

Charity registration number 1151203

Company registration number 07974406 (England and Wales)

CULTURE WARRINGTON
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

CULTURE WARRINGTON

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	A F Appleton-Mitchell M T Corfield M Banner L M Harrison D C Simons R K Welsh J L Wilkie
Charity number	1151203
Company number	07974406
Registered office	Pyramid Arts Centre Palmyra Square South Warrington Cheshire WA1 1BL
Auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited 3rd Floor 5 Temple Square Temple Street Liverpool Merseyside L2 5RH
Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc 23 Sankey Street Warrington Cheshire WA1 1XG
Solicitors	Mills & Reeve LLP 8th Floor 1 New York Street Manchester M1 4AD

CULTURE WARRINGTON

CONTENTS

	Page
Chairman's statement	1 - 2
Trustees' report	3 - 13
Independent auditor's report	14 - 17
Statement of financial activities	18
Balance sheet	19
Statement of cash flows	20
Notes to the financial statements	21 - 37

CULTURE WARRINGTON

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

What a year 2022/23 has been! I'm immensely proud of how the charity has dealt with and recovered from the challenges presented by COVID. The team have worked hard to plan and deliver an enriched and varied program of events across all our venues and outreach activities to bring culture back to the residents of Warrington. We have continued to welcome back visitors, with 160,925 choosing to participate in our programmes in 2022/23. The year ahead will be one of transformation and renewal.

We had much to celebrate throughout the year as May 2022 marked the 10 year anniversary of Culture Warrington delivering high quality arts and cultural services to Warrington residents. This key milestone was marked with the release of a special Anniversary video produced to showcase the impact of our services and associated social media and press releases to shout about all of the fantastic and meaningful work carried out for the community.

The connection between artists, audience and communities lies at the heart of our programmes.

This year's WCAF programme was a huge success and included our most diverse programme to date. Using the theme of connections the 2022 programme created opportunities for creatives within the town to connect and collaborate through the formation and presentation of bodies of work. Enabling our communities to explore and connect to the festival alongside enabling individuals to connect and develop their skills and experiences through the programme's CPD opportunities and workshops.

The team presented a vast programme of exhibitions, performances, workshops, commissions and live music spanning 4 venues (Pyramid, WMAG, New Art Spaces, Parrs Bank), expanding opportunities for the public to experience visual art by housing these in accessible locations throughout the town. In partnership with WVR College, the team introduced a new Festival Fringe Inspiring the town's future generations of artists and engaging new audiences.

Our events team continued to develop our programmes significantly in quality, content and attraction. Our packed programme from the worlds of music, comedy, family shows and speaker tours have kept our customers entertained throughout the year. We also continued to host our many community groups who chose Parr Hall to perform their annual shows.

April 2022/23 saw the reopening of the Warrington Museum and Art Gallery and Central Library building after its closure to allow for a much-needed renovation of the roof. The reopening saw the team's award-winning programme of events and special exhibitions resume as well as the return of the town's much valued archives and local history services, enabling residents to search their family tree, the history of their house, or learn about the part of Warrington they live in. Throughout the renovation works the team did a fantastic job of keeping the people connected with Warrington's unique history and culture through the delivery of an outreach programme at the temporary Pop Up Museum and Library in the Golden Square shopping centre.

Working with the National Science Museum Group and SSE Heritage our Collections, Heritage and Archives team identified a variety of items from the decommissioned Fiddler's Ferry Power Station – one of the town's historical landmarks. These artefacts went on to feature in the 'Fiddler's Ferry: Cloud Factory' exhibition by local artist Shaun Smyth and photographer Lee Harrison at WMAG. The exhibition marked 50 years of the power station, documenting the site and creating a visual historical archive for future generations.

Culture Warrington worked alongside Golden Square to launch the 'Sky Garden' on the top floor of the shopping centre's car park in August 2022. Designed as a 'living addition' to WMAG's natural history offer, the rooftop garden is for educational projects where young people can learn about the environment and growing food. The initiative saw our education team talk about the 'Sky Garden' project at key events at the Storyhouse Climate summit day, SMILE science education network day, and the Green Museums Summit.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board trustees for their invaluable contributions and commitment to the work of the Board. On behalf of all the Board of Trustees I would like to say thank you to our dedicated, talented and committed staff, volunteers and partners who have worked to ensure we maintain meaningful, high quality experience and programmes for the residents of Warrington throughout 2022/23.

I believe participation in cultural activities has never been more important for communities and we at Culture Warrington are committed to continue providing a diverse and relevant cultural offer for the residents of Warrington.



M Banner

Chair

Dated: 19 September 2023

CULTURE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the charity, as set out in the Articles of Association are:

- To advance education of and promote the arts, culture, heritage and science, in particular through providing and maintaining a museum, art gallery and concert hall;
- To promote community participation in healthy recreation in particular by the provision of facilities for the playing of amateur sport;
- The provision of or assistance in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation in the interest of social welfare such facilities being provided to the public at large save that special facilities may be provided to persons who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social or economic circumstances may have need of special facilities and services.

Culture Warrington was formed in May 2012 as the lead organisation to deliver Arts, Heritage and Events in Warrington, and encompasses three venues, Pyramid, Parr Hall and Warrington Museum & Art Gallery. As well as operating these venues Culture Warrington programmes a wide range of events and festivals.

