

A spotlight on our past, present and future

Knights Youth Centre
Annual review 2019



We are Knights

This is what we do

Knights Youth Centre (KYC) has provided a safe, fun, inclusive and engaging place for thousands of young people for more than 80 years.

It is the main provider of youth services in and around the Clapham Park Estate in Lambeth, London, an area of high social and economic need. Many of the 250 young people who come through our doors each week live in the area, but the impact of our work reaches across the borough.

Our work focuses on offering continuous and consistent care, transformative opportunities, positive role models and new experiences to the young people aged 8-21 regardless of their gender, race, sexuality or disability. In addition to 'standard' activities, we provide sports coaching, offsite trips, regular residentials, specialised work with girls, arts and dance, access to IT equipment and vocational training. Crucially we also undertake targeted outreach with young people who, through disengagement with 'traditional' services, are at risk of involvement with gangs, drugs and anti-social behaviour.



Our core principles

Community

We feel that each young person should belong and have a positive role within their community.

Support

It is our intention to ensure that each young person is equipped and confident to make positive choices.

Equality

KYC is open to any young person regardless of gender, sexuality, disability, culture or religion.

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Chair's introduction and overview

Looking forward to the new decade



It's the start of a new decade and time for a review of what KYC has achieved over the last year of the previous decade.

2019 was one of our more positive periods financially – with an overall surplus in our accounts.

While usually we aim to use all the funds we receive to support our young people, I'm writing this piece in early 2020 when the world is starting to look very different. Seeing the impact COVID-19 is having on the economy, I feel very glad that we've started the year on a strong financial footing. Many independent charities will not survive this time: donations across the sector are projected to decrease by 40 per cent. I believe we will survive and continue to thrive with the ongoing great work done by our staff, volunteers and trustees – who all contribute their time and talent to support the work of the centre.

Also, with our team of partners who support us with prayers, finance and encouragement. These things together make sure Knights runs well and continues to make good progress towards its mission and its vision.

Thanks in particular go to:

- Our team of volunteers who donate their time and expertise for us
- Our partners including Lambeth YLC and the Harriet Trust
- The financial support of BBC Children in Need
- Our patron George Clarke
- All the valued 'friends' of the Knights who provide all kinds of support

In 2019 we delivered a wide range of services and activities for young people ranging from developing leadership skills to exciting offsite activities. We're committed to helping members become confident, resilient young people ready to make a positive contribution to their community.

Highlights of my year included welcoming Ryan Bish back to the centre, this time as our Head of Youth Services. Ellie Gauge has also joined us as our senior youth worker, and we're already seeing her fantastic impact. Our work with girls continues to go from strength to strength and we are all proud of the recognition it receives from our friends and peers in this sector. You'll see our football team is back and is inspiring our young people and helping them to develop skills to make positive decisions in their lives.

Enjoy reading the report – and for those of you who pray, please pray for the protection, guidance and wisdom of the young members, their families and the local community, as well as the board as it leads our work into the next decade.

Thank you for your continued support and interest.

Blessings

Millicent Grant



**I believe we will survive
and continue to thrive with
the ongoing great work
done by our staff, volunteers
and trustees**





A spotlight on...

Pull up a chair Millicent Grant

We're extremely proud to announce that our Chair, Millicent Grant, recently became the first Chartered Legal Executive to be appointed an Honorary Queen's Counsel.

We thought this was a good opportunity to shine the spotlight on Millicent and her involvement with the Club.

What was your first involvement with Knights?

I became aware of KYC in my teens. Some of the club's leaders and their families attended the same church in Streatham as I did. There was even a "youth club exchange" between my church-based club and Knights which I took part in - so I experienced the club in action all those years ago.

Why did you get involved in the club?

Having left home and started work I wanted a new challenge, something that would not just benefit me but also have a positive impact on young people's lives. I had fond memories of Knights and was still in touch with some of the leaders. I liked the work they did and the way they operated so took the step of becoming a voluntary youth worker.

What made you want to become a Chair and trustee?

While being Chair was never my ambition, it's a role I am proud to play. Having been involved with the club for a few years I was invited to become a member of the management team, progressing to Vice Chair and, following a review of the governance structure of the charity, stepping up to the role of Chair in September 2016. It's great that I am able to use my professional and personal experience, training as a personal development coach and interest in young people to help guide the vital work that KYC does.

