

Avon Youth Club

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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Milestones

Avon Club is a voluntary Organisation and registered Charity, established to give young people further opportunities of increasing their potential through effective use of their leisure time.

Through a structured programme of positive activities, the Club strives for high standards of behaviour, encouraging self awareness in a caring environment. In this environment members can broaden their horizons, be challenged about their attitudes and undertake new experiences to assist with their social awareness, development and role in the Community.

1953 Founded as Avon boys club and opened by the Duke of Gloucester

1978 Extended the club house with the addition of a sports hall

1990 Introduced girl members becoming Avon Club for Young People

1995 Outdoor sports court constructed, shared with neighbouring primary school

2003 With £50k Neighbourhood Regeneration Funding, complete refurbishment of clubhouse

2005 With £10k from Prince's Trust, leaders , members and probationers built new garden on disused land

2007 Joe Lee, as leader of ACYP elected 1 of 5 'UK Young Citizens of the year' by Rotary with a documentary of the Club appearing on BBC Newsround Chairman and Leader invited to the Queen's Garden Party at the Palace.

2007 Letitia McCabe, Junior Leader, elected to Junior Youth Parliament

2009 Clubhouse further developed to include : Training kitchen, art room, dance and fitness centre, and learning centre.

2009 Holiday Clubs started, with first open access summer club being used by the police making 300 referrals in 6 weeks and reducing incidents in the community by 75%

2010 Avon Club awarded unique Quality Mark

2011 Oasis Academy Brightstowe start to use Avon Club

2013 Avon Club becomes a participating partner of Young Bristol

2015 Natasha Cumber becomes Club Leader. Club creates a new vegetable and herb garden.

2016 Bristol University Innovation Team of 8 students work at Avon Club

2017 10 deserving young people supported to go on holiday at Barton Camp

2018 Developed our own up to date live website

2020 Established a new Media Centre

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Committee

Management Committee Members

- Delphine Lyddall (President)
- David Sutton (Chairman)
- David Addison (Vice Chairman)
- Matthew David (Hon Treasurer)
- Helen Price (Hon Secretary)
- Natasha Cumber (Club Leader)
- Amy Sweet (Trustee)
- Steve Price (Trustee)
- Richard King (Trustee)
- Lee Williams (Young Bristol)
- Mark Pepper (Lawrence Weston Ambition)

Staff Team

- Natasha Cumber (Club Leader)
- Corinne Ludwell (Deputy Club Leader)
- Hayley Dyte (Assistant Leader)
- Josh Davis (Assistant Leader)
- Martin Clarence (Domestic)
- Mark Ludwell (Volunteer)

Club Supporters

- Young Bristol
- The Tudor Trust
- Lloyds TSB Foundation
- John James Foundation
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Henry Smith Charity
- Quartet Community Foundation
- Lawrence Weston Community Action Group
- High Sheriff's Bristol Youth and Community Action
- What Happens Next - Seed to Celebration
- Van Neste Foundation
- The Bars & Jim Maggs Charitable Trust
- Bristol University Innovation Team
- Police Commissioner's Community Action Fund
- Clifton Rotary Club
- Clifton Inner Wheel
- Henbury Golf Club Ladies Section
- Bristol Severnside Inner Wheel
- The Bristol Lions
- Bristol Cabot Choir
- Pink Elephant Club
- Sebright Design & Print
- Cittie Lodge
- Co-op South

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Chairman's Report

Avon Youth Club continues to provide an essential service to the Lawrence Weston Community in the Inner City of Bristol through its Young People. It has a large old deprived housing development, which faces a host of challenges, the level of inequality is marked by educational attainment, crime, obesity and ambition, all being addressed by the Community. Our Youth Club is situated at the heart of the area, next to the Oasis Primary School with a shared outside court and is an essential asset providing a safe haven and many opportunities which would not come easily to the the Young People and Community. At the start of the Spring, we had regularly over 100 members weekly attending our Avon Youth Club. What a change, the arrival of the pandemic Covid 19 caused the first lock down and the closure of Community Youth Clubs and the young people being confined to home. Since then we have only had few intermittent evenings of opening our Club, always outside and with limited numbers. What a transformation! However we have worked with Young Bristol, who have been honoured with the Queens Award for voluntary activities and we have looked to provide a limited number of sports and art kits to encourage the more vulnerable young people to carry on with essential activities.