Culture Warrington operates the Museum, Pyramid and Parr Hall on 25 year leases from Warrington Borough Council at a peppercorn rent as part of the management agreement to deliver services. It is impractical to assign a separate rental value to the buildings.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Highlights of our work

Programming

After an extraordinary period and the exceptional challenges of the pandemic, 2022/23 saw Pyramid and Parr Hall bounce back to deliver a bumper programme that consisted of a wide range of arts and cultural events and community hires at Pyramid and Parr Hall. The venue and events team worked with national promoters and agents to develop a programme that was not only inclusive but one that was exciting and varied; offering something for everyone. Parr Hall and Pyramid's events programme for 2022/23 included:

- Performances by comedians such as Jason Manford, Dave Gorman, Jasper Carrott, Chris McCausland, Dara O'Briain, Paul Smith, Al Murray, Sean Walsh and Mark Watson
- Shows by Strictly Come Dancing 'Keeeeeep Dancing', 'The Gruffalo' by Tall Stories Theatre, theatrical show Sleepover, Circus of Horrors, Ministry of Science, Helen Forester's 'Two Pence to Cross the Mersey' and comedy theatre show Dirty Dusting
- Musical entertainment from punk stalwarts Stiff Little Fingers, From The Jam featuring the original bassist from The Jam, Bruce Foxton, The Proclaimers, Miles Kane, Paul Young, The Drifters, Don't Stop Believing, Ultimate RnB, The Lottery Winners, Fisherman's Friends, Pop Princesses, The Meatloaf Songbook, ABBA Reunion, East 17's Christmas Tour, Showaddywaddy, Oktoberfest Beer Festival, The ELO Show, Brutus Gold's Love Train and a performance by Bombay Bicycle Club
- Our "An evening with..." programme featured Sir Ranulph Fiennes, Vinnie Jones and Paul Gascoigne, SAS Who Dares Wins' Mark 'Billy' Billingham, Francis Rossi, astronaut Tim Peak, Lulu and Robbie Fowler

This year's programme also included:

- *Culture Warrington hosting BBC's Question Time*
- *The Psychology of Serial Killers* a chilling talk from former forensics lecturer, Jennifer Rees
- Screening of *Wallace and Gromit* accompanied by live brass band
- Two Pints Live podcast with Will Mellor and Ralph Little. The pair brought their live podcast to Warrington for the first time and it featured in Culture Warrington's 10th anniversary video
- And finally not forgetting Parr Hall's very own pantomime, Dick Whittington

We are delighted that some of the biggest stars are continuing to choose Parr Hall as an intimate warm-up venue to get closer to the fans. After recently welcoming The Script In 2021/22, Culture Warrington announced an exciting one-off show on 29th June 2022 with Manchester indie giants James ahead of their Castlefield Bowl homecoming.

2022/23 saw the team at Pyramid hire the venue to the BBC as a rehearsal space by the team at Strictly Come Dancing, supporting Kym Marsh and her professional dance partner Graziano Di Prima to get to week 11 in the competition.

Culture Warrington continued to offer a programme of weekly classes for community activities in the Pyramid Arts Centre. Classes included: community choir, commercial dance, youth theatre, yoga, ballroom dancing, and children's ballet.

Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival (WCAF 2022)

October 2022 saw Culture Warrington deliver its 12th Warrington contemporary arts festival (WCAF) with a packed and eclectic programme of events, spanning almost two months.

The theme for WCAF 2022 was 'Connections' and enabled the team to celebrate the opportunities that Culture Warrington continues to open up for creatives in the area.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

WCAF 2022 saw the return of the Open Exhibition guest curated by Mario Popham. For the first time work in this exhibition was displayed alongside work from the museum's permanent collection. Meanwhile a previous winner of the Open exhibition John McLeod's launched his debut solo exhibition 'Pulled'. The Open Exhibition included work by 76 artists with 318 submissions.

Other firsts as part of the festival included the introduction of a 'Fringe Festival' in partnership with Warrington and Vale Royal College and 'Scratch Night', which provided North West creatives the exciting chance to share works in progress for peer review and audience feedback, and an abstract fashion illustration workshop led by Warrington's own Tony Green, who has designed items for luxury brands worldwide and has had his illustrations featured in Vogue.

It is one of two fashion events in addition to Table Manners, a quirky sustainable fashion show which took place at the picturesque Parr's Bank.

WCAF 2022 included a new focus on live music with highlights including acclaimed Liverpool art pop trio Stealing Sheep and fellow Liverpool-based songwriter Sara Wolff, as heard on BBC Radio 6, who both performed in the unconventional setting of our Warrington Museum and Art Gallery.

Meanwhile, festival organisers welcomed back dance artist, Julia Griffin, whose visceral installation and performance piece, I Used To Be, was one of the highlights of last year's festival. For WCAF 2022 the dance artist teamed up with James Colvin and Steve Sutton to present Trap, a haunting yet fascinating performance based around a metal cage and a moving sculpture made of tree limbs.

WCAF 2022 supported and celebrated local and regional artists through commissions, performance platforms, presentations, in kind rehearsal space, research & development opportunities, match funding, marketing support, funding support, workshops and staff support.

Grass Roots Music

Over the past 12 months, Culture Warrington has embarked on a journey to create a grass roots music venue to harvest new and emerging talent in Warrington; ultimately a safe space to learn, experiment and fine tune live production has been under construction. In summary the team has converted the basement of the Pyramid and re-purposed it into a space to bring audiences together to enjoy live music, produced here in Warrington.

The team submitted a bid to the Arts Council's Grass Root Music Fund and secured £29,995 of funding that has now funded equipment to enable us to develop the program in Pyramid. In addition to the regular live performances, Pyramid will also host weekly music production workshops, where attendees can learn to use music production software recording skills. This is a very exciting addition to the program that will be available to children and adults alike.

Warrington Museum and Art Gallery (WMAG)

The Warrington Museum and Art Gallery (WMAG) re-opened on 23rd April 2022 after almost 16 months of closure to allow for essential roof work to be undertaken. The re-opening day saw a programme of activities throughout the building including storytelling, art workshops, digital workshops, live music, performance art and more. As part of the re-opening event the Archives Team unveiled a bespoke mural in the Archives search room created by Warrington artist Cameron Brown.

