

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03995521 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1084229

**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021
for**

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

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**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

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**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
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**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our Purposes

The objects for which the Company is established are to advance education for the public benefit by providing facilities for the recreation and leisure time occupation of persons with learning difficulties in particular but not exclusively by the provision of plays and drama.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Company's objectives for the year, including the guidance 'Public Benefit: Running a Charity (PB2)'

Main Activities

The Lawnmowers is a producing theatre-arts company. Operating in Gateshead and the surrounding regions, The Lawnmowers is a unique company (Company Limited by Guarantee, Reg. Eng. & Wales, no. 3995521) and registered charity (no. 1084229) and is run by and for people with learning difficulties.

The Lawnmowers original actors were a community group who formed in 1986, who later set up and developed The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company to try to achieve community cohesion. The Company was registered in May 2000, with operations commencing in January 2001.

Vision

We believe people with learning difficulties have the right to participate in society as equal citizens with opportunities to succeed.

Mission

We believe the arts can unlock the talents and capacity of people with learning difficulties to take charge of their lives, as active citizens, visible artists and agents of change.

Summary

The Lawnmowers is a Gateshead-based charitable company which provides rich and varied cultural training for people with learning difficulties. Our programmes provide opportunities for people with learning difficulties to co-produce and deliver high quality artistic activities at various venues regionally, nationally and occasionally internationally and also address social and educational issues, accessibility, sustainability, participation, enjoyment and building futures. Since incorporation in 2001 The Lawnmowers has worked daily with up to 90 core/youth/evening club members with learning difficulties daily, brought our message of integration to over 158,500 beneficiaries, audiences and external participants and worked in partnership or given assistance to hundreds of organisations and related bodies.

The Company has expanded and added projects and new volunteer opportunities for people with learning difficulties to its portfolio. We have hosted many international groups at our current and former premises and have toured our work regionally and nationally. Internationally we have toured our work to Poland, Brazil, Canada, Spain, Southern Ireland, Brazil, France and Chile.

The Lawnmowers is a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), a status awarded by Arts Council England which has described its NPO's as taking a civic leadership role in the community. We became one of only five organisations in Great Britain to win an international collaboration award from the London Olympic Committee under its Unlimited Programme.

Covid-19 – Crisis Response 20/21

The Lawnmowers ran a very successful digital remote learning, training and crisis support programme from March 2020 and during the Covid crisis. We continued to offer a full schedule of training and support to all our members 6 days per week and 4 evenings per week during 20/21. In addition we developed and delivered digital training programmes with universities for students from the medical school and for social work students. We produced a number of general films and digital learning tools for students, created and ran a national online digital festival, consulted on accessible Covid material for the Local Authority, consulted with the National Institute of Clinical Research and partnered with them to develop a research participated programmes for people with learning difficulties, created zoom accessible materials to aid participation, offered training in mate crime, celebrated and produced submissions for Pride Inside 2020, created a short film to thank carers and NHS staff for all they do, created a short accessible film for Public Health England, offered evidence at a House of Lords Select Committee on the impact of Covid on the sector, were interviewed for a podcast by the Leaders Council of Great Britain alongside David Blunkett on the impact of Covid on the organisation and worked with carers to lobby cabinet and the JCVI to have vaccinations made available to PWLD, in particular people with Down's Syndrome, as a matter of priority. The programme was very challenging and we are incredibly proud of our success during this time. Throughout the crisis we had all the help and support you would expect from our excellent Board with the CEO and the Board holding treble the number of usual meetings to help steer the Covid-19 crisis and mitigate risk as well as regular direct work between the Chair of our Board (a recently retired GP) and our CEO. The charity was a lifeline to many vulnerable people in the region during the crisis.

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It has been a very hard year for PWLD and their families. There were some dark days experienced by this community during the Covid pandemic. A service like Lawnmowers and all the associated support we offered was rare. The organisation developed, adapted, grew and demonstrated great resilience in the most horrific circumstances.

We hope you enjoy reading about the organisation and its programmes below. We follow this with a detailed account of our progress and offer during this very challenging year.

Lawnmowers Company

The Lawnmowers is a creative social change Company and charity based in Gateshead run by and for people with learning difficulties. The project looks at issues that may affect this community including those with mental health issues and how we can help change general attitudes and perceptions. The environment at The Lawnmowers is specialised and staff are trained to deal with issues pertinent to this group. Participants are supported and encouraged to raise confidence levels, self-esteem, mix with others and develop life skills. Members receive significant levels of support to build and retain life skills, form friendships and relationships and become more active citizens within their community. We provide a suitable supported environment to help nurture and maintain confidence levels in members, including, for some who don't travel, training to travel independently. Our members are heavily involved in the planning and co-producing their projects from the creative space required to formalise their ideas through to the funding, outreach delivery and evaluation of their programmes.

Connect Our Revolution 20/21

As in other years, The Lawnmowers has worked hard to deliver a range of brilliant activities and training to our members with learning difficulties this year. The Lawnmowers passionately believes in supporting members to stretch themselves and broaden their horizons. As well as our regional and community work, we have worked for years with many national and international groups and given or received highly valuable practice advice. This valuable work helps develop our members.

The Lawnmowers Revolution:

The Lawnmowers Revolution Programme is an ambitious and exciting long-term project to creatively support and achieve mainstream social inclusion for people with learning difficulties. The programme is run in phases and each stage is carefully tailored following extensive consultation and evaluation of previous phases to offer an exciting portfolio of new and existing arts based activities, tour our work, work with new partners including international collaborators, devise a framework to determine the artistic quality of work and implement a programme to diversify income streams for the future so the Company can move away from total reliance on grant and foundation income. The Company has grown significantly as a direct result of this work through increased core membership, new artistic programmes, regular drop-in work and an extensive outreach programme. We have added youth projects and older people's projects to our portfolio and future plans following extensive research and live trials.

Activity Summary: What we Offer/How We Offer It

Activities under the Revolution programme can be broadly accommodated under three headings:

1. Core/youth/evening member training;
2. External Delivery and Participation Tours, Performance and Events;
3. Company Development

Members:

1. Co-produce and take part in their own rigorous artist training;
2. Take their work out externally when delivering the Company's events;
3. Through our Round Table meetings, members have full input to the Company's development and future direction;
4. Individual core member outcomes are monitored, measured and evaluated across programme.

Historically, the Company has concentrated on training a core number of volunteers with learning difficulties who have then delivered activities to a very wide and varied community audience. Under the Revolution Programme, we have developed this work and created new networks. More individuals with learning difficulties have had the opportunity to come through our doors and take part in our activities and be a firmer part of The Lawnmowers. We have achieved this through the development of:

1. New Core Member Programmes;
2. Drop-in activities;
3. Personal budget services;
4. Increased core membership.

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Working Collaboratively

Our collaborations help spur our thinking with connections happening across the region that wouldn't have previously occurred. By nature, our collaborations bring different voices, teams, specialties and opinions together to develop and inform our work thereby helping us to achieve our social and developmental outcomes, open up opportunity and spread good practice.

We work with a healthy group of networks, partnership and collaborate with organisations and practitioners regionally, nationally and internationally and keep abreast of industry research, policy and legislation.

Lawnmowers Connect Our Revolution Project:

Access to Artistic Opportunities:

- 1- Local people with learning difficulties have access to increased progressive artistic training and performance opportunities that support personal and professional development;
- 2- The Company has a wide and lively volunteer programme with volunteers from schools, colleges, communities and research students.

External delivery: includes performances and workshops delivered to broad audiences, drop-in weekly training evenings, evening nightclubs, international projects. Members take work out to the public and create educational DVD's and accessible information that raises issues and explores solutions affecting the lives of their community including topics such as bullying, hate crime, sex education, discrimination and harassment, relationships and understanding legislation;

Members aim to continue to change attitudes through artistic performance with audiences including policy makers, researchers, universities, public bodies, nurses and students and thousands of people with learning difficulties in schools, universities and a wide range of settings.

A Whole of Life Approach – Arts for Social Impact

Through piloting potential new projects during previous phases, our Connect Our Revolution plans have evolved significantly to include a new whole of life approach to Lawnmowers work, introducing new permanent activities for younger and older people with learning difficulties through arts-based participatory programmes and interactive research.