How does your professional and personal experience contribute towards your role?

Professionally, as a public sector corporate governance lawyer, I have had experience sitting on a number of boards and committees and being President of my professional body. This has made me understand how to bring people together to pursue a common goal strategically and to manage important relationships.

Personally, I was born and brought up in Lambeth – the child of parents from the “Windrush generation” – and have lived through various challenges caused by racial, economic and political tensions. I saw the aspiration my parents had for themselves and their children and how hard they worked to make this aspiration real. I was inspired by this and also wanted to play my part building a positive community. KYC is the perfect place to do this.



When I see discrimination, bias and inequality in action I get very frustrated, especially when there appear to be barriers to tackling these and helping the young people.



What has been the most challenging part of your role?

When I see discrimination, bias and inequality in action I get very frustrated, especially when there appear to be barriers to tackling these and helping the young people. Thankfully, that is one of the key aims of KYC – to cut through these barriers and help provide the support and encouragement that young people need, exposing them to positive role models and different experiences, raising their aspirations and giving them confidence, ultimately helping them to succeed in the world.

If you could wave a magic wand, what one wish would you have for KYC?

KYC has been independent since its formation in 1936. It's stayed open when many state-funded clubs have had to close. We are an important presence in the community helping those in the area navigate the challenges they face on a daily basis. The staff are committed but there would be so much more we could do if we had more funds. The needs of our members and their families are changing all the time and we need to constantly evolve our offer to meet those needs. This takes time and money. Time is willingly given by our wonderful volunteers, but sadly we can't magic up money. Donations are even more important given the economic impact of COVID-19. Every penny will count.

What's your hope for the future of KYC?

We would like the building and the club to become more of a community hub working with schools, faith communities, specialist interest groups, and more. It has been said that it takes a whole village to raise a child: it's becoming apparent that the community needs our support and that, when the community (our village) is supported, our members benefit. This will enable us to build on and extend the vital work that KYC does and the huge impact it has in this wonderful – but challenging – part of London.

Every penny counts Support KYC while you shop



Did you know Amazon will donate 0.5% of the value of your purchases to Knights?

All you have to do is sign up and shop through smile.amazon.com in future. It's exactly the same as your usual Amazon experience and costs you nothing – but will be a huge help to us.

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A year at Knights

Updates from our engine room:
Juniors, Girls at KYC, Inters.



We believe that every young person is unique, talented and beautiful. For many Knights is 'home'. We're here to make sure young people are equipped and confident to make positive choices that enable them to live independent, interdependent and successful lives.



Millicent Grant, Chair



A spotlight on...

Our new Head of Youth Services

Ryan Bish

Ryan was a volunteer youth worker over ten years ago and has now returned to become Head of Youth work.

In line with other staff and trustees at KYC Ryan feels passionately that young people in the area need a stable place where they can go without being judged and be themselves. He believes young people respond well to consistency and stability – and people they know who clearly have their best interests at heart. He relishes being part of our team, providing support and guidance when it's needed and creating an environment where young people develop positive social skills.

Since coming back to Knights and getting stuck in this year, he thinks the mentoring programme has been a particular success, helping the young people set aspirational but achievable goals and giving them the individual support to help tackle any barriers or challenges that seem to be in the way.



My personal 2019 highlight was seeing young people from our football team and the youth volunteers be awarded for their achievements at the Christmas celebration. It was great to see the pride on their faces and to know that they have made positive choices in their lives.



Juniors: building the best habits

Juniors is a fundamental part of the youth work we deliver at KYC. We engage around 30 young people aged 8-11 every week.

Because our overriding focus is on preventing those in primary and the early years of secondary school from entering the youth justice system, we provide an exciting and inclusive youth programme at peak times for crime and anti-social behaviour.

Working with this age group is essential to making sure constructive habits are formed. We help members build up their resilience, make confident decisions, and play a vital role in establishing positive wellbeing. The young people have the opportunity to speak to youth workers about issues and challenges they may be experiencing. This includes, but isn't exclusive to: events leading to trauma, mental health support, identity, threat of violence and careers advice.