Following reopening in April the team put on a programme of events and performances to bring WMAG back to life after the building's long closure:

- Sunday Music Sessions: In partnership with Priestly College, Culture Warrington launched a Sunday music session at WMAG. The sessions saw WMAG host two music students from Priestly College who perform a 20-30 minute set each in the Large Art Gallery. The introduction of the Sunday music sessions provides students with a safe space to learn, experiment as well as providing young musicians with experience of performing to an audience in a unique setting.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- Guided Tours are back!: 2022 saw the team reintroduce Gallery tours including visits from Uniform groups, Warrington's Speak Up group, Women's Institute, Chester Civic Society and Tameside Archaeological Society.
- 'Everything About Us': Thanks to funding from Cheshire Community Foundation, Culture Warrington commissioned an artists' take-over event at WMAG in June 2022. A team of 'Creative Caretakers' delivered workshops based upon the Queen's acts of kindness, providing opportunities for children and their families to share stories of their own acts of kindness through dance, crafts, storytelling, puppetry and performance.
- Additional uplift funding from Cheshire Community Foundation enabled the team to deliver a short series of free workshops for adults in WMAG including 'An introductory to magazine making' and 'Portrait painting'. These free workshops targeted a new audience aged 16+

Heritage

2022/23 has been a busy year for Culture Warrington's Heritage team as they continued to provide access to our collections. Work during 2022/23 saw the team deliver the following:

- In partnership with Daresbury Laboratory Engagement Team, trialled STEM workshops on James Webb Telescope for local Warrington schools
- Worked with the National Science Museum Group and SSE Heritage to collect a variety of items from the decommissioned Fiddler's Ferry Power Station. These artefacts were featured in the 'Fiddler's Ferry: Cloud Factory' exhibition at WMAG in October
- Delivered a programme of activities as part of Heritage Open Days with a focus on Astounding Inventions
- Collaborated with Salford Archaeology to investigate the history of the skeletons discovered at the Warrington Youth Zone in 2020 and scoping out ways they could be interpreted in Culture Warrington's galleries
- Worked with the 'Tiny Egypt' project to document small Egyptological items in the museum collection
- Returned Walter Langley's painting 'Between the Tides' which formed part of an exhibition at WMAG commemorating 100 years since the artist's death. The painting is considered one of Langley's most important works and the exhibition was a great success, attracting a total of 12,203 visitors during its presentation
- Commenced a series of Made.Digital training sessions for local heritage groups, offering courses on digitisation, oral history and using Archival Book Scanners
- Delivered a specially written talk on the life and work fashion designer Ossie Clarke for LGBT+ History month on 22 February 2023 at the University of Chester Centre

Education Programme

Upon their return back to Museum Street, Culture Warrington's Education team re-established the on-site educational offer. In addition to our thematic day to day educational offer, WMAG visits, workshops and loan boxes, the Education Team have been delivering a range of complementary offers:

- Historic England Continued Professional Development (CPD): Fully funded by Historic England, 10 Central Six schools participated in a full year of CPD with the Warrington Museum and Historic England. The outcome of the CDP being that the schools will be the first in Warrington to be able to apply for Historic Schools Status.
- Sky Garden Project: Funded by Museum Development North West, Sky Garden in partnership with Golden Square Shopping Centre officially opened in August 2022, which saw over 200 children attended workshops across the year; the recruitment of a Garden Volunteer Team and establishment of a community events programme with highlights such as garden jumble and foraging talks

CULTURE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- National Archaeology festival: The team planned and delivered an event for the national archaeology festival during the summer holidays. The event enabled the team to gather feedback for a proposed new display and workshops for the skeletal remains discovered at Warrington Youth Zone.
- 'Wild Escapes' funding: Funding received from Arts Council England to support an eco-artist to deliver nature themed activity "Wild Escapes" at WMAG, linked to a new BBC natural history show. The funding include purchase of materials to be used as part of the Sky Garden workshops in the future.

Outreach and Community Engagement

As a cultural Charity a key part of our offer is to develop opportunities for community engagement across the town, offering cultural experiences for all ages and abilities. Our aim is to make culture more accessible by providing activities across the town.

Rugby League World Cup (RLWC) / Warrington Youth Zone (WYZ) partnership: Culture Warrington supported young people from WYZ to learn and rehearse a new piece of choreography that they performed on the pitch at the Papua New Guinea vs Cook Island RLWC game in October. The young people worked with local choreographer Stacey Atkinson to create a bespoke performance themed around the RLWC strap line 'Stronger Together'

As part of the RLWC cultural programme Culture Warrington produced a family friendly day of free drop in workshops for children, young people and their families. Themed around the environment and sustainability 6 local artists delivered a range of workshops supported by 6 volunteers from WVR College. The workshops were well received and animated the space.

December saw the team at Culture Warrington work in partnership with and be commissioned by Warrington BID, to create a diverse programme as part of the Warrington Weekend Wonderland. The aim of the programme was to engage the community within the wider programme and encourage communities to come into the town centre encouraging dwell time. Elements of the programme that the team at Culture Warrington led on were:

- Twelve community lantern workshops with identified groups and communities including the Wolves Foundation SEND Wolfprint, The Old School (Central 6) Hong Kong community, plus full day drop in workshop at Chester University
- Two days of walkabouts acts (Grinch, Candy-cane Stilt walkers, and elves).
- Christmas projection onto the Town Hall
- 'At No.25', a commission from Warrington Borough Council took over a new empty unit in Golden Square Shopping Centre with two new Warrington artists developing a new proposal. This year's space was inspired by Hygge which describes a sense of cosiness. The Nordic inspired space also had a care and wellbeing element with cosy reading snug area encouraging shoppers to enjoy some peace and quiet away from Christmas shopping and free arts and crafts table for families to enjoy. In addition, the team commissioned the development of a new festive character, Tomte, who engaged shoppers and led three free drop in storytelling workshops

Engagement

Culture Warrington's Cultural Manager was instrumental in engaging with and facilitating a number of key projects with partners. These projects complement the Charity's mission to create opportunities for residents of Warrington to engage in cultural activities.