As you will see in our Leader's report, prior to the lock down our young people have been recognised for their special performances and we have been fortunate to have a close relationship with the local Co-Op who have provided much needed food for our members and also assisted our Club in supporting the young people in providing a project to prevent anti-social behaviour.

We have taken the opportunity of the time when the Members have been unable to use our Clubhouse in creating a new area as a Media Centre which can also serve as a conference and discussion centre. We have used the latest technology including a complete White Board wall for art development, a large screen for projection and other necessary equipment and furniture to aid the Members to enhance their technology training. We will be working with the well established 'Knowle West Media' centre to ensure that we get the maximum value and education from this exciting venture and will be inviting outside speakers and the local community to discuss many subjects with our members.

Our outstanding Leadership Team of Natasha, Corinne, Hayley and Josh continue to have real enthusiasm, boundless energy, and commitment to a changing, interesting and challenging programme for our members so that they can develop and achieve their ambitions. Two of the leaders are currently involved in the latest training for the National Open College Network for Youth Work Practice to keep up to date for the future and our Junior Youth Leaders are working with other clubs through Young Bristol to share new ideas and competitions.

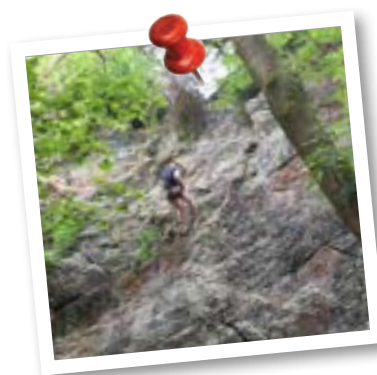
We would like to thank all our valuable supporters and funders for enabling us to continue the operation of the Club and our many activities. Our special thanks this year go to the Garfield Weston Foundation for a substantial funding over 2 years which was confirmed on the day of the first lock down in March.

After 30 years that the Clifton Rotary Club have been involved with Avon Youth Club, I am delighted to report that the Management Committee have recently taken on a new younger Team of Trustees with Helen Price as Secretary guiding us so well with Steve into the new complex regulations and exciting opportunities of youth work, we also have 2 new Trustees, Amy Sweet and Richard King already well involved with the world of our valued funders. In September, Ray Anstice our excellent Treasurer for 25 years, finally took his retirement, having played such an important role in establishing our club so well in Bristol, we shall miss his outstanding contribution, thank you Ray! However he has handed over to a very competent, Assistant Director from Deloitte, Matthew David who I am sure will manage our finances well.

Finally I would like to thank all our supporters and especially Young Bristol, for their highly valued leadership and partnership in these days of hard decisions. It is always good to see the local Community take an interest in the activities of their children, we would still like to see more of you at our open events in the future.

As always, we will continue to maintain our excellent Club for the benefit of all our Members and we look forward very much to welcoming all our Members to return to the Club at the soonest opportunity that conditions allow us.

David Sutton
Chairman



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Club Leader's Report

2020 has been a very difficult year with Covid 19 stopping all activities within Avon Youth Club.

It has had a big effect on a number of people both from a health point of view and from a mental health point of view.

We would hope that we can welcome back as many young people as possible as soon as we can open the Club and get back to some kind of normality. We look forward to engaging and sharing experiences with our members in the very near future.

However, before "lockdown" quite a few things happened.

Brunel Lions Club, supported a young person to achieve a "Young Leader in Service" Award. The young person had to complete many hours of voluntary service, this was a great confidence boost and really allowed them to reflect on all positive tasks that were set, and unknowingly achieving by looking through the document records that were kept.

Young Bristol nominated a young person from AYC to gain the opportunity to win a "Young Hero" Award. This is a national opportunity for many young people, and we as a Club were thrilled that we have inspired young people and that they can become fantastic role models for the rest of the community.

Back in December we celebrated our Annual Club Presentation where we welcome young people and their friends and families, funders and supporters to celebrate the young people who attend the club, recognising their achievements on activities they have participated in. Awards were given out to a number of Club members.

