



coworking

**Our
Impact
2023**

**ARK is a genuinely
affordable coworking
space with community
and collaboration at
it's 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 it's using suppliers from the local economy, partnering with nearby projects, networks 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.

We've now been in our new home for over a year at All Saints Church Hall on Caledonian Road - a former escape room and church space which we've restored. Highlights of our year have included joining the Mayor's Business Climate Challenge, an energy efficiency programme which supports businesses to reduce their energy consumption and to accelerate building decarbonisation efforts. Through this, and grants we received, we were able to install 52 solar panels on our roof, generating up to 60% of ARK's annual energy consumption, and giving back to the grid in the summer. Other highlights include rectifying as a B Corporation, joining the Social Enterprise Network and Good Work Standard, and we had the joy of hosting an art exhibition and a local school for a work insight day, to name just a few.

One particularly noteworthy moment to mention is saying goodbye to Gav as he and his family moved back to Australia. It's not possible to capture in just a few words the level of impact he has had on ARK, having formed and shaped it from its conception. He has beautifully crafted ARK, and filled the community with so much life. We'll miss him but cheer him on as he starts this next chapter.

We know this year has been tough for some as we faced a deepening cost of living crisis, and that others in our area might also be navigating the impact. We hope you can feel supported by ARK, and that ARK for Good play a role in support initiatives that tackle this crisis.

Thanks again to everyone past and present in our ARK community,
Much Love, Nick, Gav & Phil x

Our neighbourhood

We know that Islington is a beautiful but also a hard place to live. We want to have a positive impact on our local area, so each year we give away a portion of our skills and finances as part of ARK for Good, and champion activities that are happening in the borough that support residents.

A few facts to get to know the area:

Islington has some of the highest levels of mental ill health in England, and the highest levels of depression in London.

With 243,000 people living here, Islington has the highest population density of any local authority in England – almost 37x the national average - and the least green space per person in the country.


Despite pockets of wealth, Islington is the 10th most deprived area of England. 34% of older people and 38% of children and young people are growing up in poverty.



Our partner church KXC runs various activities from Kings House, from a free baby clothes boutique, occupational therapy for children with additional needs, a prison chaplaincy, an International Cafe for refugees and asylum seekers and a debt help service. kxc.org.uk/help



Islington Giving is a coalition of local people, businesses and organisations working together to raise funds, support communities and projects, and connect with each other in Islington.

The Caledonian Traders' Association is a group of local business who are committed to the thriving of the Cally. See their new discount card below 



Islington Sustainability Network supports businesses, non-profits and community groups to share resources and best practices around sustainability.



2023 Highlights

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:

The Mayor's Business Climate Challenge

Increasing energy efficiency by 10%

This year we were one of the business in London taking part in the BCC, a scheme designed to increase the energy efficiency of buildings by at least 10%. As part of the program an audit was carried out to assess what energy saving measures we could introduce to ARK. This was invaluable to us in winning grants from the London Community Energy Fund which helped to fund our solar project.

Bloomberg Associates, in partnership with the Greater London Authority came to film ARK as a case study for the energy improvements we've made this year. We discovered we're not quite ready for our Hollywood careers being in front of a camera...



£11K charitable giving

to local projects and charities through the generosity of our members

Joined



Certified



Good Work Standard

We were accredited as an employers with good practices in fair pay and workplace wellbeing. As part of this the GWS interviewed ARK to encourage other micro businesses to consider accreditation too.



Environmental Impact

Energy Efficiency Improvements

- ARK switched to Octopus, a 100% renewable energy provider.
- Fixed water leak outside the building, saving 900L water being lost per day.
- Installed insulation into the hall ceiling
- Secondary glazing to East facing windows in the hall.
- Smart plugs and heaters on automatic timers that will turn off at the end of the day.

Solar Panels

ARK applied for funding through the Islington and London Community Energy Funds to install 52 solar panels on our roof in August. The panels will generate up to 60% of ARK's annual energy consumption, approx 32KwH pa, and the business will be able to feed back to the grid in the summer. In 2023, 5% of our electricity consumption was generated by our solar panels.