- Company Carpi: When You Light a Candle You Also Cast a Shadow - A bespoke performance delivered by Culture Warrington in partnership with Lancaster Arts and the Dance Consortia North West saw three contemporary dancers and a string quintet perform in the large art gallery at WMAG against the backdrop of art work by Steve Sutton. The team at Culture Warrington were involved in all stages of the project including call out, interview, R&D, rehearsal and helping produce the final piece. The project demonstrated an effective way for the Charity to work with partners to produce a more bespoke performance piece for our venues in the future.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- Kindred Folk: Lost – The final Instalment of the Kindred Folk programme saw the delivery of a new piece of dance choreography with storytelling and spoken word. The dance was presented to school children as part of LiveWire's week-long Litfest. The show was mesmerising, sensitively tackling issues children face such as confidence, resilience and friendship. Culture Warrington's engagement team will continue working with Kindred folk to redevelop and present the piece in other locations within the town.

This year also saw the engagement team support 3 local creatives with the development of new work:

- Connor Elliman in the creation of a new dance choreography with live music accompaniment around the lives of the Queer community which was performed at Chester Pride in August
- James Hewison and 3 Warrington based dancers and 1 filmmaker in the development of Hard Wired regards males upbringing in Warrington
- Rae Bell in the development of her 2 woman show about Boobs and breast cancer awareness that was premiered at WCAF in October

Exhibitions

During 2022/23 Culture Warrington hosted 29 exhibitions. The quality of our temporary exhibitions demonstrates how Culture Warrington champions new and emerging talent in the area and we continue to support local artists through free studio space, marketing and bespoke one-to-one support to assist in developing, researching and rehearsing new work.

Highlights from Culture Warrington's exhibition programme included:

- Lagoons: Artist Ruby Tingle was commissioned to create an exhibition inspired by the museum's frogs and lizards collections as well as key painting from the fine art collection. Her exhibition included the digital release of an EP of songs inspired by the collections released on Spotify, entitled Lagoons, alongside live performance elements throughout the exhibition to create a uniquely engaging experience for visitors. The songs were also performed live by Ruby at the opening night.
- Precarious Existence: Steve Sutton, artist based in Castlefield New Art Spaces was invited to display some of his large scale environmental sculptures as part of his debut solo show at WMAG. His tree based sculptures made an incredible visual impact on some of the museum spaces, particularly the large art gallery. One piece included a tree suspended from the Botany gallery balcony, which helped highlight and refresh the permanent galleries.
- Pastel TV: Warrington born artist Emily Garner – known as 'Pastel Castle' presented an immersive and multimedia showcase of their work at Pyramid Arts Centre. Heavily influenced by video game environments and the virtual worlds found in Pokémon, The Legend of Zelda and Jade Cocoon the exhibition generated engagement from a younger audience.
- Fiddlers Ferry: Artists Shaun Smyth and Lee Harrison exhibition marked 50 years of Fiddler's Ferry power station and its importance to the area's industry, which closed in 2020. With its eight 374 ft high cooling towers and 660 ft high chimney, the station has been a prominent local landmark since construction began in 1962. The two artists gained access to the site during the decommissioning process and through Harrison's photography and Smyth's large-scale paintings, this exhibition attempted to convey the physical enormity of the site as well as its significance to the region.
- A Buffet of Mortification: Local artist Anna FC Smith's exhibition explored the theatre and spectacle of punishment and order. Inspired by items in the Museum's collections and Warrington's connections with John Howard and his publication The State of The Prisons of England and Wales, Smith has researched public punishments in Warrington and created new work that references the courtroom through the use of ceramic chickens and rodents, playing out the actions of humans. The exhibition examined the methods and rituals around social control and brings into question ideas of power, mob mentality, public entertainment and our need to shame others.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- Ossie Clark x Little Nell: The temporary display in the Museum's Cabinet of Curiosities Gallery was a rare opportunity to see a selection of works by the legendary Warrington-born fashion designer, alongside new work created by Little Nell (Sophie New), inspired by Ossie Clark's designs.
- Portals: A collaboration between artists Steve Sutton and Jack Dickinson who are based at Castlefield New Art Spaces: Warrington. The outcome was the creation of three new collaborative works which incorporated sculpture, drawing and painting.
- Wyrd by Robert Watson: From and based in Warrington, Robert Watson's portfolio spans over two decades and he is an internationally exhibited, award-winning photographer. Robert won the Open Exhibition in 2017.
- No7 Studio group show: In 2019 Culture Warrington created a new affordable studio space attached to Warrington Museum & Art Gallery: No 7 Artists' Studios. This group exhibition collects together for the first time some of the work produced by our current studio artists.
- Utopolis by Jasmir Creed: Jasmir Creed is a British South Asian artist whose paintings explore urban alienation and the contemporary transcultural. Jasmir's work was selected as part of the Open exhibition in 2015.

