

# Our Impact 2022





**ARK is a genuinely affordable coworking space with community and collaboration at its core, impacting our local area for good.**

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# Introducing ARK for Good

ARK for Good is our way of giving back to our local area as a community. Beyond just the financial support, we encourage the giving of our members' time and skills to projects, such as spARK, brunches, workshops and mentoring. Where possible, we choose to support local - whether its using suppliers from the local economy, partnering with local projects and initiatives working to bring together the community, or caring about our own environmental footprint.

Beyond this, each year a portion of our income is reserved to give to charities and organisations doing good in our area who share our values. Throughout the year members can nominate charities or projects they'd like to support. At the end of each year, we give away the remainder of our pot, and we ask our community to help us select charities to donate to.

After the past couple of years responding to the pandemic, this year we've seen a return of so many members, old & new, to the community. We said goodbye to our home of 6 years at KX House on Pentonville Rd, and welcomed in our new space around the corner at the All Saints Church Hall on Caledonian Rd - a former escape room and entertainment space which we've restored.

Like many of our members, we're also feeling the pinch & looking for ways to navigate our way through a deepening cost of living crisis, which is having a devastating impact on so many local residents and businesses. Looking back we recognise there is still so much to be thankful, so we'd like to take this moment to share a few highlights from our year with you.

Whatever the year has been for you, we hope you could journey through it in the ARK community.

If you have any stories you'd like to share from the past year, please do get in touch and let us know!

Thanks again to everyone past and present in our ARK community,

Much Love, Nick, Gav & Phil x



# The Year in Numbers

We have a vision for ARK to be a force for good in our local area, to give back to the community around us, and impact our neighbours for the better, while trying our best to leave a smaller a footprint on our planet while we're at it. Here are some of the things we are proud of this year thanks to the generosity and actions of our members:

**46**  
**BUSINESSES**  
MADE UP OF OVER  
104 INDIVIDUALS.



WASTE  
35035 KG  
RECYCLING  
47190 KG

**£3.8K**  
GIVEN TO OUR  
MEMBERS THROUGH  
BURSARIES AND  
DISCOUNTS

**199GJ**  
OF ENERGY USED IN  
THE LAST YEAR. 100%  
OF OUR ENERGY FROM  
RENEWABLE SOURCES

**4** SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS  
JOINED OUR spARK  
PROGRAMME



WE'RE A  
LIVING WAGE  
EMPLOYER



PARTNER  
KX  
KNOWLEDGE  
QUARTER  
PARTNER

 ISLINGTON  
AFFORDABLE  
WORKSPACE  
PROVIDER

Certified



Corporation  
B CORP BEST  
FOR THE  
WORLD IN  
COMMUNITY



**£1.6K**

GIVEN TO THREE  
LOCAL CHARITIES



JOINED THE  
CALLY TRADERS  
ASSOCIATION

JOINED THE 2022 MAYOR'S  
BUSINESS CLIMATE  
CHALLENGE, DEVELOPED  
TO SUPPORT BUSINESSES  
REDUCE THEIR ENERGY  
CONSUMPTION, COSTS  
AND CARBON EMISSIONS,  
BY AS MUCH AS 10%.

SIGNED UP TO  
THE ISLINGTON  
SUSTAINABILITY  
NETWORK



## RESTORING ALL SAINTS

WE USED LOCAL SUPPLIERS  
AND CONTRACTORS,  
INCLUDING KAY ELECTRICAL  
FOR THE REFURBISHMENT

**2.6GJ**



ELECTRICS  
USED IN  
STRIP-OUT



**8** SKIPS WORTH  
OF WASTE

ALL SAINTS REFURB - 12  
TONNES OF WASTE FROM  
THE OUTGOING TENANT,  
4 TONNES FROM ARK  
MOVING IN

# Through the year

## End of a chapter

*Saying goodbye to KX House, our home of six years based on Pentonville Road*



KX House when we took the building on...



The Yonder team celebrating their 1st birthday



...and when we left it six years later

Moving out all our furniture



June 2022

Handing keys in day



May 2022  
Last orders



Goodbye boardroom ♥



## ARK studios in Finsbury Park

*Working with St Saviour's Church in Finsbury Park, we held a weekly coffee bar and art gallery showcasing work from underrepresented local artists.*



Zoe Tigner-Haus x Guy Naor exhibition 'Juicy'



Our first exhibition by Nicola Green



AMSI art exhibition up at St Saviour's in coordination with the Islington Cultural Enrichment team



Exhibition launch night

## Restoring All Saints

*In April 2022 work started on renovating the old church building to be our new home.*