Activities – Our Offer

1. Lawnmowers Theatre Ensemble – a high quality professional touring ensemble of established actors with learning difficulties. The actors create and devise then tour shows about issues faced by people with learning difficulties in 21st century Britain;
2. Forum Theatre Performance: Community Training, Engagement and Awareness – dedicated to increasing cultural engagement and audience reach through high quality performances, workshops, simulations and training for health care providers, universities and professionals connected to the sector to unpick and influence policy and legislation relevant to the lives of people with learning difficulties;
3. Lawnmowers Youth Theatre – a dedicated weekend youth theatre devising original theatre by and for young people with learning difficulties for local audiences and festivals. The youth theatre artists take part in an ambitious programme of theatre making, touring, skills sharing, working with other providers and networking during this programme;
4. Lawnmowers Hip Hop Youth Theatre Academy – training high-quality young hip hop dancers with learning difficulties to perform to, and inspire, other young people with learning difficulties. The young dancers have been working hard with other local youth groups in the community and further afield. During this programme the young dancers are working on building a regional, national and international audience and community, working digitally with international artists. They are also participants on a prestigious European programme with partners from France, The Netherlands, Spain and Poland;
5. The Living Well Project (Creative Ageing) A Dead Good Life – working with esteemed researcher Francois Matarasso between 2017-2020 to create a professional film and accompanying workshop which sets out to ask and research what contribution creative activity can make to a good quality healthy life into old age for people with learning difficulties. The film will be nationally distributed. A website containing information, resources and accessible materials will be created and publicised, offering valuable materials and guidance to other practitioners and organisations nationally. A policy document will be compiled and sent to relevant agencies;
6. The Glass Orchestra/Beat This – a percussion music programme that performs at festivals and gigs, tours and creates the score for theatre ensemble touring productions;
7. Krocodile Krew – music and technical training and the delivery of learning disabled-led nightclubs and digital content and composition for theatre ensemble performance;

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8. Participation Strands – opportunities to participate during the daytime through singing and song writing and our adult dance drop-in and in the evening through attendance at our monthly Krocodile Klub nightclubs, or weekly drop-in evening clubs in drama, dance and DJ'ing.

Information

- Produce DVD's;
- Produce marketing plans and accessible information;
- Run participatory evaluations;
- Take part in independent research;
- Develop an improved digital profile.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Meetings and Interviews

- Run weekly group Round Table meetings (accessible methods: strategic direction and future planning);
- Plan and run Shadow Board & organise participatory AGM's;
- Provide one-to-one appraisals for core members;
- Provide support for conference participation;
- Provide interviews for carers and carers events.

Development

- Provide mentoring opportunities;
- Provide theatre and forum workshops and performances to various sectors including NHS, Universities, legal profession, arts organisations and practitioners, primary and secondary mainstream and SEN schools;
- Develop digital technologies: Company promotion, audience engagement, company social networking, funding opportunities;
- Develop accessible evaluation;
- CPD and Succession: Explore succession planning and development of young practitioners and provide a staff development programme;
- Governance: Set up a shadow board membership scheme and develop our Board;
- Work collaboratively with existing networks and new organisations.

Reach

We have long term relationships with many of our regular local audiences through our wide-reaching participatory programme at our own cultural space as well as from taking and delivering our performance and activities to some of the hardest to reach groups, in some of the most challenging environments. Our members work with and/or develop collaborations and partnerships with mainstream cultural providers to showcase their work to theatres, festival producers, schools, youth and community and more regional audiences. They continue to support teacher training and NHS officer training using bespoke techniques to reach education providers. Lawnmowers Members are called upon by individuals with learning difficulties, organisations (statutory and voluntary), bodies such as NHS Trusts, University students, lecturers & departments, teaching colleges, schools and adult learning providers to provide drama, performances, outreach and creative workshops to help them with issues relevant to this community.

Our ambitious programme caters for a range of ages, abilities, needs, aspirations, and experience. We have a deep understanding of the barriers to artistic development that people with learning difficulties face. Low socio-economic status, lack of educational opportunities and lack of cultural understanding are some of the factors that prohibit people with learning difficulties from flourishing in the community.

Member Impact

The Charity has robust monitoring processes in place for each project, programme and the organisation as a whole. At the heart of the monitoring process are the needs of people using the Charity's services. Monitoring takes a variety of forms, many of which are designed by members and artists, they include collecting information and data using theatre and workshop, through story-telling and film, artist appraisals, performance management systems, peer reviews, Arts Council National Portfolio Assessments, internal reviews, round table meetings, residential and carer interviews.

The results show there is a clear understanding as to the scale of the Charity's operational delivery and what difference the organisation makes overall to members and artists. From speaking to people who use the Charity's services, many of whom have been involved in the organisation for over ten plus years, they speak about how the organisation has offered them help, support, opportunities and more. Members speak about how "Lawnmower's leads from the heart" and its effect of "once a Lawnmower always a Lawnmower." How "people with learning difficulties do not have the best start in life and The Lawnmowers makes things better". Beneficiaries feel the Charity has increased their self-esteem, confidence and understanding of their place in the world and empowered them to give something back.

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Relocation

The Lawnmowers relocated to a new arts centre in June 2018. The move, including installing the necessary policies and procedures to run a community arts centre, has been a huge part of the last three-year programme. The move was very challenging with little to no notice from our Local Authority to move from our previous premises and some rather large glitches in the formalities needed for Lawnmowers to take over the centre from the outset. The move happened very quickly (from an organisation perspective) and we are very pleased that we were able to respond so positively to such a fundamental and, what seemed at the time, arbitrary, change to the organisation. Although we initially felt rather vulnerable with the change to our premises, we worked very closely and were given great support from our Local Authority to make what has ended up being, a very successful relocation to our new Arts Centre.

Achievements 20/21 – The Lawnmowers Covid-19 Crisis Response 20/21

Returning to The Lawnmowers Arts Centre

At the time of writing, we are very excited to confirm that the groups returned to their "new normal" services at the Lawnmowers Arts Centre in May 2021. We worked very closely with our local authority to complete the rigorous risk assessments required to support our return.

During lockdown, we spent a great deal of time creating our Covid-secure policy and making it accessible. We have re-designed the layout of the centre to accommodate Covid security to include an updated fire risk assessment, sanitizer stations, socially distant provision spaces, zoom projectors, staff home working provision, staff and activity timetables, updated first aid to all our staff to account for Covid, mask and shield provision (including working with the medically exempt and those who have panic attacks wearing masks and shields), to accommodate our return. It has been an uphill struggle and sometimes frustrating to keep up with the pace of the government changes to risk and the updated guidelines and we had to defer an opening due to the second lockdown. We have undertaken Covid security centre and policy training with our members with learning difficulties and their families and all staff and resident artists. We also produced a webinar video for those that were still shielding during the live training and for carers.

We have had an incredibly successful year and the staff, members and supporters have humbled us with their progress and enthusiasm. We follow this summary with more information on our progress and adaptations during this Covid year.

A selection of short films from Lockdown:

1. The First 10 Days – Getting Online! <https://vimeo.com/404604316> (2 mins, 4 secs)
2. We'll Meet Again: <https://vimeo.com/455010978> (1 minute 45)
3. Students and Medical Trainees: What to expect from online training <https://vimeo.com/487236087> (5 mins, 48 secs)
4. Student University Online Training Resource – Lawnmowers CHAT <https://vimeo.com/439226736/34c736b7ce> (21 mins, 39secs)
5. Public Health England – Hands, Face, Space <https://vimeo.com/488990302> (5 mins, 44secs)
6. Podcast – Leaders Council of Great Britain and Dawn Redhead <https://youtu.be/pewYoWxybFA> (48 Mins)
7. Centre – Covid Webinar <https://vimeo.com/484236595> (1 min, 45)

Other: Film shorts we never got to show you due to lockdown

1. **Parliamentary Review – Best Practice Representative (Magazine Spread)**
<https://www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/organisations/the-lawnmowers> - Dawn attended the launch of the Parliamentary Review in Westminster in March 2019. Lawnmower's has been cited as best practice representative in the care sector. You can view the Parliamentary Review article by clicking the link.
2. **The Lawnmowers 'A Dead Good Life' (30 mins)**
<https://youtu.be/gpUwT4kMX5c> - A film on healthy ageing for people with learning difficulties which launched in January 2020.
3. **Youth Programme – European BBEDC (1 Min)**
<https://fb.watch/2mn9vP79Z0/> - UK Exchange Mar 2020, European Students and Lawnmowers: Street Dance
4. **Youth Programme – European BBEDC (3 mins, 26)**
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=qSWMYSDNS5kBBEDC> - What is BBEDC About?
5. **Youth Programme – European Performance Short (2 mins, 43)**
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=OcgplVVCh_o - Dance and Camaraderie

Preparation – The Beginning

In March 2020 we adapted the organisation to become a remote training facility and crisis function support. We built the digital platforms for our work to be delivered, worked on a one-to-one basis with every member with learning difficulties to assess digital accessibility, capability and to supply necessary equipment and training to those that needed it and then to bring every member and staff member live. We then implemented a commitment and engagement policy. Commitment was expected in much the same way it is was at our beloved centre. We took registers, supported our staff with regular one-to-ones, worked with our carers to ensure participation. We mitigated risk with our home working risk assessments and monitored all attendance isolation and safeguarding risks and achievements. We have 98 members from across the region taking part in their regular weekly sessions in private digital groups and maintained our popular social media pages for a community of 1927 members

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People with Learning Disabilities Coping During the Pandemic

During 2020/21 the U.K. suffered a catastrophic impact from the Covid-19 and Coronavirus (CV) global pandemic. The pandemic is a continuing public health emergency and has tragically claimed many victims nationwide but during this particular year of initial crisis, People with a Learning Disability (PWLD) were not treated the same way as the general population. Studies indicated that PWLD were not proportionately affected by the virus, resulting in co-morbidity and death (Armitage and Nellums 2020). Unfortunately, this means that the Covid poses a further risk to the learning disabled (LD) population and therefore there is a greater need for awareness, understanding and action to support this marginalised group. The voice of those with a LD was distinctly non-existent from the rhetoric of politicians or epidemiologists. While the general population grappled with a new normal in a global pandemic, we must ensure there is consideration for PWLD who face the same challenges as do the general population whilst living in and beyond a global pandemic. A red flag was raised in the UK to warn that PWLD have difficulties understanding and communicating in everyday life, let alone in a pandemic (Courtenay and Perera, 2020).

