

# SPIRIT OF SHANKLY

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS

ISSUE 23



## A message from SOS Chair Paul Khan...

Hi All,

I hope you are well. The season is progressing brilliantly, isn't it?

The atmosphere at Anfield during the matches against Brighton, Bayer Leverkusen, and Aston Villa really showed the power of a buoyant crowd. Let's keep that energy going!

Our AGM was held on 13 November at Blackstock Studios and it was, in my view, a big success. I was delighted that the new SOS constitution was approved on the night. A big thank you to everyone who attended, both in person and online.

**If you missed it, you can [watch the meeting online](#).**

We had some excellent presentations, and I'm grateful to everyone on the Management Committee for all their hard work.

**A particular highlight of the evening was a talk from Kieran Maguire, one of the leading analysts in this country on football finance, and a voice familiar to many from the excellent *The Price of Football* podcast.**

Kieran showed just how the most loyal supporters of Liverpool have been hit in the pockets since the dawn of the Premier League, further emphasising the importance of the Football Supporters Association's *Stop Exploiting Loyalty* campaign - an initiative proposed and proudly led by Spirit of Shankly.

It was fantastic to see so many turn out for the protest before the Brighton game at Anfield, with a special shout-out to the young lads from Spion Kop 1906 for their fantastic support.

The campaign has been receiving significant coverage from the mainstream media and it's pleasing to see our own media on the protest watched by so many.

**If you missed our short video about the day, you can [watch it online](#).**

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## A message from SOS Chair Paul Khan... (continued)

We'll be showing solidarity between rival supporters for this campaign before the Manchester City game, again meeting up at the Fans Supporting Foodbanks collection point at the corner of the Kop and Kenny Dalglish stands.

Come and join us to hold up the *Stop Exploiting Loyalty* banner and show the strength of feeling behind the fight for fairer ticket prices. Look out for more details on our social media and website in the run-up to the game. ***There's more about the campaign later in the newsletter.***

We've got some fantastic matches ahead. Anfield will be electric against Real Madrid and City, followed by tricky away fixtures at Everton and Newcastle. But first, let's focus on getting a long trip to Southampton out of the way.

Signing off now - continue to support and believe.

**Cheers and YNWA**

**Paul Khan  
SOS Chair**

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## Zoe's Place saved after £5m appeal success

Liverpool's baby hospice, Zoe's Place, has been saved following an incredible fundraising effort that raised £5million in just 30 days. This vital funding secured the future of the charity, which provides care for children with life-limiting conditions from birth to the age of five.

**The campaign was spearheaded by Liverpool West Derby MP and Spirit of Shankly Management Committee member Ian Byrne.** In a remarkable show of unity and generosity, the people and businesses of the city rallied together to achieve this tremendous target, saving the valued hospice from closure.

Spirit of Shankly contributed a £5,000 donation to the campaign to help save Zoe's Place. Reflecting on the effort, Ian Byrne said: *"It was clearly a huge ask to raise £5million in just a few weeks, but as I said at the time, if any city can do it, Liverpool can. And I am delighted that Liverpool has indeed delivered."*

Liverpool legends Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher also made significant pledges to support the campaign, while Liverpool fans raised £150,000 for the hospice and unfurled a "Save Zoe's Place" banner at Anfield before the match against Chelsea in October.

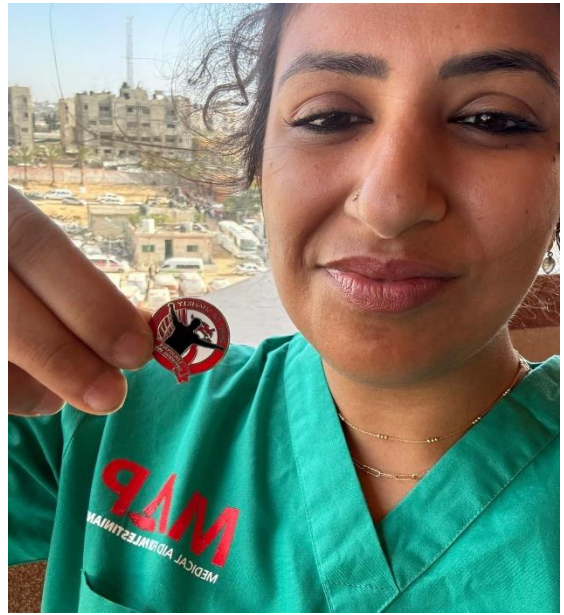
# SOS supports Alder Hey surgeon for Gaza trip

SOS proudly supported Alder Hey Children's Hospital surgeon Ana Jeelani ahead of a recent trip to Gaza, where she provided critical medical care to those in need.

The union contributed a donation to help Ana in purchasing essential supplies before her journey to the Rafah refugee camp with a volunteer team from Medical Aid for Palestinians.

It was Ana's second mission to the region, where she and her team performed hundreds of operations and consultations, bringing life-changing medical assistance to countless individuals.

She is now safely home. Well done, Ana.



## Keep on fighting the good fight

We've already reached out to our counterparts at Manchester City to ensure a strong show of support for the Stop Exploiting Loyalty campaign when Liverpool face City at Anfield on December 1.

Our members have made their voices heard, with 92% indicating in a recent survey that more affordable ticket prices are a key priority. Since then, we've communicated our concerns to the club, and they have pledged "meaningful dialogue with the Supporters Board on ticket prices" in the new year. In addition, we maintain ongoing contact with the Premier League on this critical issue through the Football Supporters Association.

It's vital to show how deeply this issue resonates with supporters. When fans set aside rivalries and unite for a common cause, it captures the attention of those in power - just as it did when we secured the £30 away cap on Premier League tickets.

Spirit of Shankly firmly believes that ticket prices don't need to rise year after year, and that concessions for older, younger, and disabled supporters should never be targeted or eliminated.


**If you share our passion for this cause, join us. Stand together - unity is strength.**

# Youngsters to tell the tale of Merseyside football

A play funded by Spirit of Shankly and performed by Liverpool children will tell the story of the origins of football in the city next month.

**'Common Ground' will be hosted at Liverpool Lighthouse - the refurbished former Gaumont cinema on Oakfield Road, Anfield - on Thursday 5th December from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.**

Produced by Unistar Drama, and featuring talent from Anfield Youth Theatre, MYC Youth Theatre, An Hour For Others, Whitefield Primary, and Leamington Dance, this large-scale community performance delves into Merseyside's rich football heritage and its significant impact on the city.



**COMMON GROUND**

Thursday 5th December  
Liverpool Lighthouse  
6.30-8.30PM

Funded by Spirit of Shankly  
Produced by Unistar Drama

**STARRING**  
**ANFIELD YOUTH THEATRE**  
**MYC YOUTH THEATRE**  
**AN HOUR FOR OTHERS**  
**WHITEFIELD PRIMARY**  
**LEAMINGTON DANCE**

A large-scale community performance, told by young people, explores Merseyside's rich football history and its profound impact on the city.

## Get in touch

If there is something you'd like us to include in our newsletter, if you have a question, or if you simply want to get in touch with SOS, you can do so by emailing us at:

[clubliaison@spiritofshankly.com](mailto:clubliaison@spiritofshankly.com)

## Christmas cheer for older people in Anfield

Spirit of Shankly's annual Christmas party for older people in the Anfield area will take place at The Church pub on Oakfield Road on Thursday 19th December at 12.30pm.

Around 100 older residents will enjoy a Christmas dinner and live entertainment at the free event.

**For more information**  
email: [peter@spiritofshankly.com](mailto:peter@spiritofshankly.com)