In 2023 our total energy consumption was 133GJ

7GJ generated by our solar panels



Supporting our Members

£9K discounts 4 bursaries

In 2023 we gave over £9,000 in discounts to our members and full bursaries to support 4 individuals

Insight Day

In July we hosted an Insight Day as part of the Islington 100 hours of work, aiming to give students work experience before finishing school. We had **15 local students** from Year 11 visit ARK to see coworking as an alternative to traditional workplaces. We hosted two workshops encouraging students to think about problems they can see in their local area, and what startup solutions they could create to tackle them. A huge thank you to BibliU and Life Lessons who presented to the students, sharing their experiences as start-ups.

work experience for 15 students



Two businesses joined us on spARK, a 3 month scheme offering fully paid coworking memberships to startups, entrepreneurs and freelancers making a difference.

2 spARK members

- Green Britain TV share short videos of organisations that are leading the way with environmentally friendly ideas. They recently launched their online video platform.
- Reggae Aerobics is an Islington based exercise class business tailored to adults, young people, children, and people with limited mobility.



Coffee continued to flow at St Saviour's Church in Finsbury Park, in our pop up coffee bar as we met more local residents.

Construction on the hall space started, making the building structurally secure! It's now ready for the next phase of building work to begin, transforming it into a space useable for the local community again.

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Through the year

Memories of what's gone on in ARK this past year.

▼ The sign goes up!



▲ Finishing last year with a bring and share Christmas lunch ❤️



▲ Our fluffiest member Hazel

▲ CrossTech host a lunch and learn quiz about railways



The building is ► licensed again as a parish with All Saints Church



▲ The building facelift continues





▲ Nick making pals in high places

◀ Life Lessons' Jamie and April sharing about their business and inviting work experience school students to create their own



▲ Solar panel maintenance in the sun isn't so bad

▲ Art show by local artists to raise funds for Rape Crisis and ARK for Good



◀ The garden areas got a clear out, and Climate Centre showed off their green fingers



▲ Saying goodbye to Gav as he swaps the UK for warmer temperatures

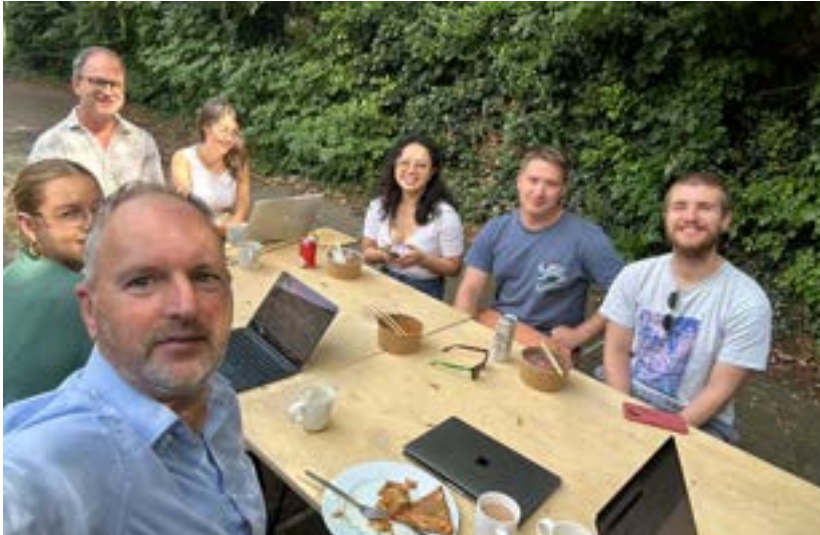




◀ Lunchtimes in ARK

Celebrating the solar panel switch on ▶

Our members join us from an early age ▼



Thank you for the impact you've had!

We're so thankful for all those who make up our community, from this year and years before. Four ways you can continue to be involved in the life of the community:

- 1** | **Nominate a charity anytime throughout the year for ARK for Good**
- 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

www.arkcoworking.com

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