Unlawful do not resuscitate orders were placed on PWLD. Some struggled to have their Clinically Extremely Vulnerable status recognised by their GP practices so they could ensure they were in the priority vaccination groups. The impact meant that some people with a LD 'were unlikely candidates for ventilator support' (Bagentos, 2020), and would be automatically barred from lifesaving treatment. People with Down's Syndrome are at particular risk from CV but have nevertheless had to campaign and lobby government to challenge unconscious bias, to ensure healthcare practitioners give the same treatment to PWLD as they do to the general population.

Some of our members have reported feeling undervalued in society during the crisis and families and carers have experienced feelings of terror should the people they care for contract the virus, because they feel their lives will not be fought for in the same way as other people.

There is clearly still a long way to go to inspire confidence in healthcare in PWLD and their families. Resources such as the Lawnmowers online learning resource which considers the real-life experiences of PWLD during their navigation of the healthcare system are helping to make change. Moving from appointment to treatment, we work together with qualified and emerging healthcare practitioners to consider how small adaptations in thought and practice can help to make a vulnerable person feel valued and safe.

It is widely known that people with LD are more likely to die younger than the general population (O'Leary et al., 2018), and we must learn lessons and not overlook this vulnerable group, nor cause any more unnecessary deaths. The problem remains that PWLD are four/five times more likely to die in a pandemic (Tuffrey-Wijne, 2020), are repeatedly devalued and are treated with indifference (Gates, 2019). Moreover, introducing social distance measures to restrict the spread of the virus may have a further impact on PWLD, which undoubtedly will manifest in treatment interventions or even increased admissions. It is our experience that, as a group, PWLD have experienced social distance as a concept for a long time. Dawn Redhead CEO The Lawnmowers Theatre Company, Angela Ridley, University of Northumbria, December 2021.

Our Groups and Workshops

Our groups accessed their workshops through private members platforms for Daytime Members, Evening Members and Youth Members.

Since the initial lockdown in March 2020 and until our return to the Arts Centre in May 2021, the organisation continued to remote deliver training workshops and clubs for members and youth members. We delivered weekly workshops 6 days and 4 evenings each week. In total we delivered 322 digital core member workshops in singing, krew technology training, round table, theatre outreach, theatre ensemble and day time dance. We delivered 92 further digital youth workshops in dance and theatre and 138 evening workshops and sessions in dance, drama and quiz nights. In addition, the organisation held sessions in members gardens where permissible, undertook home visits and drop-off's, delivered fresh produce to members' homes, helped members to access support, dropped bedding off to them, posted tasks and gifts through the post, delivered 10 digital zoom nightclubs, were guest DJ's at Down's Syndrome North East Zoom Disco, created and delivered an online festival with participation coming from Carousel, Liberdade, Twisting Ducks, independent west end actor Ian Mackintosh, Hubub Theatre, Lawnmowers Groundbreakers youth dance cru, Lawnmowers Theatre Ensemble, DIY Theatre, Headway, Mind the Gap, Beetroot Jam, Facefront Inclusive Theatre and the Jack and Josephine Project.

Theatre Outreach

The group continued to train each week since the beginning of lockdown. They had a very successful year rehearsing, working with other organisations to design accessible information and train external participants and worked with Public Health England to create online film. The group developed a new online learning resource in partnership with the University of Northumbria. They won funding from the Northumbria Police Crime Commissioner to develop a film and training package in 21/22 to target extremism and have even been able to earn some lock down income through the provision of training to networks. We expand on some of this work below.

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Theatre Outreach – Online Training Resource

The Lawnmowers members worked with staff and senior lecturers from the University of Northumbria during this pandemic year to create a fantastic online learning resource for our Creative Health Awareness Training packages. The resource is accessed online by students with live sessions and simulations from Lawnmowers actors in supervised breakout Zoom Rooms. In partnership with Northumbria University we ran a pilot of the online resource package using a cohort of students who had previously been trained through the pre-Covid live sessions model. Their data and evaluations helped us to work with the university to practice-run and critique the online model. We completed an additional 2 practice runs with the university (apprentice students and external students) and then we rolled out the formal training to 600 undergrad students during March 2021. The online resource will be launched formally by the university in 21/22 and Lawnmowers during National Nurses Day and/or Florence Nightingale's birthday. Lawnmowers will inform the marketing schedule for the launch. We have plans with the university, to launch our theatre for change online model for students who are studying from home due to Covid-19. The online model will also be used to train apprentice practitioners in essential modules who are working on the front line in hospitals in both our region and regions further afield.

1. Student University Online Training Resource – Lawnmowers CHAT <https://vimeo.com/439226736/34c736b7ce> (21 mins, 39secs)

Theatre Outreach – Friday Friends – Mate Crime Online Training – Hate and Mate Crime Awareness Week

As part of Hate and Mate Crime Awareness Week 2020 we adapted our most recently devised theatre training piece for a digital audience. Working with the Community Engagement Team at Gateshead Council and the Engagement Officer at Northumbria police we thought about what was possible digitally as opposed to face to face and devised the online piece together. We delivered the training to NCFE and it was very well received. As a result of the training day, we were put forward for a small grant of £500 to help towards Covid digital adaption costs so we could fine tune the piece. We will continue to develop this work during 21/22.

Theatre Outreach – Teesside University – Friday Friends on Zoom

We delivered the Friday Friends Mate Crime training to students at Teesside University during 2020. We also created a "What to expect video" for students who were nervous about an interactive zoom training with PWLD.

1. Students and Medical Trainees: What to expect from online training vimeo.com/487236087 (5 mins, 48 secs)

Theatre Outreach – Tackling Extremism – Police Film and Training Package

As part of our intervention training model, we developed our plans so that our Theatre Outreach team could create a package to highlight issues exploring extremism and how PWLD are drawn into extremist activity. We had to delay our plans during the first half of 2020/21 to seek funding to create the package however; we put in a funding bid in January 2021 to the Northumbria Police Operation Payback Fund to seek funding to make the package. At the time of writing, we are delighted to announce that we have been awarded £10k to make the film element of the package. We will begin filming at the centre in summer 2021. We will work with the Northumbria Police Prevention team and the Community Engagement team at Gateshead Council to co-create and launch the project to address the issue of Extremism and the exploitation of PWLD.

The project will involve creating:

1. Innovative training and workshop package;
2. A digital training and learning package and;
3. A set of accessible materials.

Aim

The aim of the training package is to work directly with partners and agencies, PWLD and their families to use theatre and training simulations to highlight the issues around extremism, the people affected and to inform the professionals who may come into contact with them so that we can work together to reduce exploitation and inform practice.

Collective Encounters - Delivering Participatory Theatre During Social Distancing: What's Working?

Our Co-Artistic Director and Theatre Outreach Manager Claire took part in the international exploration in 2020 looking at how the participatory theatre sector is responding to COVID-19 and the effect lockdown and social distancing is having on participants, participatory theatre makers and their practice. Collective Encounters has been collaborating with the sector on a shared Games & Exercises Resource, and a library of useful documents for participatory theatre makers looking to develop their socially distanced practice.

Theatre Outreach – Room to Zoom Experiment

Lawnmowers were given a platform by Cardboard Citizens as part of their Cardboard Camps Project to experiment with how Forum Theatre can work online. Jokers, facilitators, directors and the general arts community came to support this experiment during a sub group Zoom meeting to give feedback on our current polished forum theatre piece developed previously for our Creative Health Awareness Training programme. The platform gave Lawnmowers actors and Artistic Director the opportunity to joker the piece and examined whether an authentic exchange in which people still felt engaged and active, was possible.

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Theatre Ensemble

During 19/20, the Ensemble benefitted from a wonderful new Artistic Director. Jan-Willem van den Bosch is an acclaimed national and international theatre director, writer and facilitator. He is a long-time collaborator of Dickie Beau, with whom he creates award-winning lip-synched theatre shows, which have been performed in the UK, America and Australia.

The Ensemble were energised and excited to work with Jan and were nearly finished devising and rehearsing their new Retake, Remake show when lockdown struck in March 2020. The show loudly & powerfully, advocates for true representation of people with learning difficulties in cinema.

We intended to fundraise for the show to tour at the end of 2020 and into 2021 but unfortunately those plans had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Part of the performance would have been launched at a joint Awareness Festival that we were creating with Alphabetti Theatre in May 2020.

Instead, the Ensemble continued to rehearse the show online (a particular but rewarding challenge) during 2020 with directing and rehearsing taking place online. The online theatre directing was a big success. It attracted a lot of interest from other theatre professionals who dropped in to the sessions to view the techniques.

A scratch of the piece was shown at the Queer and Now festival in February 2020 to great excitement. Jan was also receiving a lot of interest from national theatre producers. The momentum was just starting to build when lockdown occurred. The group was devastated when they were not able to tour the piece.

Filming Retake Remake

We decided to begin negotiations with a film maker during the Covid lockdown year about how we could adapt the piece for film. We created a film project proposal with story board and costume design, stage management and technical requirements. We worked with a producer during lockdown and fundraised to create a film and then turn it into an episodic set of film shorts for audiences to view digitally.