Over the past year we've delivered a variety of social activities including football, cooking, team-building games and health and well-being workshops. The football sessions have been the most popular. The young people love the drills designed to enhance their skills, and the games build their confidence and get them working together as a team. We've taken part in several matches and football tournaments - a great incentive to keep coming back, working hard and improving.

This year has seen even more activities delivered both during term time and throughout the holiday period. The centre has become even more vibrant and we're delighted that the numbers of young people coming through our doors has increased. We'll continue to empower, encourage and challenge young people, standing alongside them on their journeys through life, school and KYC itself.





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Football at KYC: training the body and the mind

Football has been an important part of the KYC experience for many, many years (see David Bradshaw's memories later in the report). Today it is an activity for 8-14 year olds, with training taking place in the sports hall every Friday during term time and matches played at the Black Prince Community Hub and other local sports facilities during half terms. Here Paps - who used to be a senior member and is now a sessional worker - explains why, in his mind, football matters.

Football is a great sport for young people. On the surface young people see it as a time to meet up with their friends, socialise within a safe and inclusive environment and challenge themselves to learn a skill, develop it and then showcase their ability.

But football does more than that. It breaks down barriers, promotes self-esteem and teaches life skills and healthy behaviour.

Being active brings countless physical and mental health benefits, which can improve both individuals and a group's overall well-being. In addition, when you think about what goes on in training and on the pitch you can see these young people are learning so many social skills. The ability to communicate verbally. Listening to others' instructions and views. Behaving in a sporting manner. Making decisions. Managing distractions. Coping with winning and losing. And also respect. This last one is so important. They respect each other and they respect the coaches and staff who take the time to teach them skills and give them the confidence to get involved.

Most importantly, football is a universal game that brings people together from all walks of life and helps them make positive choices individually and together. That's important for us at KYC as it speaks directly to our mission. I love being involved with the young people in this way and look forward to another year of passing drills, shooting practice and keep ball.





Girls at KYC: a growing success story

Ellie Gauge and Kemi Adeshina lead the Girls at Knights sessions (NOTE: PLEASE CHECK). They rightly take great pride in the positive feedback that the team get from other youth providers and professionals impressed with our 'girls only' programmes. It is one of our greatest assets and something we should celebrate.

According to our membership records (and evidenced on club nights) more than 50 per cent of our current KYC young people are girls. This is not common across the youth work sector and certainly a long way from our history as a boys' club.

In fact, girls night has been steadily growing over the last year, with attendance numbers increasing each week. This is testament to a brilliant staff team who have triumphed in building excellent relationships with the young people. Our much-loved sessional worker Sharna Gayle was awarded the Jack Petchey Leadership Award for her fantastic work here.

The girls have been involved in creative projects such as the renovation of our 'TV room' and reupholstering the sofa set with colour kente fabrics; both of which have brought new life to the club. There is always a lot of food and the girls take ownership over the menus and the kitchen. We hosted a big Thanksgiving meal in November featuring roast chicken and all the trimmings.



There is a wider age range at Girls than our other club nights which leads to a more family feel, with the older ones supporting the younger. We sit down and eat together every week. We aim to create a safe space where the girls feel comfortable to share stories and seek advice and support from their peers and the Youth Workers. In the summer a small group of girls attended a residential trip to Hindleap Warren and had great fun overcoming challenges and bonding as a group.





This year we begun a girls' project with the Young Londoners Fund. This project was built in response to an awareness of the growing number of young women involved in criminal activity and a realisation that traditional intervention programmes have a slight male focus. The project aims to empower young women against crime through participation in club activities, mentoring and giving leadership responsibilities, in order to enable them to build up resilience, control their behaviour and hopefully lead to healthier decision making. There is an emphasis on safety too – both personal safety and knowledge of the relevant support systems in our locality to keep young people safe.




A parent recently described the club as a place where the 'children feel loved and safe'. That means our work works and makes us all proud. 





A spotlight on...

Remembering the early days of Girls at Knights

Liz Gibbons

Barbara Robinson, a friend from secondary school, was the first person to mention the club to me. It was because of her that, in 1952, I ended up for the first time in the old three-quarter-story house at number five, Streatham Hill. This was where the Crossroads girls' club met. The house had seen better days and a spooky atmosphere had descended, especially in the basement kitchen room.

