we believe that prevention is better than cure. We strive to provide young people from diverse backgrounds with a safe, inspiring environment and an engaging programme of activities from an early age in order for them to develop a sense of belonging, confidence, respect, and purpose in order to help them reach their full potential. According to reports, this is one of the most important ways to address the root causes of youth and gang violence.



PC Maisie Bremer-Smith

St Andrew's positive early intervention methods were recognised by PC Maisie Bremer-Smith of the Vincent Square Safer Neighbourhoods Team:

"Covid-19 has had a huge effect on young people's lives. Throughout the last year, the Club has been a lifeline for children who due to the pandemic, have been cut off from their friends and education. St Andrew's Club has offered a healthy distraction to these young people who may have felt encouraged to breach the rules and cause anti-social behaviour. We can continue our work in the community, knowing that the Club is providing activities to young people, often preventing the need for police intervention and allowing local young people to express themselves in a supportive environment."

We got the GOLD Award!

St Andrew's has received the Gold Quality Mark from London Youth, its flagship Quality Assurance programme. This is a badge of excellence for youth organisations that are committed to continuous improvement by involving young people in organisational development and is recognised by local authorities and funders.

We are thrilled and acknowledge all the hard work done by so many at the Club to make this possible. The team, led by Youth Club Manager, Sarah Nicholls, worked hard to compile the required evidence, particularly difficult following the unpredictable second Covid-year when programmes and provision constantly flexed and changed to meet changing conditions, requirements and needs. We are only the 14th youth provision in London to achieve this goal, which is a testament to the amazing work done by everyone at the Club of enriching young lives.





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Youth Work Update Summer Projects

As we welcome Autumn, we look back on some wonderful memories made at St Andrew's Club over the last few months.

This year's Summer Project, organised and managed by our team of brilliant professional youth workers, began on Monday 26 July, with Junior Club running for three weeks until Friday 13 August, and Senior Club running for four weeks until Friday 20 August. Junior Club enjoyed games and outdoor play thanks to the beautiful weather, ending with a water fight as the temperature soared to 30 degrees (remember that?!). Weekly roller discos, bake-offs, MasterChef competitions, graffiti art, flower arranging, and archery were all part of the Senior Club programme.

Huge thanks to John Lyon's Charity, St Giles & St George Education Charity, and Westminster City Council Holiday Activity Fund for funding the project.

Read more here:

<https://www.standrewsclub.com/index.php/blog/summer-project-2021>



Summer Projects

October Half Term Programme

During the October half-term, Sarah, Youth Club Manager, and Adrian, Deputy Manager, accompanied 35 members on a residential trip (read more on the next page), while our team of brilliant youth workers held the fort at the Club, where they were joined by around 60 members each day for both Junior and Senior Clubs.

Stanley and Stacey, Senior Youth Workers, ensured happiness at Senior Club by hosting sessions such as Games Night, Roller Blading, park trips, and plenty of Halloween themed fun, from pumpkin carving to movie nights!

The good times continued at Junior Club, where Senior Youth Workers Stephanie, Karl, and Charlotte led sessions for our younger members that included Halloween-themed Arts and Crafts, biscuit decorating, and general play. Forsters LLP, the Club's wonderful charity partner, took over for one day, leading sessions and having some Halloween fun with Junior Club members.



Half Term



Louise shortly after she joined the Club

Autumn Term

We are delighted that following a fantastic Summer Project, the Autumn Term began with a significant increase in membership numbers. Club sessions and activities for Senior Club included Grub Club, Arts and Crafts, Boxing, Football, Music, and, excitingly, Cookery with Louise has resumed in person after 18 months of running as a virtual session. Meanwhile, Junior Club enjoyed Arts and Crafts, baking, and other activities.



Autumn Term



32 Years of Louise at St Andrew's Club

In September, St Andrew's Club celebrated 32 years of Louise working at the Club. Louise has been an integral part of the Club for 32 years, aiding members in developing the important skills of cooking. Thank you so much for all of your hard work and the difference you've made in the lives of so many Club members; the Club wouldn't be the same without you!

The Importance of Residentials

Staff Residential

In August, twelve of our staff members and youth workers ventured to Wales for a 4-day staff residential at Call of the Wild Adventure Centre, thanks to funding from the Peabody Community Fund and the London Community Foundation. The residential gave our staff the opportunity to take part in some fun and challenging new experiences. These included Caving through tight spaces in the dark, Rock Climbing up cliff faces and Abseiling back down again, Gorge Walking up streams and walking under and jumping from waterfalls, and Kayaking on Welsh lakes. The team was put through their paces but worked together to complete all the challenges. Read more about the trip here: <https://www.standrewsclub.com/index.php/blog/staff-residential-2021>.