Our Achievements

Number of customers who participated in Culture Warrington activities in the last 12 months – 160,925*

The number of people who chose to visit the Parr Hall 2022/23 – 68,142

The number of people who participated in activities at Pyramid Arts Centre – 20,992

Number of people engaged in Culture Warrington's outreach and engagement activities – 11,076

Number of people visited Warrington Museum and Art Gallery – 36,309

Number of people visiting Pyramid Arts Centre and Parr Hall for some other reason – 8,367

Parr Hall hosted 136 events throughout 2022/23

Pyramid Arts Centre was hired 987 times during 2022/23 for programmed events and classes

Number of Archive Search Room visits – 1,691

Number of archive enquiries – 1,236

Number of supported visits to the Archive Service – 3,151

Number of formal education sessions delivered – 163

Number of people engaged in formal education sessions – 4,070

Number of volunteer hours supported by Culture Warrington during 2022/23 – 1,873.5

Number of staff employed by Culture Warrington – 59 (end of March 2023)

23 days training delivered to employees

£831,671 spend in the local economy

*Figure excluding Commissions

CULTURE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Looking forward

We have much to look forward to as we approach the new financial year. Much more will be achieved through our continued and collaborative effort to continue to develop a vibrant, diverse and thriving cultural and creative offer for the residents of Warrington.

- Pyramid Arts Centre Development – we will continue to prepare for the exciting £5 million plans to redevelop Pyramid Arts Centre as part of the Town Deal Funding for Warrington.
- Place Partnership Funding – We plan to submit an application to Arts Council England to support Culture Warrington to widen our engagement borough-wide delivering 3 new programmes: Community Engagement, Young People, and Artist Development which will underpin and feed into a strengthened Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival (WCAF) each Spring (2024 and 2025) widening participation for all.
- WMAG long term strategy – the team at WMAG and a steering group consisting of Culture Warrington and Warrington Borough Council worked with heritage consultant Angela Gill during 2022/23 to develop a new vision for WMAG. This work will be used as a basis to develop a roadmap, with associated timescales, to work towards delivering our vision for the Museum in 2023/24.
- Warrington Music Festival - The Warrington Music Festival, last held in 2019, is set to return on 3 June 2023, providing a much-anticipated platform for emerging musical talent in the region. The festival aims to create a fantastic day of live music, with performances taking place at the historic Old Market Place as the main location, offering a unique and vibrant backdrop. This year's festival is a collaborative effort between Culture Warrington, Score Creative, Golden Square, and Warrington BID (Business Improvement District).

Financial review

In the year ended 31 March 2023 Culture Warrington recorded a deficit of £394,747 (2022: surplus of £225,121), prior to actuarial gains from the pension scheme, from incoming resources of £2,923,216 (2022: £3,049,571).

After taking into account the actuarial gains there was an overall increase in funds from £1,358,011 to £3,237,006 as at 31 March 2023.

The cash position remains at a healthy level with cash levels being at £2,175,704 as at 31 March 2023 (2022 £2,089,588).

The strong financial position at the start of the financial year put the charity in a stable financial position to withstand the financial shocks being felt in 2022/23 as inflation, and particularly energy prices, increased our operating costs significantly. As a result the charity has used some of its reserves to meet those costs but has agreed new funding arrangements for 2023/24 to mitigate the impact.

Reserves policy

The purpose of the reserves policy for Culture Warrington is to ensure the stability of the ongoing operations of the charity. The charity's unrestricted reserves are intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as a sudden increase in costs, significant unbudgeted costs, or unanticipated loss in income or funding. The unrestricted reserves may also be used for investment in infrastructure. The unrestricted reserves are not intended to replace a permanent loss of funds but may be used to implement actions to deal with the impact of such a loss.

The target minimum unrestricted reserve (excluding reserves relating to the pension scheme) is equal to one month's average operating costs – currently this would equate to £200,000 – and the trustees will seek to maintain reserves at this level. The Trustees will balance the growth in unrestricted reserves to the target level with investment into projects which extend the reach of the cultural offer in Warrington by splitting any annual surpluses equally between these two objectives.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Structure, governance and management

Culture Warrington is a charitable company with Articles of Association and governed by a Board of Trustees. Culture Warrington is constituted as a limited company by guarantee without share capital.

The trustees are directly elected by the Trust. Culture Warrington agreed with Warrington Borough Council that the Council is entitled to nominate two observers.

The Board of Trustees has met formally six times during the year.

The Senior Management Team, comprising the Managing Director, Finance Director, Health and Wellbeing Director, and People Performance and Resources Director, attend all Board meetings.

The Managing Director, Finance Director, Health and Wellbeing Director, and People Performance and Resources Director are employed by LiveWire (Warrington) CIC, and a management support services contract is in place detailing the areas of provision Culture Warrington receives from LiveWire (Warrington) CIC. One trustee is currently a member of both Warrington Cultural Trust and LiveWire (Warrington) CIC Boards.

Each new trustee attends an induction day held by the Senior Management Team. Trustees are presented with a pack of information about Culture Warrington and their roles and responsibilities as a trustee; additional training is provided if required.

During the year the Trust continued to largely suspend the operation of subcommittees of the Board, with all business being carried out by the Board, although the Finance Audit and Risk Subcommittee met once during the year for a detailed review of the strategic risks affecting the charity.

Going concern

The charity had been sustained through closures during 2020 and 2021 due to the covid-19 pandemic by the continued support of our commissioners, Warrington Borough Council, and by grants from Arts Council England.

The increase in energy prices, and inflation generally, have had an impact on our ability to deliver a sustainable cultural programme and the charity has had to use some of its reserves to deal with these unprecedented costs during 2022/23. The directors have obtained an increase in the Management Fee from Warrington Borough Council for 2023/24 and continue discussions with the Council on support for energy costs for the venues.