But there was nothing spooky about the people I met, the friends I made and the things we learnt. Mable Hudson (one of the girls' leaders, along with Shirley Mac, Brenda Long and Shirley Murray) instructed us about how to behave with boys. Margaret Smith (another leader) played the piano and sung at Sunday evening services, many of the choruses from those sessions are still imprinted on my memory to this day.

Evening service was an important part of club and we had excellent preachers including Maurice Smith, Les Long and Ron Saunders. These people made the message so real to me that I was compelled to give my life to Christ.

There were so many fun activities too. Drama groups. Sports days. Camping trips. On our trips away I started to help Pat Saunders (another of our leaders) cater for all the hungry mouths, as we'd worked up an appetite after fresh air and lots of exercise! In fact, I later became a leader of the club myself. By then, we'd moved to the present club building in Streatham Place. We'd go to the club but we'd also socialise together, attending shows at the Streatham Hill theatre and whiling away the hours at the Moo Cow milk bar. We were happy to spend time together – so much so that many of us met our future partners through the club. So, you can see, it really did have a huge impact on our lives in many, many ways.

Inters: getting hearts racing

Working hard as a team, Shem, Kwame, Paps, Ellie and Ryan lead the Inters work. Everyone is on the same wavelength, with each bringing their own unique value and expertise.

Attendance at the sessions is strong and the young people clearly have fun and engage well with the activities. In fact, so many inters come (up to twenty-five at a session) that we sometimes struggle to get everyone sitting together to eat their meals. This is still our aim though: eating together (as well as preparing and serving the food and cleaning up afterwards) is an important in bonding the group together.

Dodgeball is the favourite sports activity of this group and whenever it's on the activity list almost everyone joins in. In fact, it's so loved that it's always requested – but the staff try and mix it up as well. A slightly calmer – but still much enjoyed activity – is 'circle time'. This is where the group come together and express their personal views on subjects. It's great to see the members so animated and to foster a strong spirit of open and honest discussion.



What gets the hearts of these young people really racing (beyond the prospect of taking a hit in dodgeball) is the more extreme activities that are enjoyed on the Knights trips. This summer Inters went to Avon Tyrell and took part in a wide range of activities including high ropes (don't look down!), archery, canoeing the zip wire and much more. Trips like these are not just about the fun of the adrenaline rush. While away, the young people really open up to members of staff which creates a strong and long-lasting bond.



We won't rest on our laurels. We want to do more with this group. Next year we're hoping to be able to do more trips as their value cannot be underestimated. We'd also like to do more one-to-one work and more workshops exploring specific topics too. Watch this space!





2019 Christmas event

A celebration of the year and great start to 2020

This Christmas we hosted a club-wide event for all the young people, staff, trustees, friends, and family.

We hoped it would bring everyone together, celebrate the KYC family and share a little bit of the message of the radical hope and remarkable salvation of the Christmas story. This was especially important as one of our previous trustees, the Rev. John Marshall, had recently donated some money to the club. We wanted to honour him and his beliefs by using the fund for faith-based outreach and activities. What better place to start than Christmas.

With Ryan and Ellie less than three months into their new roles this was an ambitious task, but they rose to the challenge. With support from the rest of the staff and our fantastic centre manager Michelle we were well resourced. It was great that an old TYLAP (apprenticeship programme) member provided the catering for the night.



Over 60 young people attended – including lots we hadn't seen in a while. A handful of parents and trustees came too. Some of the girls performed a dance they had choreographed and rehearsed themselves and we celebrated the victory of our newly reformed football team – including a trophy for Player of the Season, which was awarded to our (currently) only female member of the team.

It was a joy to see the club bursting with activity and full to the brim with young people having a good time. It was exhausting for the organisers and we owe Ryan and Ellie in particular a huge thanks.



What a fantastic way to close 2019 and launch ourselves into 2020. The party very much promoted the news that Knights Youth Centre is open for business. I can already say with confidence that it has been at catalyst for engagement at the club as we are seeing attendance numbers increase every week and building more relationships with parents. Onwards and upwards.

Michelle Marquis-Bronson
Centre manager

Making progress

Reporting on how we work with other organisations to extend the positive impact KYC has on young people's lives



We endeavour to provide a whole community approach. This means listening and sharing with parents, carers, families, neighbours and faith groups.