The film will be a fun, conceptual 60 minute performance-film exploring scenes from mainstream films in which actors without learning difficulties portray people with them. Lip-sync performance and green screen technology will be used to recreate scenes from popular cinema (an aesthetic that allows us to film socially distanced). The subject of the film - the exclusion of people with learning difficulties from the arts, while their stories are co-opted for commercial gain - is an issue of urgent, international importance. We will share the film online to reconnect with PWLD and the disability community and develop audiences from the international disability arts community, arts programmers, LGBTQ+ community & socially excluded groups.

At the time of writing, we have just won Arts Council England funding help create some of the technically challenging elements of the film and funding from the Community Foundation Tyne and Wear to work with the group to create the episodic elements and deliver workshops/launch the pieces. The joint Awareness Festival with Alphabetti that we mentioned above and which had to be cancelled due to the pandemic was rescheduled for May 2021 and we look forward to reporting on the development of this work in our next report.

Getting Down to Business – Weekly Round Table

Members worked very hard in the Round Table during lockdown. They undertook 46 weekly round table meetings during the year to look at and receive important information about the company and Covid. The members worked with researchers to help create and set up the LDRSG (see below – National Research), created accessible documents to help other individuals and groups working with people with learning difficulties to operate zoom meetings more efficiently (see below Communi Cards), and undertook a lot of work with Public Health England to become Covid Champions and provide insight and information about some of the hurdles PWLD faced or are facing, during the pandemic.

Round Table – National Research

The organisation core members worked during their Round Table meetings to help the NIHR to create and develop a learning disability research support group. The LDRSG is a Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) group, based in the North East, which gives an opportunity for researchers across the UK to discuss their research ideas and plans with a group of people with learning difficulties. So far the group has held zoom meetings with Jane Bourne from NIHR to inform the research documents and questions ahead of ethics approval. They worked together with NIHR to create a set of Communi Cards to aid accessibility during online sessions and piloted the research format during formal sessions with Susan Bisset from the School of Dental Sciences at Newcastle University.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

Round Table – Covid Champion Training – Public Health England

The organisation has developed very strong links with Public Health England during the pandemic. We worked with PHE to create an accessible film called Hands, Face, and Space which was shown nationally and Lawnmowers have been named by PHE as Covid Champions.

1. Public Health England – Hands, Face, Space <https://vimeo.com/488990302> (5 mins, 44secs)

Our Co-Artistic Director Claire and three of the group members undertook a 5-module training course with PHE to become Company Covid Champions. They nominated one of our members to attend weekly meetings with PHE and to feed the information back to our Round Table meetings. The other 2 members then feed the information back to the other project groups. As part of this role the group has also been commissioned by PHE to carry out "Covid Creative Tasks" which involves responding to complex guidance.

1. The Hands, Face, Space film came from the commission.
2. We are currently working on a social distance "2mtr" rap with guidance and visuals.
3. The next commission will look at how PWLD can track their movements once out of lockdown.

Youth Projects

During the pandemic the youth participants worked remotely over 92 workshops. They played drama games, set creative tasks, edited their script, created story boards, drew designs for village posters and animated them using Piskel and HitFilm Pro digital software. They edited work and made editorial decisions together. They completed line runs, thought about characters props and costumes and future film locations. Dance participants created workshops for submission in online festivals, created film shorts x 2, worked on dance moves, styles, hip hop education and wellbeing. Leaders worked with the families, undertook home garden dance visits (where permitted) and continued to monitor our young people's welfare. They are, of course, very excited to get back into the dance studio and drama theatre however, they handled the pandemic with grace and integrity.

Our dance programme managers have been encouraged to apply to a fund in 21/22 that operates Satellite Clubs for young people. Satellite Clubs are local sport and physical activity clubs that are designed around the needs of young people and provide them with positive, enjoyable experiences that make it easier for them to become active or to develop more regular activity habits.

The focus of Satellite Clubs is on the 14-19 year age group, a critical time when many young people stop playing sport. Satellite Clubs will be designed to respond to the specific demands for sport from young people and position to support them at points of disruption in their lives. They will be tailored to meet the different motivations and needs of young people particularly those who are less active or at risk of falling out of sport. This will allow us to recruit for Thursdays and increase our numbers.

Youth Theatre

Much like their mentors from the Theatre Ensemble, the youth theatre members were creating a show for a small regional tour at the time of the first lockdown. The group continued to work on the piece remotely Mar-Dec, completing the script together and continuing to rehearse online. Once they completed the script, they took a dramaturgical approach and looked at strengthening the story arch. They deepened the characters' motivations and common themes throughout the story. They made the decision to turn their show into a film short in December 2020 due to the continuing lockdown situation. They started to research how they could do this and what adaptations would have to be made to make it possible.

Our dance and theatre youth programmes have been very successful during lockdown. We had very developed plans to spend 20/21 working closely with regional SEN schools to offer workshops in dance and drama, facilitated by our more established youth members. We had also worked very hard to win a European Social Fund bid to begin to collaborate with local colleges, cultural organisations, job centres and at our premises to begin to develop an academy in drama and dance. The plans suffered a cruel blow because of the pandemic when the ESF leaders in Europe would not offer an extended completion date. The project was a 22 month piece of work and with a projected 14 months knocked off the delivery time, it was impossible to achieve the outcomes. Unfortunately most of the projects that had won the funding had to pull out because of the unachievable deadlines. The regional ESF lead was pushing for an extension and a reallocation of the fund and will contact us to resubmit a bid if they are successful.

The pandemic has not stopped our desire to offer this project and we will seek funding (probably at the end of 21/22) to resume this work and once things have settled down so that we can be confident we can go into schools and colleges to collaborate with other students and their educational establishments.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

Connect LD+ 2020

The Lawnmowers artists, like other artists with learning difficulties during the crisis, continued to create great online work in Music, Dance, Theatre and Film during lockdown. We wanted to share our work and support the year's Learning Disability Week so created our Connect LD+ 2020 digital festival. We put out an open call in August 2020 and held our festival in September 2020. The festival was attended by a number of people. We collaborated with many organisations and artists to produce the online event.

The one-day online event was held 7 September 2020 and included lots of exciting material including workshops and performances. We ended the event with a live television broadcast to show audiences some of the works mixed together with specially created pre-recorded material, lockdown material and proud past achievements.

The Lawnmowers Connect LD+ 2020 digital festival celebrated and showcased CANNY CLASSICS, MOUTHY MOMENTS, FRESH STUFF, LOCKDOWN MATERIAL, and LIVE PERFORMANCES and WORKSHOPS.

The festival was picked up by NARC magazine who ran a feature on the work.

We are currently collaborating with Mind the Gap to develop the festival as a joint event in 2022.

Gardening, Perma Culture, Food Parcels and Home Deliveries

We won a small amount of funding from the Postcode Lottery Fund in the last quarter of 2019/20 to develop the outside space at our new arts centre into a community garden. We had undertaken quite a bit of the preparation work Jan-Mar 2020 just before the pandemic hit. We were unable to continue the project plan of having a dedicated team of LD gardeners work the space during the pandemic year but, the gardener continued to tend the garden during lockdown and continued with the growing plans, including all the projected fruit and vegetables. When they were grown he delivered food parcels of fresh fruit and veg to our members throughout lockdown. The team will reconvene at the centre as soon as it is permissible.

Other

Leaders Council of Great Britain

Our CEO, Dawn Redhead, was interviewed for a podcast by the Leaders Council of Great Britain in July 2020 alongside David Blunkett on the impact of Covid-19 on the organisation. The link for the 48 minute podcast is:
<https://youtu.be/pwYqWxybFA>

House of Lords

Our CEO was approached to submit evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee looking at the impact of the pandemic on the sector just before the £1.5 billion recovery package was announced. We like to think it was our evidence which swung it (and not Andrew Lloyd Webbers!) but we were very pleased that the recovery package was announced shortly thereafter.

Carer Assistance and CEV status

We worked with carers during the lockdown. Some had terrible anxiety because of the unlawful 'Do Not Resuscitate' orders that were placed on PWLD during the first half of the pandemic. Our CEO assisted some to write to the JCVI to lobby for PWLD to be given priority status for the vaccination programme. We joined the campaign by the Down's Syndrome Association to have PWLD prioritised as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV). Our CEO assisted one carer to lobby her GP to have her son recognised as CEV and to write to her local MP and others to lobby for change.

Bringing change to the board – Training by Inclusion North

The organisation worked with Inclusion North to receive training on how to make our Board even more accessible. The aim is to increase the number of people with a learning disability or autism who are company directors or charity trustees. So far our Shadow Board and Trustees have trained with Inclusion North on various subject matters over a number of sessions and the organisation will attend one of our Board meetings in 21/22.

Cultural Education Partnerships

Our Participation Manager attended the national Arts Council England Cultural Education Programme (CEP) throughout lockdown. The meetings of between 50-70 people were attended by people from CEP's across the country. There were compulsory core sessions and optional action groups created. Our Participation Manager currently represents the organisation in the national action group 'Advocating for Cultural Education to Policy Makers' which will lobby to have the importance and value of soft outcomes that flow from activities in the arts recognised in the school curriculum. The meetings will continue into 21/22.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

Challenges and Losses

This has obviously been a year like no other. We are particularly proud of our achievements but it has been hard and at times, uncertain. The determination and fortitude of all involved has been humbling. Digital technology has made this dire situation better for millions and that includes our members and staff. We have learned some amazing skills along the way and will continue to develop them in our transition year and beyond.