Over the past year we have been supported by Feeding Bristol and FareShare which has allowed us to provide packed lunches for young people who attend our holiday programmes. We also received a large variety of food, allowing us to make meals for young people at the Club.

We have been fortunate to have a close connection with a local Co-Op store who have donated unused food that the Club can use to give out nightly, and take home for their families to benefit from.

The impact on receiving the food from all of these organisations has made a huge positive impact on the young people we work with, and we hope this will continue in the future.

During lockdown we have been busy at the Club building a Multi Media Room, which young people will benefit from by having many different resources at their fingertips. We look forward to inviting Community members along to the Club to run discussion topics, and allow the young people to use the space for educational and learning development.

We have also been busy decorating the interior of the Club giving it a fun and fresh professional vibe. It will be exciting to start welcoming the young people back.

Lastly, we have just been awarded a 4* certificate from Environmental Health on our kitchen facilities, and we are currently working towards a 5*.

Natasha and Corinne
Leader and Deputy Leader



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Financial Report

Several years ago we faced the decision as to whether we should enter into partnership with Young Bristol with whom we had enjoyed a long and valuable connection over many years or move to be totally independant. Sensibly it was the management committee's decision to continue our close connection with and work in partnership with Young Bristol. It has proved and continues to be an extremely beneficial partnership financially as our annual accounts show and in many other ways including practical help and advice from time to time. We are indebted and extremely grateful for that partnership and over time we have seen Young Bristol, as the federation of independant youth clubs in Bristol, develop into a highly respected and thoroughly well managed progressive good friend. We have benefitted from the National Lottery grants they have received and their advice and help is greatly appreciated.

Of course we remain deeply grateful too for the support we recieve from the Garfield Weston Trust, the Henry Smith Charity, the John James Bristol Charity and The Tudor Trust. The Co-op charitable trust has been and continues to be very supportive too along with the Brunel Lions Club. We continue to exercise diligent management of our finances whilst providing outings, competitions and various beneficial activities for our young members. Following a request from members, we are embarking upon developing space within the club for a well equipped media room. This will entail special fittings and extra electrical work and the cost will be around £17000 when finished but with a generous private grant from Barrs and Jim Maggs and funds we have saved we can meet the cost without creating any financial problems for the club. Nevertheless we will not take our eye off continuing to seek funding for the many activities and services we provide. After more than 25 years as Hon Treasurer I will be retiring from this post during 2020 but I am delighted to report that I will be succeeded by a very competent qualified accountant, Matthew David, who is keen to take on the responsibilities and who, I know, will do a splendid job of managing the youth club's finances.

Ray Anstice

Hon Treasurer



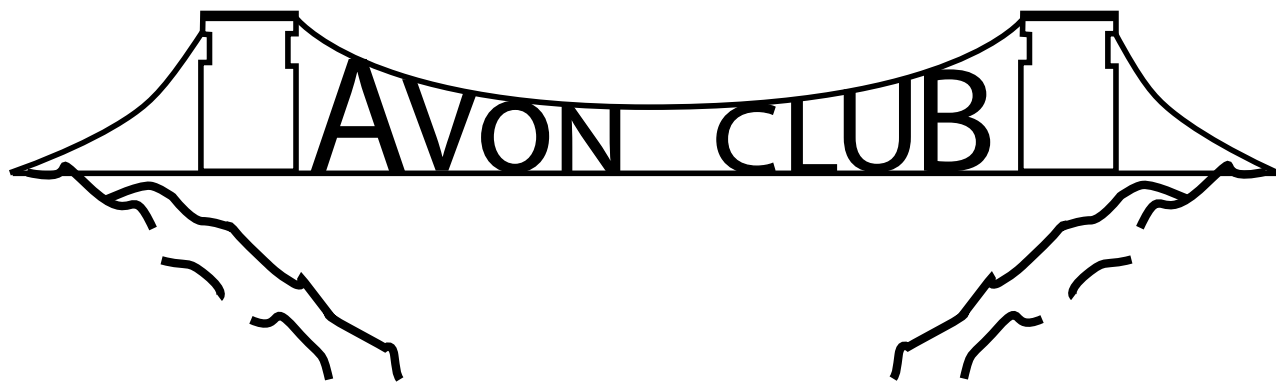
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Our Sponsors



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