Millicent Grant, Chair

Schools work: helping young people find their voice

Here's an update from Ellie Gauge, the 'schools work' lead youth worker. Ellie describes the work that we're doing and why it is so important to the young people in this part of South London.

With a degree in Education and a pressing concern about how frequently our education system seems to be failing young people, I was pleased to take the lead on KYC's schools work this year.

There is a growing population of young people in Lambeth who have been excluded or are in a series of internal exclusions and 'managed moves' awaiting their next steps, as our education system fails to cope with their needs and behaviours. From what I hear and see on a weekly basis at KYC our young people are very well acquainted with the process of behaviour sanctions and exclusions. I believe youth work is well placed to be able to make some progress towards fixing this problem and nursing the consequences of it.

KYC is lucky enough to be the recipient of a National Lottery Community Fund this year, which has enabled us to deliver programmes and additional pastoral support to the young people at our local schools.

The programme aims to improve young people's self-reported aspiration, peer relationships, self-esteem, and their sense of safety. It helps them find their voice and project themselves in a confident and positive manner.

We are currently working well with our local primary school - Richard Atkins. Over the last year the young people have been taking part in 'storytelling' workshops that help them explore and express their own stories and the stories of other people. It is also improving their confidence and giving them space to find their voice.

Some young people have received additional one-on-one support where they set goals and create plans for how they might achieve them. For some it feels like this time is the only opportunity they get to sit down with an adult and be free to talk about anything on their mind. It seems like a small thing, but I think the space to have those little conversations can go a long way. Some of them are in big size classes so there really isn't much opportunity for one-on-one attention.

I've really enjoyed getting stuck in this year and am proud of what we've achieved. I already have many more ideas for things we can do even better next year.

A spotlight on...

My first year at KYC

Ellie Gauge

As we benefit from the passion and commitment of Ellie Gauge, senior youth worker, in her first year with Knights, we decided to ask her a few questions about her background and what's motivated her to join the Club. Here's what she said.

After graduating from my degree in Education and Theology at Durham University I moved back to South London to pursue a career as a director, producer and theatre-maker. I had an amazing time travelling across the UK and even working internationally as far afield as Florida. In 2017 I won the Buzz Goodbody Award for Best Director at a national festival for young theatre-makers, and in 2018 I worked on a Soho Theatre show which went on to win an Olivier award. It would be safe to say I had an unbelievable experience and my career was off to a very good start.

But there was always a niggling feeling that there was something else I needed to do. Throw in the instability of a freelance theatre lifestyle and its toxic competitive nature and I decided to change course. During this time, I had always had 'side' jobs in education settings, from Pupil Referral Units to Special Educational Needs schools and private tutoring. My favourite theatre jobs were those where I worked alongside vulnerable young people and adults, for example with ex-offenders at Synergy Theatre Project, or devising a show about being a girl with a group of extraordinary 16-year-olds.



There seemed to be an obvious path ahead. On top of this, I was also increasingly aware of the place I lived. Confronted with endless stories in the press that gave local young people a bad name, I was beginning to get frustrated with the negative messages. And so, when Chris Giles (Trustee for Service Delivery and coincidentally soon to be my Father-in-Law!) mentioned that they needed some sick leave cover at Knights Youth Centre, I jumped at the opportunity.

So, in January 2019 I joined the Knights family of enthusiastic young people, resilient staff and passionate trustees. With a brief pause to produce a musical adaption of *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* at Southwark Playhouse, I was back and ready to say 'goodbye for now' to theatre, throwing all I had into supporting and championing the young people in Lambeth as KYC's full-time Senior Youth Worker.

It has been an absolute blast. I am learning new things every day. I am frequently challenged, inspired and exhausted by the brilliant young people who attend the club. There are too many specific highlights to list, but they largely come under the banner of building relationships. I feel very privileged to be here every week, to open the doors and have young people rush in with stories to tell and chaos to share. Just to listen to what they have to say has been a joy. To see the relationships growing, and the young people flourishing as a result, even in this short amount of time, is amazing. I very much enjoyed taking them to see a gig theatre production at the Arcola Theatre. My hope is that once I've secured my 'street cred' I might launch some performing and creative arts programmes at club. Watch this space!