The directors have considered the effect on the financial position of the charity and in view of the current financial position, and the financial support available, the directors consider it appropriate to prepare accounts on a going concern basis.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Trustees

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

E L Hutchinson	(Resigned 9 June 2023)
A F Appleton-Mitchell	
M T Corfield	
M Banner	
L M Harrison	
D C Simons	
R K Welsh	
J L Wilkie	

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

As part of the arrangements with Warrington Borough Council, the Council nominated two observers that attend Board meetings. The Council observers during the year were Councillor M McLaughlin and Councillor Claire Lloyd-Fitzgerald.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of Culture Warrington for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at the Annual General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



M Banner

Trustee

Dated: 19 September 2023

CULTURE WARRINGTON

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Culture Warrington (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report Included within the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charity's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) the charity's accounting policy for revenue recognition (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs (iv) the assumptions used in the calculation of the valuation of the surplus or deficit on the defined benefit pension scheme and the movements for the year. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body .

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included the Data Protection Regulations.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULTURE WARRINGTON

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

Philip Griffiths (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

21 September 2023

Accountants
Statutory Auditor

3rd Floor
5 Temple Square
Temple Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L2 5RH

CULTURE WARRINGTON

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	-	-	-	312,593	-	312,593
Charitable activities	4	2,913,221	-	2,913,221	2,651,223	85,549	2,736,772
Investments	5	9,995	-	9,995	206	-	206
Total income		2,923,216	-	2,923,216	2,964,022	85,549	3,049,571
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	3,305,600	12,363	3,317,963	2,761,567	62,883	2,824,450
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(382,384)	(12,363)	(394,747)	202,455	22,666	225,121
Gross transfers between funds		(217)	217	-	(21,893)	21,893	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(382,601)	(12,146)	(394,747)	180,562	44,559	225,121
Other recognised gains and losses							
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes		2,273,742	-	2,273,742	981,000	-	981,000
Net movement in funds		1,891,141	(12,146)	1,878,995	1,161,562	44,559	1,206,121
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		1,263,653	94,358	1,358,011	102,091	49,799	151,890
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		3,154,794	82,212	3,237,006	1,263,653	94,358	1,358,011

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		121,459		112,122
Current assets					
Stocks	12	17,714		10,269	
Debtors	13	117,121		171,505	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,175,704		2,089,588	
		<u>2,310,539</u>		<u>2,271,362</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(1,117,992)</u>		<u>(1,010,473)</u>	
Net current assets			1,192,547		1,260,889
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,314,006</u>		<u>1,373,011</u>
Net assets excluding pension surplus/(deficit)			1,314,006		1,373,011
Defined benefit pension surplus/(deficit)	15		<u>1,923,000</u>		<u>(15,000)</u>
Net assets			<u><u>3,237,006</u></u>		<u><u>1,358,011</u></u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	16		82,212		94,358
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	17	15,452		14,711	
General unrestricted funds		1,216,342		1,263,942	
Pension reserve		<u>1,923,000</u>		<u>(15,000)</u>	
			<u>3,154,794</u>		<u>1,263,653</u>
			<u><u>3,237,006</u></u>		<u><u>1,358,011</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 19 September 2023



M Banner
Trustee

Company Registration No. 07974406

CULTURE WARRINGTON

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	21		110,154		510,514
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(34,033)		(20,577)	
Interest received		9,995		206	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Net cash used in investing activities			(24,038)		(20,371)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
			<u> </u>		<u> </u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			86,116		490,143
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			2,089,588		1,599,445
			<u> </u>		<u> </u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>2,175,704</u>		<u>2,089,588</u>

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Culture Warrington is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Pyramid Arts Centre, Palmyra Square South, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 1BL.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

In view of the current financial position, the funding support available, and the continued support of our commissioners, Warrington Borough Council, the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare accounts on a going concern basis.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been included in support costs and allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant and equipment	10% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	10% on cost
Computer equipment	20% on cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through income and expenditure, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected.

If an asset is impaired, the Impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

The cost of providing benefits under defined benefit plans is determined separately for each plan using the projected unit credit method, and is based on actuarial advice.

The change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service during the year is recognised as an employee cost. The cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments are recognised as incurred.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

The net interest element is determined by multiplying the net defined benefit liability by the discount rate, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments. The net interest is recognised in income/(expenditure) for the year.

Remeasurement changes comprise actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling and the return on the net defined benefit liability excluding amounts included in net interest. These are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses in the period in which they occur and are not reclassified to income/(expenditure) in subsequent periods.

The net defined benefit pension asset or liability in the balance sheet comprises the total for each plan of the present value of the defined benefit obligation (using a discount rate based on high quality corporate bonds), less the fair value of plan assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly. Fair value is based on market price information, and in the case of quoted securities is the published bid price. The value of a net pension benefit asset is limited to the amount that may be recovered either through reduced contributions or agreed refunds from the scheme.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Total	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Grants	-	119,203
Other Covid-19 support grants	-	193,390
	<u>-</u>	<u>312,593</u>

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

4 Charitable activities

	Cultural engagement £	Museum £	Venue & events management £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Museum and Art gallery	7,819	4,146	116	12,081	1,615
Pyramid and Parr hall	3,454	-	1,323,534	1,326,988	1,100,659
Facility hire	-	-	181,520	181,520	156,181
Culture engagement	1,412	879	7,011	9,302	26,973
Commissions	61,824	575	(2,500)	59,899	127,920
Education	14,416	-	-	14,416	14,409
Management fee	1,309,015	-	-	1,309,015	1,309,015
	<u>1,397,940</u>	<u>5,600</u>	<u>1,509,681</u>	<u>2,913,221</u>	<u>2,736,772</u>
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	<u>1,397,940</u>	<u>5,600</u>	<u>1,509,681</u>	<u>2,913,221</u>	
For the year ended 31 March 2022					
Unrestricted funds	1,399,635	1,133	1,250,455		2,651,223
Restricted funds	<u>73,007</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>12,500</u>		<u>85,549</u>
	<u>1,472,642</u>	<u>1,175</u>	<u>1,262,955</u>		<u>2,736,772</u>