Although there has been some issues around the personal budget income stream (see below – across all regional local authorities), our local authority and its officers have been an amazing source of support during the pandemic. We have undertaken some outstanding work with networks and agencies across the region, the UK and at times, across the world. The sense of community has been palpable during the crisis. Unfortunately there have been some business losses to the organisation. We understand only too well however, we are in a very privileged position in that we have the opportunity to recover and grow. We are desperately sad for the organisations that did not make it through.

European Social Fund – Youth Academy

As reported in summary above, last February we won £92k from the European Social Fund to deliver a fantastic programme of opportunity and training to young PWLD. The programme included an academy of dance and drama, collaborations with local education providers including Gateshead College and working with job centres and the cultural sector to develop work placements and begin the negotiations with Dance City around a dance qualification for young PWLD. Unfortunately we had to agree with the fund managers (who were very keen for the project to go ahead) that it was undeliverable due to the pandemic. The ESF team could not get an extension for the programme from Europe even despite the pandemic and it had a strict deadline for finishing at the end of 2021. As you can imagine, it was impossible for us to audition new vulnerable members and go into colleges as well as deliver such a complex project in such a short space of time. It was the same for most of the newly appointed ESF projects, not just us. The ESF team has confirmed that they are now seeking a redirection of funds and an extension on spend due to such a high volume of projects who are unable to provide. We may be able to reapply if the extensions are granted.

Erasmus

Our European Erasmus project for young people from 5 countries to create a dance show together and perform it had to be cancelled. The last youth exchange was due to take place in June 2020. Unfortunately that exchange to Poland would have been the final performance for the students from Lawnmowers, Spain, Poland, France and Holland that they had all worked so hard to create. It was very disappointing for the young people and in particular because the Erasmus programme is being cancelled for young people from GB after Brexit so there are no current opportunities for the project to reconvene in a similar format after the pandemic. The organisation also lost the final £6,500 in revenue from the project as a result of the exchange not going ahead.

Personal Budget Challenges

We have suffered some losses from our personal budget income stream this financial year. Some local authorities have been difficult to deal with for families because they have not been able to reach important people as readily. Some families have had their budgets reassessed without notice during the pandemic and received letters to tell them their allocations are changing out of the blue. Some have been told they have to pay considerable contributions to their budgets after having been reassessed without notice during lockdown. From a financial perspective, the no-notice changes to some of the personal budget income streams have left some of the income stream vulnerable. We are still calculating the losses but they could equate to £15,000. This income stream was very frustrating at times and especially when times were already very uncertain for our members. We were very lucky to have very good relationships with a number of our local authorities and were able to support some of our families through the stress and bureaucracy with information and practical advice.

Personal Budgets – Alerting the Local Authorities to Impact

Our CEO was asked by the regional lead for personal budgets to produce a document for council members highlighting people's issues over lockdown and providing case studies. The document was passed between local authorities, leaders and councillors and received commendations.

Staff Losses, Career Breaks & Deferred Return

We had one member of staff take a career break and one change jobs in December; one being our administrator and the other was our monitoring coordinator. Losing them at Christmas was tough, mainly because of the additional risk assessment procedures we had to undertake to plan for a return to the centre. All the work was completed in any event and a 3-4 week circuit breaker was modelled in to account for the Christmas period and the potential rise in infections however, we, like many organisations, were taken by surprise by the January announcement to lock down for a 3-4 month period and had to defer our return to the April and May period.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

Earned Income

We had to adapt our financial projections at the beginning of the pandemic year to account for a nil earned income however; we are very pleased to say that we have been able to charge for our training work with the university and a small fee to PHE for our contribution to their accessible information drive. We are very pleased to report that we have actually made a little bit of earned income during the pandemic year. Far less than projected but it was a testament to the project members in any event that we were able to earn a small amount of income during the period.

Other

Mems and Arts Review

We began the process of reviewing and updating our Mems and Arts in 2020. This work had to be postponed and will be picked up in the new financial year.

Centre Asset Transfer

We were unable to move forward with the asset transfer of the centre due to the pandemic. We will continue with the work in the new financial year.

Funding

We have no shortfalls going into 2021/22 but threats to our personal budget allocation have had to be covered through our reserves fund.

We will spend much of the 21/22 year fundraising for the next 3 years.

Arts Council England told us early in the pandemic that they were extending the funding period by one year for all current NPO's as most would not have the capacity to apply for the new 4 year round during the pandemic. They have since changed the language slightly to confirm it is an application process. We have to provide a one year extension year business plan by September 2021 and will be busy writing this with our members, staff and board during 21/22. We will also be busy planning the next round of NPO funding plans to take us to 2026. We have enlisted the services of the Institute of Cultural Affairs to work with our board and groups to independently facilitate the sessions and are very much looking forward to it. At the time of writing, we are booking meetings and away days with board, members and staff.

Articles

Nursing times article

The Lawnmowers was featured in the November 2020 edition of the Nursing Times where the benefits of our co-produced interactive training using theatre to create a training experience for emerging practitioners were discussed. (Nursing Times [online] November 2020 / Vol 116 Issue 11).

The key points covered by the authors in the article are:

1. The complex physical and mental health needs of people with learning difficulties are often inadequately met
2. Working in partnership with 'experts by experience' is highly beneficial for higher-education institutions
3. A university and theatre company have co-developed a project where actors with learning difficulties run a workshop for student nurses
4. Actors portray people with varying needs and students interact with them to elicit information
5. Students describe the involvement of 'experts by experience' as being highly beneficial to their learning and clinical practice

Improving Critical Engagement with Theatre Made by Artists with Learning Disabilities

Our CEO Dawn Redhead, Artistic Director Jan Willem Van-den-Bosch and three of our established actors contributed to the report commissioned by Arts Council England and Spectra. The report was released in February 2020 just before lockdown and is a very interesting read, looking at the value of review in theatre produced by PWLD. The report is available online.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

Creative Diversity – Baring Foundation

Our project looking at creative ageing for PWLD was featured in the recent Baring Foundation Diversity and Creative Ageing publication just before lockdown which is available online.

Plans going forward – 21/22

We have lots to do!

We will be continuing to make our transition back to the centre and settling as well as observing all the latest guidance. The sheer breadth of the activities we offer mean we are governed under 5 sets of Covid guidance. We have completed our Risk Assessment and it is large!

We have adapted our arts centre to accommodate Covid and social distancing and risk registered the programmes. A webinar of the new centre layout can be found below.

1. Centre – Covid Webinar <https://vimeo.com/484236595> (1 min, 45)

Groups

1. Our Theatre Ensemble will complete the Retake, Remake film and be very busy showcasing it to festivals and invited audiences. They will begin thinking of a new show nearer the latter part of the year.
2. Theatre Outreach will adapt and continue developing their training programmes for national uptake. Members will work with Northumbria Police and the Community Engagement Team from Gateshead Council to create a film and package looking at extremism.
3. Youth projects will continue to adapt. They will seek funding to work with schools and continue their plans to collaborate with agencies to devise and deliver a training academy for young PWLD. We will also fundraise for the satellite clubs through Sport England.
4. We will continue to collaborate with Mind the Gap to develop and deliver a national LD online festival.
5. Beat This! will create a new music set and resume rehearsals. They will be governed by guidance regarding festival participation and will work with producers going forward.
6. The Krocodile Krew will continue their training and offer zoom clubs in the first part of the year. Their longer term plans are to resume the physical clubs and they will work with venues in the region to provide for this when it is safe.
7. Dance will have a continued focus on health and wellbeing and will also focus on mental health and emotional recovery from the pandemic.
8. The garden and growing project will continue.

Business Planning and Resilience

1. We will continue with our plans to develop the arts centre and seek funding to provide a fully accessible and equipped community theatre space.
2. Funding and business planning will thread through all of our activities this year and we will work with the Institute of Cultural Affairs to plan the next 4 years.
3. We will continue to work with networks and agencies, organisations and leaders throughout the north east, to deliver our work and build relationships.
4. We will continue to work with the CEP's to improve arts education in schools and collaborations between schools and the sector.
5. Digital technology training will continue to have a main theme within our plans and we intend to develop some international relationships using screen.

21/22 – Returning to Our Arts Centre – Watch This Space!

After many very long and laborious months, risk assessments coming out of our ears during the year (!) and a couple of cancelled attempts following lockdown announcements, we spent April 2021 making the transition back to physical activity at the centre with a view to services being fully restored, albeit in a new Covid-secure environment, by 17 May 2021. Returning will come with caveats to ensure everyone is safe. We will be slower returning to community performance. In the first instance we will concentrate on bringing our members back to the centre. It's quite emotional to write this! We can't wait.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Co. is a charitable company, limited by guarantee and incorporated on 17 May 2000. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which defines the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1. The charity does not operate any trading subsidiaries.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

Recruitment and Appointment of the Board of Trustees

The founding trustees of the charity were appointed by election by the Lawnmowers according to experience. The other trustees were appointed by a majority vote of the trustees present at a normal trustees meeting. At each Annual General Meeting, one third of the members of the Board of Directors for the time being, or if their number is not multiple of three then the number nearest to one third, shall retire from office. The members of the Board of Directors to retire shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election or appointment. A retiring member of the Board of Directors shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting unless a resolution for the re-election of such a Director shall have been put to the meeting and lost.