My hope is that once I've secured my 'street cred' I might launch some performing and creative arts programmes at club



Partnerships in Practice: building a community hub

We're determined to become a 'community hub' where a range of services relevant to children and young people are provided throughout the week - not just during the evenings when youth centres traditionally open.

Research and common sense suggests that organisations serving children and families should be located close together whenever possible and try to wrap themselves around the young person and their needs. This is far better than the alternative: having them have to be passed from pillar to post to get the support they need.

KYC has therefore opened its doors over the last two years to deliberately invite other like-minded organisations who share our passion for local young people - especially those who might be struggling to join us. We've made a good start: the centre is now being used during the day and the evening on weekdays. But we know we can do more, so we're out there talking to more groups and planning more activities. For now, an overview of some of the partnerships that have been established and others that are in early stages of development is over the page.



Lambeth Youth Offending Service and Help Team

Our work with Lambeth Youth Offending Service and Help Team – a response to our successful bid to the Young Londoners Fund designed to empower girls and young women against crime – is ongoing. KYC attends regular Local Area Panel meetings – with multi-agency membership – organised by the Local Authority to discuss young people with safeguarding needs who might benefit from agencies within the partnership. This work has started to enhance our existing distinct girls' provision on a Wednesday evening with a range of individual mentoring and support for more vulnerable young women in our area, helping them with positive alternatives to involvement in crime and to make informed confidence-led choices.

Young Lambeth Cooperative



Young Lambeth Cooperative has been successful in securing funding from Big Lottery for a programme called Building Young Lambeth's Communities. Our work with schools – particularly Richard Atkins (Primary School) and City Heights E-ACT Academy (secondary) – is very much part of this programme. Over the past two years a range and variety of activities have been delivered within these schools for children and young people often struggling in mainstream education. These have included one-to-one and group mentoring sessions and theatre workshops to help improve attention and behaviour in class.

YClapham



YClapham is a partnership consisting of Sports City, Clapham Park Project, Oasis Play, The Connect and KYC. This partnership was successful in securing funds from Young Lambeth Cooperative (YLC). The partnership has been delivering programmes for young people aged 5-24 who live, work or play in Clapham. This is funding some of our core service including residential.

South London Refugee Association (SLRA)



Our partnership with the South London Refugee Association (SLRA) is constantly developing and the SLRA is providing a rich programme for young people aged 14-18 who are refugees, asylum seekers or have recently arrived in the UK. In addition to the plethora of activities there are chances to talk with case workers about the challenges they are facing as well as opportunities to build new friendships. During 2020 we will be exploring ways of developing our work with SLRA around services to our senior group.

Da'aro Youth Project

Da'aro Youth Project was established in 2018 by members of the Eritrean community in London in response to the deaths of a number of teenage Eritreans by suicide. Eritreans were the largest nationality group of unaccompanied minors to arrive in the UK in 2017 and 2018. Unaccompanied minors and young adults from the Horn of Africa arrive in the UK after traumatic journeys through the Sahara Desert, Libya, the Mediterranean Sea and after crossing borders in Europe, such as in Calais. Once here, they often struggle to adapt to new lives separated from their families and finding a way through the complex asylum system can be stressful and traumatic.

In August 2018, the group held their first youth club session, 'Injera Club,' named after the tangy sourdough bread that makes up the base of any Eritrean or Ethiopian meal. They moved to run these sessions out of KYC's building by October 2018, finding the space perfect for their activities (significantly they get access to a kitchen to prepare injera and other food for serving to attendees). After a slow start the group now has between 30 and 40 young people attending each week. Since starting they have served over 1800 home-cooked meals to young people and have had almost 300 individual young people attend.

IntoUniversity Brixton



IntoUniversity Brixton officially launched in December 2012 and has since been based in the heart of the community in and around the Brixton and Streatham area. IntoUniversity is an educational charity that aims to provide local learning centres where young people are inspired to achieve. It aims to address the challenges that the UK currently faces regarding social mobility and access to higher education.

IntoUniversity Brixton has worked with thousands of students since opening, offering academic and pastoral support to less advantaged children. At the start of 2019 the group were unable to remain at their existing location and were forced to move. Thankfully, we were able to help, welcoming them to KYC in April 2019.