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Deposit account interest	<u>9,995</u>	<u>206</u>

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6 Charitable activities

	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2023	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2022
	2023	2023	2023		2022	2022	2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	148,847	137,722	358,721	645,290	151,754	104,569	263,230	519,553
Depreciation and impairment	3,553	1,559	18,346	23,458	3,959	1,559	15,800	21,318
Premises expenditure	345	415	591,931	592,691	614	432	325,826	326,872
Artists and event fees	51,113	3,067	601,349	655,529	88,511	759	545,180	634,450
Spectrix charges	-	-	31,877	31,877	-	-	19,066	19,066
Telephone and computer	76	-	12,082	12,158	-	-	6,869	6,869
Printing and stationery	638	-	501	1,139	695	-	139	834
Advertising	10	-	(70)	(60)	1,000	-	11	1,011
Sundries	1,989	93,749	6,742	102,480	2,133	95,530	8,109	105,772
Purchases and stocks	3,116	(1,975)	115,719	116,860	-	-	76,461	76,461
Legal costs	30	-	41,226	41,256	3,133	-	34,267	37,400
Motor, travel and entertainment	1,563	22	1,407	2,992	324	-	1,652	1,976
Equipment hire	140	-	13,553	13,693	285	-	12,013	12,298
Interest	-	-	29,369	29,369	-	-	19,964	19,964
Carried forward	211,420	234,559	1,822,753	2,268,732	252,408	202,849	1,328,587	1,783,844

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6 Charitable activities	(Continued)							
	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2023	Cultural events	Museum	Venue and Events Management	Total 2022
	2023	2023	2023		2022	2022	2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	211,420	234,559	1,822,753	2,268,732	252,408	202,849	1,328,587	1,783,844
Share of support costs (see note 7)	216,085	202,171	606,608	1,024,864	280,238	199,550	537,888	1,017,676
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	5,803	5,381	13,183	24,367	6,919	4,777	11,234	22,930
	<u>433,308</u>	<u>442,111</u>	<u>2,442,544</u>	<u>3,317,963</u>	<u>539,565</u>	<u>407,176</u>	<u>1,877,709</u>	<u>2,824,450</u>
Analysis by fund								
Unrestricted funds	433,308	441,011	2,431,281	3,305,600	484,834	407,176	1,869,557	2,761,567
Restricted funds	-	1,100	11,263	12,363	54,731	-	8,152	62,883
	<u>433,308</u>	<u>442,111</u>	<u>2,442,544</u>	<u>3,317,963</u>	<u>539,565</u>	<u>407,176</u>	<u>1,877,709</u>	<u>2,824,450</u>

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

7 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	2022	Basis of allocation
	£	£	£	£	
Staff costs	543,069	-	543,069	537,793	Time spent
Depreciation	1,239	-	1,239	584	
Advertising and literature	49,534	-	49,534	31,403	Charitable activity levels
Professional fees	157,449	-	157,449	181,176	Operational staff costs
Telephone and computer	65,241	-	65,241	64,292	Device numbers
Other central support costs	58,978	-	58,978	68,852	Operational staff costs
Irrecoverable VAT	144,354	-	144,354	116,576	Charitable activity levels
Net interest cost on defined benefit pension scheme	5,000	-	5,000	17,000	
Audit fees	-	9,583	9,583	8,146	Governance
Legal and professional	-	14,784	14,784	14,784	Governance
	<u>1,024,864</u>	<u>24,367</u>	<u>1,049,231</u>	<u>1,040,606</u>	
Analysed between					
Charitable activities	<u>1,024,864</u>	<u>24,367</u>	<u>1,049,231</u>	<u>1,040,606</u>	

8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Management and administration	2	3
Operational team	53	53
	<u>55</u>	<u>56</u>

Employment costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	792,528	668,015
Social security costs	65,831	47,397
Other pension costs	330,000	341,934
	<u>1,188,359</u>	<u>1,057,346</u>

The members of the senior management team are employed by Livewire (Warrington) CIC.

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2022	144,940	30,299	68,125	243,364
Additions	26,401	590	7,042	34,033
Disposals	-	-	(43,753)	(43,753)
At 31 March 2023	171,341	30,889	31,414	233,644
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 April 2022	54,969	19,610	56,663	131,242
Depreciation charged in the year	17,195	2,976	4,525	24,696
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	(43,753)	(43,753)
At 31 March 2023	72,164	22,586	17,435	112,185
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2023	99,177	8,303	13,979	121,459
At 31 March 2022	89,971	10,689	11,462	112,122

12 Stocks

	2023 £	2022 £
Raw materials and consumables	17,714	10,269

13 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	62,449	126,562
Prepayments and accrued income	54,672	44,943
	117,121	171,505

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	47,469	27,534
Trade creditors	197,904	225,793
Other creditors	26,769	44,128
Accruals and deferred income	845,850	713,018
	<u>1,117,992</u>	<u>1,010,473</u>

15 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined benefit schemes

The charity's employees belong to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which is managed by Cheshire Pension Fund. This is a multi-employer defined-benefit scheme.

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds.