Organisational Structure

The Lawnmowers has a Board of up to 10 members which is responsible for the longer-term planning and direction of the company. The Board, which was made up of 8 members during the 20/21 accounting year, meets between four and six times each year with the volunteer members and staff and holds separate sub-group meetings as required. The Board members, who have a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity, are trustees for the purposes of charity law and are directors for the purposes of company law. A scheme of delegation for the 19/20 period is in place and day to day responsibility for the provision of services rested with the CEO. The CEO was responsible for ensuring that the charity delivered the services specified and that key performance indicators were met for the year as well as supervision and development of the staff team.

The Trustees are satisfied that the charity's risk management and policies and procedures adequately address risks to the charity arising from its activities and/or where it operates.

Trustees Induction and Training

Most trustees are already familiar with the practical work of the charity having been encouraged to visit the premises and view work and activities that the projects deliver prior to lodging an expression of interest in available posts.

New trustees are invited to attend Board meetings in advance of appointment to find out about the role of a Trustee.

Following recruitment, new trustees receive:

- Company Memorandum and Articles of Association;
- Policies and Procedures Documents;
- Latest Accounts;
- Current and future financial position;
- Company Business Plan;
- Trustee Code of Conduct
- Trustee role, duties and powers.

Trustee Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to set out the relevant standards expected of Trustees of the Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company in order to maintain the highest standards of integrity and stewardship; to ensure that the Lawnmowers Company is effective, open and accountable and to ensure good working relationships. The Code of Conduct is not a list of Trustee's legal duties, although many of the elements of the Code are based on legal principles. The conduct and practices recommended in this Code go beyond what the law requires in some respects, but are consistent with the law.

Equal Opportunities

Trustees, staff and volunteers, must affirm their commitment to The Lawnmower's Equal Opportunities Policy when joining the company.

Trustee Induction

The officers and members of the Trustees Board receive written information about roles, powers and responsibilities upon recruitment and sit through a company induction. Induction is the responsibility of the existing Board Members and is the process the company has for introducing a new employee, board member or volunteer member to the work and environment. Ongoing trustee training is also the responsibility of the existing board.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

The Board of Trustees presents its report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name:	The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company
Alternative Names:	The Lawnmowers
Charity registration number:	1084229
Company registration number:	Registered in England and Wales, No. 3995521
Registered office:	Lawnmowers Arts Centre Formerly Pelaw Youth Centre Pelaw Gateshead, NE10 0QD

Board of Trustees

Katherine Zeserson, appt 16 January 2002;	(Resigned 6 May 2021)
Dr Tina Cook, appt 5 February 2009;	
Steve Gilroy, appt 10 December 2012;	
Dr Charlotte Thomas, appt 30 September 2016;	(Appointed as Chair 10 April 2019)
Geraldine Ling MBE, appt 25 July 2017;	
Vicky Sturrs, appt 11 April 2018;	
Samantha Forster, appt 11 April 2018;	(Resigned 19 November 2020)
Hilary Florek, appt 10 April 2019.	

Management and Administration 20/21

During the 20/21 year there were six members of staff who were responsible for the day-to-day management and administration of the company and who helped with creative development:

1. Dawn Redhead – Chief Executive Officer;
2. Ian Mackintosh – Finance and Development Officer;
3. Wendy Patterson – Participation and Logistics Coordinator;
4. Claire Hills-Wilson – Artistic Director (job share);
5. Jan Willem Van Den Bosch – Artistic Director (job share);
6. Sally Keys – Company Assistant.

Other staff and supporters 20/21 were:

1. Beverly Gray – Programme Operations Officer;
2. Josh Green – Support and Round Table Coordinator;
3. Eroy Chan – Communications Officer;
4. Robin Dunn – Personal Assistant to one of our Core Members;
5. Laura Patterson – General Support;
6. Connor Gribbins – Emerging Artist (support)
7. Sophie Atkinson – Emerging Drama Facilitator;
8. Liam Scarth – Emerging Drama Facilitator.

As well as our dedicated team of staff and core members, we also benefit from the skills of some of the North East's finest sessional and support workers, specialising in fields such as dance, music, costume creation, diet and fitness, voice coaching, film work, set and costume design, DJ training and technical training. Nationally, we have benefited from the skills of some of the finest theatre directors.

The Company's regular sessional artists for the year were:

1. Brendan Murphy – (Percussion and Glass Orchestra), Rhumba Palace;
2. Mariam Rezaei – MRM (composer), Krocodile Klub Coord/DJ;
3. Conor O'Kane – (Bad Taste Cru), Hip Hop;
4. Paul Allen – (Bad Taste Cru), Dance, Hip Hop & percussion.

Vocational and Volunteer Placements at Lawnmowers

During year 2020/21, we were able to offer a number of volunteer placements to people keen to learn about our programme delivery methods. They were:

1. A Harris – Community Volunteer, Singing;

The company co-operates with a wide variety of networks and organisations working within the arts and charitable sectors.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

Staff and sessional artists work directly with young people and adults at risk with enhanced DBS checks carried out on all the individuals who are eligible to have them.

The charity's bankers are:

Lloyds TSB
Grey Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE99 1SL

The charity's solicitors are:

Hadaway & Hadaway
58 Howard Street
North Shields
Tyne and Wear
NE30 1AL

The Independent Examiners are:

Haines Watts
17 Queens Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1RN

Exemptions and Disclosure

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity and none have been paid for any services relating to the charity. Any connections that are identified as or that could be, a conflict of the charity's interest, must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

During the financial period for this annual return, none of the charity's trustees resigned from the Board to take up employment with the organisation.

During the financial period for this annual return, none of the charity's staff received benefits of £60,000 or more.

There are no staff members paid in the following salary bands:

1. £60,000-£150,000;
2. £150,001-£550,000;
3. Over £550,000.

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

N/A

Financial

Fundraising, Principal Funding Sources and Overseas Income and Expenditure

Aside from the relatively small amount of income generated from some of the company's cultural performances and DVD sales, the principal funding sources for the charity are by way of grant income from private charitable trusts and personal budget service users. The company is looking at generating income from the acquisition of contracts for the provision of services, but this research is ongoing and progress has been hindered by the pandemic and lockdown. We will be picking up this work following the settled return of our services to our arts centre. In the meantime, the company will continue to source funding from charitable trusts and personal budgets.

The charity does not raise funds from the public.

For the period of this return, there were no serious incidents in the charity.

The charity received no income from the local authority but did receive a Covid grant and Covid rate relief grant.

The charity received no income from outside the U.K. during 20/21.

The charity undertook no work outside the U.K. during 20/21.

The charity regulates the expenditure using strict budget/allocation controls that are agreed under our financial controls policy

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**


**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

Investment Policy

Aside from retaining a prudent amount of earned income in reserves each year, the charity's funds are to be spent in the short term so there are no funds available for long term investment. The charity usually earns a reasonable amount of annual interest, generated from its short-term funds but this has not been the case this year because of the current financial climate. The company has a small amount of unrestricted reserves invested in a high interest savings account.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Lawnmowers to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the company and we aim to maintain a level that equates to approximately 3-6 months' running costs. We are currently growing this fund so that it will provide sufficient funds to cover management, administration and support costs. The company's unrestricted liabilities and reserve fund is currently being increased by any earned income the organisation may generate in each financial year. At the beginning of every financial year, the company's earned income is projected in line with that which was generated during the preceding year with a small amount added for projected increased activity and inflation. On 1 April 2020, the unrestricted liabilities and reserves fund stood at £235,322, free reserves are £153,398. The surplus during the period 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021 reached £33,039, taking the total for liabilities and reserves fund for the year end 31 March 2020 to £268,361. Investment income in the form of interest earned since incorporation is held in a different fund. The amount of investment income accrued since incorporation is £9,967, all of which has been utilized during the Revolution programme. This fund will satisfy the organisations liabilities with some of the fund being ring fenced for the 22/23 programme.