Luckily, we are close to IntoUniversity Brixton's old premises ensuring that no contact was lost with any children and families. This is especially important as IntoUniversity focuses on long-term, quality support for its users.

Ecclesia Ministries



Ecclesia Ministries is a local independently run Church, which currently hires Knights' space to meet every Sunday for Christian fellowship and worship. The Church first met with our directors in January 2013 when they were first looking for a venue. Our support for the church has helped it provide activities aimed towards engaging young people. As a result the Church currently runs a Children's Sunday School Department, which has a biblically-based curriculum and caters for children aged between three to seventeen years. The Church also uses the premises to provide other services to the local community, by providing assistance with healthcare, hygiene, legal-criminal Justice matters and signposting towards other Community services.

Fulham FC



KYC's interest in football as a positive team activity (see Paps' view on this earlier in the report) has a long-standing tradition. Recent developments with Fulham FC have focused upon our involvement in football tournaments with a large measure of success, finishing in the semi-finals and in third place in respective competitions.

Hope Pilates



Hope Pilates has been running at KYC since Sept 2014. It aims to offer high quality, affordable, specialised health and wellbeing services to everyone in the local community. The oldest attendee is 85 years-old – the youngest just eight. Hope has worked hard to secure funding to help the organisation do more for young people. Thanks to this injection of cash, Hope Pilates now run street dance class once a week for children aged 8 – 12 years-old. Classes are fun, interactive and engaging. It burns energy while improving coordination, balance, and posture – and there are social benefits too.



A spotlight on...

Memories of being soccer mad in Streatham

David Bradshaw

Knights Youth Club, and its predecessor Streatham Hill Boys Club, had a huge impact on my life. Friendships that survive to this day were made there and my life is richer as a result of the people who came in to it through the Club. It brought the community and families together.

Although I now live in South Africa, I keep in touch with many people connected with the club and stay up to date with its developments. It seems football is still as a big part of the club as it was in the fifties.

In 1953, when I joined, the club offered a huge amount of activities. Plays performed on the stage. Highly competitive snooker games. Night hikes up Box Hill. Lively dinners in the canteen. Manning the stalls at the annual jumble sales. Weekends away at Wey Island. Hitch-hiking weekends to Les Longs holiday place. Christmas parties for the local older people.

All of these (and more) were great fun to take part in, binding us youngsters together as a group and helping us to have a positive influence in our local community. There was a buzz of young people wanting to go and do things together.

For me though, out of all the amazing activities that were arranged, the sporting opportunities were the best. We ran, went rock climbing, played hockey, turned out for cricket and played many, many football matches. You could say we were soccer mad.

We played both 5-a-side and 11-a-side as there were plenty of us ready to turn out for the team. We started in the Knights Association League and then, as we got older, joined the Balham and District league, where we were amazed to win the John Lacey Sportsmanship Trophy in our first season.

Despite our Streatham location we played our games in Tooting. Streatham Common is on such a slope that even a simple misplaced pass could interrupt the entire match and have us chasing down the hill after the ball. One season we were unable to play in Tooting and so became the 'Knights Knomads' – the team without a ground. This saw us travelling far and wide playing friendlies. While the grounds during the season were usually in Surrey or Kent, we also adopted this name for the various soccer tours that were arranged over the years, visiting places such as Cardiff, Glasgow, Belgium and even Switzerland. Our last tour was to Paris in 1971.

It's clear from reading the Knights Annual Report, talking with old friends and keeping up to date with the news that, since my days with the Club, there have been huge cultural shifts and changes in how many young people live their lives and within the Streatham community. I believe the role of the Club is now even more important than ever. I'm delighted to read how football is still playing its part helping kids make friends, keeping them fit and occupied and learning to respect the rules, each other and the ref. Those are the skills you need for life.



Accounts and finances

This year has been one of our more positive periods financially - with an overall surplus coming not only from increased grant and rental income but also reduced expenditure.

The unpredictable nature of our work has worked in our favour for our finances this year including a very generous local legacy together with both significant new grants and rental income.

While staffing during the first part of 2019 was not ideal and had some unwelcome impact on our delivery, it did mean that our staffing and associated costs were also significantly lower than we had anticipated.