The cafe left from the previous tenants



Skimmed concrete coffee bar



Pouring the resin floor into the hall

The ARK team gets hands on



Repairing, painting and building our new space

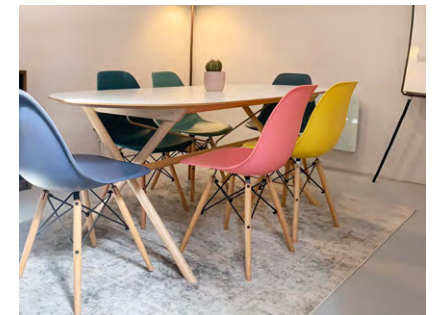




Members new and old moving in



August 2022  
T Truman performing at our launch party





# A deepening cost of living

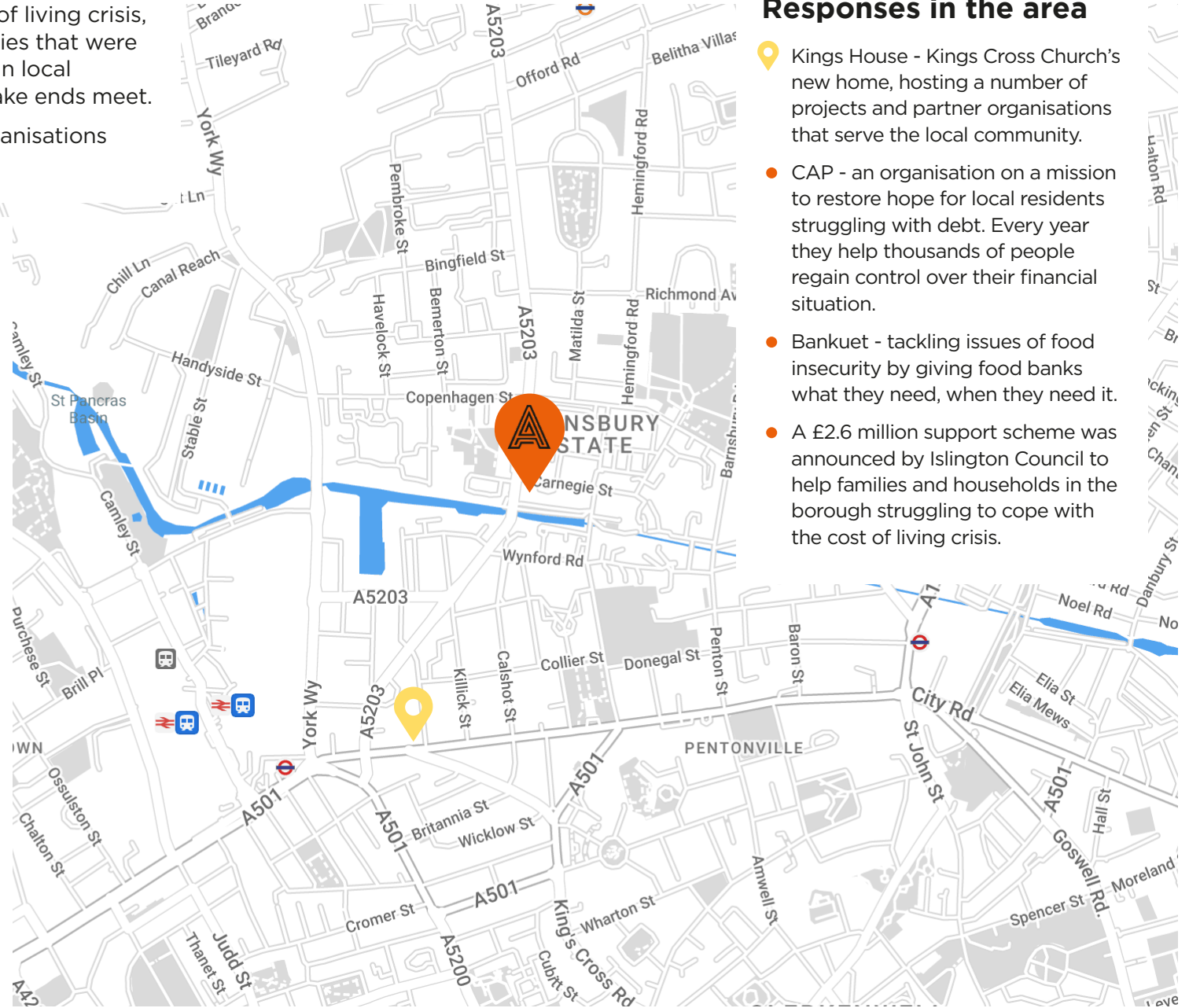
Our local area is facing a deepening cost of living crisis, which, coupled with pre-existing inequalities that were magnified by the pandemic, has resulted in local residents and businesses struggling to make ends meet.

There have also been some incredible organisations providing support during this time.

## Impact

- There are more than 11,500 families living in fuel poverty now, and **27,400 people in people in low-income households** (on housing benefit or council tax support).
- The price of goods and services has hit a 40-year high - rising domestic energy and food price inflation is having a harmful effect on the health and well-being of Islington residents. **5,784 food parcels** were given out across the latest year, more than doubling since 2015.
- Nationally there has been a 43% increase in companies declaring insolvent. **905 businesses in Islington alone closed** during the first quarter of this year, a 27.6% increase in the closure rate since 2017.
- 41% of students at King's Cross Primary Academy receive **free school meals**.

*A Cost of living emergency declared by Islington Council as it sets out support for residents and businesses 'already at breaking point'*  
[www.islington.media](http://www.islington.media)



## Responses in the area

- Kings House - Kings Cross Church's new home, hosting a number of projects and partner organisations that serve the local community.
- CAP - an organisation on a mission to restore hope for local residents struggling with debt. Every year they help thousands of people regain control over their financial situation.
- Bankuet - tackling issues of food insecurity by giving food banks what they need, when they need it.
- A £2.6 million support scheme was announced by Islington Council to help families and households in the borough struggling to cope with the cost of living crisis.

# Thank you for the impact you've had!

- 1 [Nominate](#) a charity anytime throughout the year
- 2 [Recommend](#) someone for our spARK programme
- 3 [Tell us](#) about your own project that we can get behind as a community
- 4 [Share](#) your story with us about your experiences working in ARK



*ARK coworking is partnered with Kings Cross Church; a community that believes in recklessly giving itself away to God and our neighbours in King's Cross and beyond. In 2022 we also partnered with All Saints Church to begin our next chapter in their hall. We also share a vision to serve Jesus and play our part in seeing the renewal of our communities. If you want to find out more about this please chat to us or visit [www.kxc.org.uk](http://www.kxc.org.uk)*

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