Staff Residential

Members' Residential

During the October half-term, 35 young people aged 10 to 16 years old visited Hindleap Warren for a week of outdoor adventure activities. Zip lining, high ropes courses, obstacle courses, night walks, forest adventures, team building and team challenges, abseiling, and rock climbing were among the activities available.

Member Quotes:

"I am proud of myself because I was able to do things that scared me and also able to talk to new people."

"After this week, I know I can do anything and am more confident!"



Evidence collected and presented by Hindleap Warren indicates that young people who take part in an Outward-Bound programme develop skills such as increased confidence, resilience, and better teamwork, leadership, planning, and goal setting. Additional research suggests that residentials have a positive impact on 'vulnerable' young people, particularly those who are deemed likely to underachieve due to personal and family issues (University of Cumbria). We totally agree!



Upcoming Events & Fundraising

Dinner, Dance & Auction – Thursday 28 April 2022

The fundraising Dinner, Dance & Auction returns on Thursday 28 April 2022 at the Westminster Kingsway Catering College. It is an amazing event to support the Club: enjoy a fun evening with dinner and music (check out the band, *Jivin' Miss Daisy*, on YouTube), and bid on some incredible lots under the hammer of a Christie's auctioneer. Still available: tables; sponsorship opportunities. **Requested: any auction lots gratefully received.** Contact callum@standrewsclub.com for more information.

St Andrew's to St Andrew's Club Cycling Challenge

In August 2022 (dates TBC), the Club will take a small crew of experienced cyclists to St Andrew's, Scotland. The crew will then cycle 500 miles to St Andrew's Club in Westminster over the course of a week to raise funds for the Club. This will be the first time this event has been held in 10 years! Look out for more information on how to support this fantastic fundraising opportunity for the Club and how to take part virtually.



St Andrew's to St Andrew's

Big Give Christmas Challenge 30 November-7 December 2021

We are once again taking part in The Big Give Christmas Challenge – a matched fundraising campaign. When you donate through the dedicated online portal during the campaign week (30 November – 7 December), your donation will be DOUBLED. All donations will go towards four days of 'Making Christmas Special for our members.' With many members coming from homes on tight family budgets, St Andrew's will alleviate pressure on disadvantaged local families by providing memorable Christmas experiences which may not otherwise be affordable. Please help us reach our online target of **£2,500**. One donation, twice the impact. Email lucy@standrewsclub.com if you would like a reminder sent when the campaign goes live.



How else can you support us?

These uncertain times have highlighted the importance of our Regular Givers. A regular gift allows St Andrew's Club to plan for the future knowing that we will have a steady income stream that we can rely on, whatever the external circumstances. By pledging a regular gift, you will help St Andrew's Club not only survive but thrive. Gift Aid could make your donation worth 25% more. Our Regular Givers receive regular invitations to Club events and receptions, which we continue to plan for when that part of life resumes. Please contact annette@standrewsclub.com for more details.



Thank You!

We'd like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the six fantastic supporters who have recently taken part in running challenges to raise funds for the Club. On Sunday 3 October, Iman and Philip ran the London Marathon, collectively raising an amazing £1,280 for the Club. On Sunday 10 October, Andrew, Candice, Horace, and Stuart (from our wonderful partner, Forsters LLP) ran the Royal Parks Half Marathon. Together, they raised a whopping £2,598 for the Club. Thanks to their efforts, we continue to thrive and deliver this much needed local provision. Fancy fundraising for the Club? Contact lucy@standrewsclub.com for more information.

Make a one-off donation

You can make a one-off donation to the Club via BACS, online through our new donation platform, Local Giving, by cheque, or over the phone. Visit our website for details.

Sign-up to The Giving Machine and Smile Amazon – it's FREE!

Signing up to The Giving Machine and Smile Amazon are fantastic ways to donate – without costing you a penny! Once you're signed up, a percentage of what you spend with participating partners, including Sainsbury's, eBay, and John Lewis, gets automatically donated to the charity of your choice. Simply sign-up online, make St Andrew's Club your chosen charity and donate whilst you shop.

Gift in Will

Leave a legacy in your Will to the John Scott Fund, a growing fund, established by friends and supporters of the Club, with a particular mission to provide some long-term financial security to the Club. Contact Annette for more information at annette@standrewsclub.com

Thanks to our Funders

Thank you to all our Trustees, Advisers, Individuals, Corporates, Trusts, Foundations and Livery Companies who help make St Andrew's Club the precious community asset it is today. Please keep supporting us - we couldn't do it without you!

Our special thanks for gifts of £3,000 or more received from grant-makers since July 2021 include:

Hyde Park Place Estate Charity, John Lyon's Charity, Strand Parishes Trust, Westminster Amalgamated Charity, Westminster City Council, Westminster Foundation, The Wogen Anniversary Trust



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St Andrew's Club, Alec Wizard House, 12 Old Pye Street, Westminster, London SW1P 2DG
T: 020 7222 6481 E: info@standrewsclub.com W: www.standrewsclub.com

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