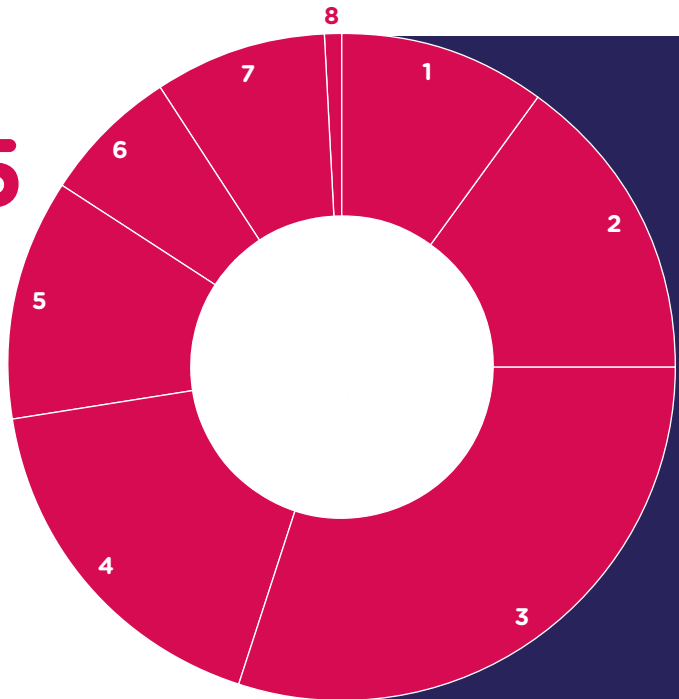
The full accounts are, as ever, available from us or via the Charity Commission website.

Where our money came from...

171,465

Total income

1. Personal donations inc. Annual Review donations and KYC 900	£17,406
2. Legacy	£25,890
3. Lambeth YLC	£51,368
4. Lettings	£29,863
5. Harriet Trust	£20,000
6. BBC Children in Need	£11,349
7. Other grants	£14,429
8. Miscellaneous	£1,160





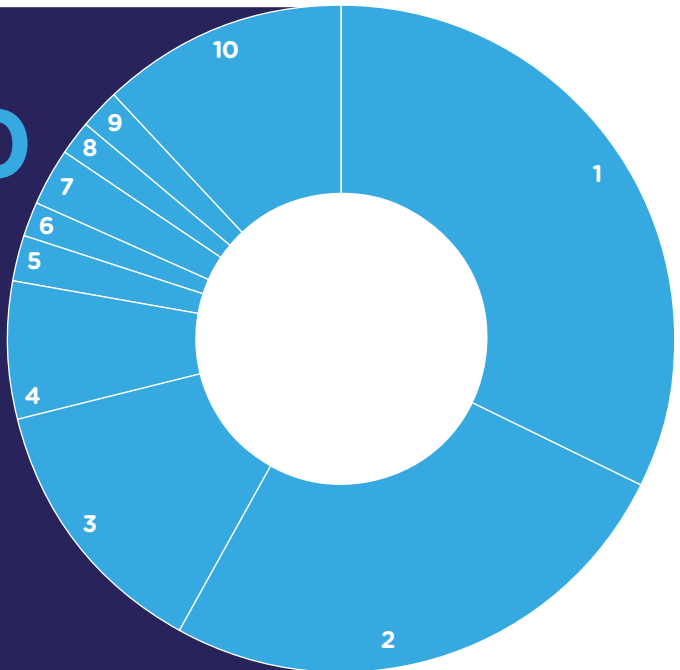
The Liberal Democrats visit the centre on their election campaign trail

Where our money went...

136,590

Total expenditure

1. KYC Staff costs	£44,363
2. Project expenditure	£35,305
3. Property costs	£17,842
4. Maintenance	£9,024
5. Minibus	£2,934
6. IT	£2,208
7. Insurance	£3,931
8. Telephone, internet and photocopier	£2,377
9. Club activities	£2,355
10. Other expenditure	£16,251



We hope you've enjoyed reading this report.

A quick, final word of thanks. Firstly to Esco, who have printed and mailed this report to all our friends for more than a decade. And finally to designer Tim Lacey. Thanks so much to both for their invaluable input.

Contact us

knightsyouthcentre.org.uk

info@knightsyouthcentre.org.uk

020 8674 4055

@KYCYouth