The financial accounts were approved for issue by the board of trustees on..... December 2021, and signed by;



Dr C Thomas - Chair

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Independent Examiners Report
For the year ended 31 March 2021**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



Donna Bulmer BA (Hons) ACA

Haines Watts
Chartered Accountants
17 Queens Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
Tyne and Wear
NE1 1RN

Date 22 December 2021

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2021 Total funds	2020 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	65,165	145,421	210,586	259,411
Charitable activities					
Personalisation agenda		66,657	10,893	77,550	87,020
Earned income		8,310	-	8,310	20,026
Investment income		15	-	15	14
Other income					<u>3,828</u>
Total		<u>140,147</u>	<u>156,314</u>	<u>296,461</u>	<u>370,299</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		9,368	-	9,368	10,412
Charitable activities					
The Revolution Programme		30,739	162,137	192,876	226,828
Krocodile Krew Project		449	6,351	6,800	2,712
Personalisation agenda		<u>64,110</u>	<u>10,893</u>	<u>75,003</u>	<u>109,490</u>
Total		<u>104,666</u>	<u>179,381</u>	<u>284,047</u>	<u>349,442</u>
NET INCOME before transfers		35,481	(23,067)	12,414	20,857
Transfers		(2,442)	2,442	-	-
Net movement in funds		33,039	(20,625)	12,414	20,857
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>235,322</u>	<u>93,738</u>	<u>329,060</u>	<u>308,203</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>268,361</u></u>	<u><u>73,113</u></u>	<u><u>341,474</u></u>	<u><u>329,060</u></u>

The notes on page 22 to 34 form part of these financial statements

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company (Registered number 03995521)**

**Balance Sheet
At 31 March 2021**

	Notes	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	10	843	1,053
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	11	220	220
Debtors	12	19,641	30,960
Cash at bank and in hand		334,298	315,328
		<u>354,159</u>	<u>346,508</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(13,528)	(18,501)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>340,631</u>	<u>328,007</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>341,474</u>	<u>329,060</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>341,474</u>	<u>329,060</u>
FUNDS	14		
Unrestricted funds		268,361	235,322
Restricted funds		73,113	93,738
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>341,474</u>	<u>329,060</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2021.

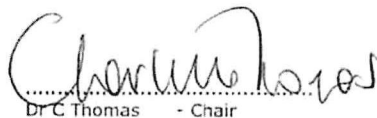
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 21st December 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:


Dr C Thomas - Chair


Ms G A Ling MBE -Trustee

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Co is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the company. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found in the Report of the Trustees.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are presented in Sterling £ and rounded to the nearest £1.

Going concern

The trustees have prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis and consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. As outlined in the trustee report on page 2 the charity has adapted quickly to COVID-19 restrictions providing online services to our beneficiaries, the charity has not been affected negatively by COVID-19 and has continued to receive support from our grant providers.

Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Income from grants, including capital grants, is included within income when communication has been received in writing of both the amount and the period to which they relate. In the event that the grant was received in advance of the period to which it relates, the grant is therefore deferred and included within creditors. When the grants are for a particular restricted purpose, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted funds when receivable.

Other trading activities and personalisation agenda income is recognised when the amount of income can be measured reliably and when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity. The charitable company recognises this income once goods or services have been sold, and are stated net of trade discounts and value added tax.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure and irrecoverable vat

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Expenditure on raising funds comprise of the costs associated with raising future funds to further the charitable objectives.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of providing services to the people with learning disabilities to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs have been differentiated between governance and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charitable company and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to independent examination, salaries and other general overheads.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on a staff time basis.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Improvements to property	- in accordance with length of lease
Fixtures and fittings	- 15% on cost
Computer equipment	- 20% on reducing balance

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation and impairment losses.

Impairment of assets

At each reporting date fixed assets are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If there is an indication of possible impairment, the recoverable amount of any affected asset is estimated and compared with its carrying amount. If estimated recoverable amount is lower, the carrying amount is reduced to its estimated recoverable amount, and an impairment loss is recognised immediately in the statement of financial activities.

If an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but not in excess of the amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in the statement of financial activities.

Stocks

Stock is included at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to sell.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 9. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included within charitable activity costs and allocated to the funds on a staff time basis.

The money purchase plans are managed by Scottish Life and The Peoples Pension. The plan invests the contributions made by the employee and employer in an investment fund to build up over the term of the plan a pension fund which is then converted into a pension upon the employee's normal retirement age when eligible for a state pension. The total expense ratio of the plan is then deducted from the investment fund annually.

The charity has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying across the deductions for the employee's contributions.

Employee benefits

Short term employee benefits are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

Donated services and facilities

Donated services or facilities are recognised as income when the charitable company has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated services and facilities are recognised based on the value of the gift to the charitable company which is the amount the charitable company would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2021 £	2020 £
Grants	183,106	248,161
Donations	16,230	-
Donated services and facilities	<u>11,250</u>	<u>11,250</u>
	<u>210,586</u>	<u>259,411</u>

Included in donated services and facilities were the following:

	2021 £	2020 £
Rent	11,250	11,250

The charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Arts Council England NPO Funding	62,120	60,998
The Big Lottery Fund, Reaching Communities	72,500	95,745
Arts Council England: Film	10,326	-
Northumbria Police	-	1,978
Ballinger Charitable Trust	-	15,000
Arts Council England: Catalyst	-	-
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (unrestricted)	15,000	60,000
Peoples Postcode Lottery	-	8,090
Erasmus	-	-
Community Foundation	-	1,000
LCEP	-	-
LGA Foundation	-	5,000
Gateshead Council Voluntary	-	350
Baring Foundation	-	-
Gateshead Council: Covid Support	<u>23,160</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>183,106</u>	<u>248,161</u>

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2021	2020
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Governance costs £	Totals £
The Revolution Programme	11,054	47,905	58,959
Personalisation agenda	<u>15,523</u>	<u>20,246</u>	<u>35,769</u>
	<u>26,577</u>	<u>68,151</u>	<u>94,728</u>

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

	The Revolution Programme £	Personalisation agenda £	2021 Total activities £	2020 Total activities £
Trustees' remuneration etc	-	-	-	587
Insurance	1,000	3,016	4,016	3,772
Telephone	-	3,291	3,291	2,601
Postage and stationery	-	2,703	2,703	2,512
Sundries	-	244	244	380
Other support costs	8,783	6,059	14,842	35,669
Wages	43,405	15,169	58,574	52,553
Postage and stationery	1,000	1,704	2,704	2,510
Accountancy, legal and professional fees	3,771	1,082	4,853	3,420
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	-	210	210	263
Telephone	<u>1,000</u>	<u>2,291</u>	<u>3,291</u>	<u>2,600</u>
	<u>58,959</u>	<u>35,769</u>	<u>94,728</u>	<u>106,864</u>

6. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021 £	2020 £
Depreciation - owned assets	210	263
Independent examination fees	3,504	3,420
Rentals under operating leases	<u>11,250</u>	<u>11,250</u>

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Trustees' expenses

	2021 £	2020 £
Trustees' expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>587</u>

Trustees expenses are analysed as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Total amount of trustees travelling expenses reimbursed to trustees or paid directly to third parties	-	587
Total number of trustees reimbursed for expenses or who had expenses paid by the charity	-	8

8. STAFF COSTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	173,791	180,708
Social security costs	12,735	12,091
Other pension costs	<u>7,887</u>	<u>8,050</u>
	<u>194,413</u>	<u>200,849</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
Management, administration & fundraising	3	3
Charitable activities	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

Pension costs are allocated to the charitable activities along with the restricted and unrestricted funds in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred.

The charitable company does not operate any pension scheme for its employees but does administer contributions to a money purchase pension scheme for 9 (2020 - 9) employees. The charity makes £7,887 (2020 - £8,050) of contributions to this scheme.

Included in other creditors is a pension liability amounting to £Nil (2020 - £nil).

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

9. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	3	76,600	182,811	259,411
Charitable activities				
Personalisation agenda		87,020	-	87,020
Earned income		20,026	-	20,026
Investment income		14	-	14
Other income		<u>3,828</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,828</u>
Total		<u>187,488</u>	<u>182,811</u>	<u>370,299</u>
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds		10,412	-	10,412
Charitable activities				
The Revolution Programme		29,197	197,631	226,828
Krocodile Krew Project		-	2,712	2,712
Personalisation agenda		<u>109,490</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109,490</u>
Total		<u>149,099</u>	<u>200,343</u>	<u>349,442</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		<u>38,389</u>	<u>(17,532)</u>	<u>20,857</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward		<u>196,933</u>	<u>111,270</u>	<u>308,203</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>235,322</u>	<u>93,738</u>	<u>329,060</u>

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Improvements to property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021	<u>103,506</u>	<u>7,001</u>	<u>24,239</u>	<u>134,746</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2020	103,506	7,001	23,186	133,693
Charge for year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>210</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>103,506</u>	<u>7,001</u>	<u>23,396</u>	<u>133,903</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>843</u>	<u>843</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,053</u>	<u>1,053</u>

11. STOCKS

	2021 £	2020 £
Stocks	<u>220</u>	<u>220</u>

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	13,748	3,376
Other debtors	3,756	25,752
Prepayments	<u>2,137</u>	<u>1,832</u>
	<u>19,641</u>	<u>30,960</u>

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,962	5,462
Social security and other taxes	-	-
Other creditors	-	13,039
Accrued expenses	<u>10,566</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>13,528</u>	<u>18,501</u>

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.20	Net movement in funds	At 31.3.21
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
Personalisation agenda	90,866	2,547	93,413
General funds	9,952	15	9,967
Unrestricted earned income reserve	104,504	52,077	156,581
Esmee Fairbairn Designated Fund	<u>30,000</u>	<u>(21,600)</u>	<u>8,400</u>
	235,322	33,039	268,361
Restricted funds			
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	350	475	825
TWEDP Included Communities - Liberdade	32	(10)	22
CSDI	26	(8)	18
Restricted capital fund	969	(210)	759
Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities	15,702	(14,306)	1,396
Ballinger Charitable Trust	17,554	(14,000)	3,554
Arts Council England: Catalyst	42,712	1,902	44,614
NGI Strong Voices and Juice	394	(394)	-
Peoples Postcode Lottery	6,714	(5,932)	782
ACE	-	-	-
Erasmus	7,985	4,197	12,182
The Big Lottery Building Capabilities Fund	-	-	-
Gateshead Council	-	-	-
LCEP	500	-	500
Arts Council: NPO	-	-	-
Arts Council: Film	-	-	-
Northumbria Police	800	8,346	8,346
DC: Specific IB	-	(685)	115
	<u>93,738</u>	<u>(20,625)</u>	<u>73,113</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>329,060</u>	<u>12,414</u>	<u>341,474</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers	Movement in funds
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
Personalisation agenda	66,657	(64,110)	-	2,547
General funds	15	-	-	15
Unrestricted earned income reserve	58,475	(3,956)	(2,442)	52,077
Esmee Fairbairn Designated Fund	<u>15,000</u>	<u>(36,600)</u>	-	<u>(21,600)</u>
	140,147	(104,666)	(2,442)	33,039
Restricted funds				
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	475	-	-	-
TWEDP Included Communities - Liberdade	-	(10)	-	-
CSDI	-	(8)	-	-
Restricted capital fund	-	(210)	-	-
Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities	72,500	(76,104)	(10,702)	(14,306)
Ballinger Charitable Trust	-	(14,000)	-	(14,000)
Arts Council England: Catalyst	-	(7,449)	9,351	1,902
NGI Strong Voices and Juice	-	(394)	-	(394)
Peoples Postcode Lottery	-	(5,922)	(10)	(5,932)
Erasmus	-	-	4,197	12,182
LCEP	-	-	-	-
Arts Council: NPO	62,120	(62,120)	-	-
Arts Council: Film	10,326	(10,326)	-	-
DC Specific IB	10,893	(10,893)	-	-
Northumbria Police	-	(685)	-	(685)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>156,314</u>	<u>(179,381)</u>	<u>2,442</u>	<u>(20,625)</u>
	296,461	(284,047)	-	12,414

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued
Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.19	Net movement in funds	At 31.3.20
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
Personalisation agenda	89,482	1,384	90,866
General funds	9,938	14	9,952
Unrestricted earned income reserve	<u>97,513</u>	<u>6,991</u>	<u>104,504</u>
	196,933	38,389	235,322
Restricted funds			
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	350	-	350
TWEDP Included Communities - Liberdade	42	(10)	32
CSDI	34	(8)	26
Restricted capital fund	1,240	(271)	969
Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities	15,584	118	15,702
Ballinger Charitable Trust	11,493	6,061	17,554
Arts Council England: Catalyst	48,062	(5,350)	42,712
NGI Strong Voices and Juice	394	-	394
Peoples Postcode Lottery	-	6,714	6,714
ACE	-	-	-
Erasmus	17,564	(9,579)	7,985
The Big Lottery Building Capabilities Fund	9,000	(9,000)	-
Gateshead Council	3,257	(3,257)	-
LCEP	500	-	500
Baring Foundation	-	-	-
Community Foundation	-	-	-
Northumbria Police	-	800	800
	<u>111,270</u>	<u>(17,532)</u>	<u>93,738</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>308,203</u>	<u>20,857</u>	<u>329,060</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
Personalisation agenda	110,874	(109,490)	1,384
General funds	14	-	14
Unrestricted earned income reserve	46,600	(39,609)	6,991
Esmee Fairbairn Designated Fund	<u>30,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,000</u>
	187,488	(149,099)	38,389
Restricted funds			
TWEDP Included Communities - Liberdade	-	(10)	(10)
CSDI	-	(8)	(8)
Restricted capital fund	-	(271)	(271)
Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities	95,745	(95,627)	118
Ballinger Charitable Trust	15,000	(8,939)	6,061
Arts Council England: Catalyst	-	(5,350)	(5,350)
Peoples Postcode Lottery	8,090	(1,376)	6,714
ACE	60,998	(60,998)	-
Erasmus	-	(9,579)	(9,579)
The Big Lottery Building Capabilities Fund	-	(9,000)	(9,000)
Gateshead Council	-	(3,257)	(3,257)
Baring Foundation	-	(3,750)	(3,750)
Community Foundation	1,000	(1,000)	-
Northumbria Police	<u>1,978</u>	<u>(1,178)</u>	<u>800</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	182,811	(200,343)	(17,532)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>370,299</u>	<u>(349,442)</u>	<u>20,857</u>

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Personalisation Agenda

Fees for the purchase of our services by individuals with learning difficulties.

General Funds

General funds represent the free funds of the charity, which are not designated for particular purposes.

Unrestricted earned income reserve

Unrestricted funds generated from activities to generate funds, which are not designated for particular purposes.

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

Contribution towards Senior Management Salaries and Finance Administrator to develop the strategic direction of the Company. This has included an early payment of 20/21 grant which has been designated in 19/20 accounts.

TWEDP Included Communities - Liberdade

This fund is to help set up and run apprenticeship schemes for people with learning difficulties.

CSDI

Funds were received to explore procurement in the voluntary sector.

Restricted capital fund

Have been received towards the property improvements and computer equipment, where they are being amortised over their expected useful life.

The Big Lottery Reaching Communities

Funding exclusively towards the Revolution Programme. This has included an early payment of 20/21 grant which has been designated in 19/20 accounts.

Ballinger Charitable Trust

A small grant to set up a pilot scheme for the Lawnmowers new weekend youth theatre.

Arts Council England: Catalyst

A consortium grant. Lawnmowers will develop digital profile and explore and create a digital fundraising mechanism and an audience development website.

NGI Strong Voices and Juice

Workshops with young people with learning difficulties in schools and at the Lawnmowers premises.

Erasmus

A significant grant award from Erasmus was to help us develop a European youth community. Together we will write, direct and host 2 large-scale theatrical dance performances (March 2019 - France, June 2020 - Poland) and put together a documentary with the help of Polish stakeholders. Students will attend a great variety of live performances, festivals and events in their home towns and abroad and learn how to review them, acquiring critical skills and greater artistic knowledge. Working with partners we will offer students an unprecedented insight into the diversity of Europe and a unique opportunity to travel, meet teenagers from other countries and for their counterparts to improve their English language skills.

The Big Lottery Building Capabilities Fund

Funding received as part of our Big Lottery Reaching Communities grant to undertake an independent organisational strengths review to help identify opportunities and develop according to some/all of the recommendations within the report.

Gateshead Council

Funding to help with relocation and legal costs.

LCEP

Funding was received help with project management costs.

Baring Foundation

Funding was received to help create a film about how to live well (A dead good life).

Postcode Lottery Fund

A fund to help develop the communal garden space at The Lawnmowers Arts Centre, using perma culture techniques.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Northumbria Police Fund

A fund to help develop a learning resource to highlight issues around hate crime.

Community Foundation fund

Has been received for delivery of arts projects.

Arts Council England: NPO

Funding towards the organisation arts programme and development.

Arts Council England: Film

A Project Grant towards the filming of Retake, Remake and part of the organisation Covid Recovery Response.

DC Specific IB

A personal budget administered through the organisation of a member.

16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2021.

17. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION

The total remuneration of key management included in wages including gross salaries, employers national insurance and other benefits was £87,018 (2020: £68,524).

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**
**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

	2021 £	2020 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Grants	183,106	248,161
Donations	16,230	
Donated services and facilities	<u>11,250</u>	<u>11,250</u>
	210,586	259,411
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	15	14
Charitable activities		
Personalisation agenda	77,550	87,020
Earned income	<u>8,310</u>	<u>23,854</u>
	85,860	110,874
Other income		
Pelaw charity bills	-	-
Total incoming resources	296,461	365,299
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Wages	<u>9,368</u>	<u>10,412</u>
	9,368	10,412
Charitable activities		
Wages	95,630	88,366
Pensions	7,887	8,080
Sessional artists and workers	58,422	69,621
Volunteers expenses	498	17,094
Travel expenses	-	-
Training costs	-	-
Promotion	125	12,546
Rent	11,250	11,250
Networking	-	1,582
Show costs	3,316	10,796
Krocodile Klub costs	6,800	7,550
Equipment costs	1,410	3,278
Artists practice, promotion and residency	-	-
Planning and away days	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,000</u>
	179,951	232,163

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**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre
Company**

**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

	2021 £	2020 £
Support costs		
Management		
Trustees' expenses	-	587
Insurance	4,016	3,772
Telephone	3,291	2,601
Postage and stationery	2,703	2,512
Sundries	34	380
Evaluation	2,500	2,550
Publications and subscriptions	385	437
Travelling expenses	1,764	2,256
Property running expenses	8,985	11,969
Information and educational expenses	-	507
Bank and professional services	1,418	13,480
Promotion		-
Relocation costs		4,470
Professional Fees	1,271	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	26,367	45,521
 Governance costs		
Wages	58,574	52,553
Telephone	3,291	2,510
Postage and stationery	2,704	2,600
Accountancy, legal and professional fees	3,582	3,420
Computer equipment	210	263
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	68,361	61,346
 Total resources expended	 284,047	 349,442
	<hr/>	<hr/>
 Net income	 <u>12,414</u>	 <u>20,857</u>

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