The principal actuarial assumptions are as follows;

Key assumptions

	2023	2022
	%	%
Discount rate	4.75	2.75
Expected rate of increase of pensions in payment	2.95	3.15
Expected rate of salary increases	3.65	3.85
	<u></u>	<u></u>

Mortality assumptions

The assumed life expectations on retirement at age 65 are:

	2023	2022
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
- Males	20.9	21.2
- Females	24.8	23.8
	<u></u>	<u></u>
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	21	22.1
- Females	25.4	25.5
	<u></u>	<u></u>

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

15 Retirement benefit schemes

(Continued)

Amounts recognised in the profit and loss account:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Current service cost	330,000	311,000
Net interest on defined benefit liability/(asset)	5,000	17,000
Other costs and income	-	7,000
	<u>335,000</u>	<u>335,000</u>

Amounts taken to other comprehensive income:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Actual return on scheme assets	593,000	(426,000)
Less: calculated interest element	173,000	121,000
	<u>766,000</u>	<u>(305,000)</u>
Return on scheme assets excluding interest income	766,000	(305,000)
Actuarial changes related to obligations	(3,039,000)	(676,000)
	<u>(3,039,000)</u>	<u>(676,000)</u>

The amounts included in the balance sheet arising from the charity's obligations in respect of defined benefit plans are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Present value of defined benefit obligations	3,757,000	6,314,000
Fair value of plan assets	(5,680,000)	(6,299,000)
	<u>(1,923,000)</u>	<u>15,000</u>

Movements in the present value of defined benefit obligations:

	2023
	£
Liabilities at 1 April 2022	6,314,000
Current service cost	330,000
Benefits paid	(71,000)
Contributions from scheme members	45,000
Actuarial gains and losses	(3,039,000)
Interest cost	178,000
	<u>3,757,000</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,757,000</u>

The defined benefit obligations arise from plans which are wholly or partly funded.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

15 Retirement benefit schemes

(Continued)

Movements in the fair value of plan assets:

	2023
	£
Fair value of assets at 1 April 2022	6,299,000
Interest income	173,000
Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest)	(766,000)
Benefits paid	(71,000)
Contributions by scheme members	45,000
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2023	5,680,000
	<hr/> <hr/>

The fair value of plan assets at the reporting period end was as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Equity instruments	2,727,000	2,645,000
Debt instruments	2,045,000	2,583,000
Property	738,000	693,000
Cash	170,000	378,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,680,000	6,299,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

16 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds							
	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2022	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Numismatic	1,500	-	-	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
Geoblitz	1,111	-	-	-	1,111	-	-	1,111
Ready to borrow	7,599	-	(1,128)	-	6,471	(1,128)	-	5,343
Contemporary Arts	-	28,828	(50,721)	21,893	-	-	-	-
Weston Loan Programme	1,283	-	-	-	1,283	-	-	1,283
Colonel Edelsten Bequest	21,478	47,683	(4,918)	-	64,243	(6,668)	-	57,575
Meeting Point	6,500	-	-	-	6,500	-	-	6,500
Peter Rogerson Bequest	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	(1,100)	-	8,900
Local Growth Fund	328	9,039	(6,117)	-	3,250	(3,467)	217	-
	<u>49,799</u>	<u>85,550</u>	<u>(62,884)</u>	<u>21,893</u>	<u>94,358</u>	<u>(12,363)</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>82,212</u>

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

16 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Numismatic - £1,500 was received from the Northwest Museum Development Fund to improve care of and accessibility to our Numismatic collection.

Geoblltz - This grant via Leeds Museums is to develop and/or promote engagement with the Geology collection at Warrington Museum & Art Gallery.

Ready to Borrow - This grant from ACE is to enable Culture Warrington to buy equipment that provides a suitable and stable environment so that we are able to borrow paintings from National Museums.

Contemporary Arts - This is funding from ACE and Warrington Borough Council to fund the Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival 2017-18.

Weston Loan Programme - This grant is to cover costs relating to borrowing three paintings from National Museums Liverpool, including conservation work, transport, School of Art activity programme of artist workshops and seminars, exhibition guides, additional Front of House staff. This programme ran from May to December 2018.

Colonel Edelsten Bequest - This grant from the Colonel Edelsten Bequest is to fund an upgrade of equipment to improve the experience for users of Culture Warrington.

Meeting Point - This funding from Arts and Heritage is to enable Culture Warrington to work with and commission a local artist to produce a piece of contemporary art, and to explore showing contemporary art within a heritage context. The commissioned piece formed part of the Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival for 2019.

Peter Rogerson Bequest - This is legacy funding from the estate of local history librarian, Peter Rogerson, to be invested in developing the Charity's Archive Service.

Local Growth Fund - this funding is provided by the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership to make the existing Warrington Museum & Library building and the network of community-based libraries into hubs for the delivery of digital programmes and workshops for coding clubs, schools, local businesses and digital creatives in the community.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

17 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Transfers £	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Car park fund	14,093	618	14,711	741	15,452
	<u>14,093</u>	<u>618</u>	<u>14,711</u>	<u>741</u>	<u>15,452</u>

The car park fund represents contributions to car parking by staff which the trustees have agreed to set aside to cover any future repair costs.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted 2022 £	Restricted 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	58,541	62,918	121,459	38,159	73,963	112,122
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,173,253	19,294	1,192,547	1,240,494	20,395	1,260,889
Provisions and pensions	1,923,000	-	1,923,000	(15,000)	-	(15,000)
	<u>3,154,794</u>	<u>82,212</u>	<u>3,237,006</u>	<u>1,263,653</u>	<u>94,358</u>	<u>1,358,011</u>

19 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	<u>-</u>	<u>3,662</u>

20 Related party transactions

During the current and prior year Culture Warrington utilised the key management personnel and resources of Livewire (Warrington) CIC a company registered in England and Wales, company number 07972958. A recharge is incurred from Livewire (Warrington) CIC for the use of these resources.

CULTURE WARRINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

21	Cash generated from operations	2023 £	2022 £
	Surplus for the year	(394,747)	225,121
	Adjustments for:		
	Finance lease interest	-	-
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(9,995)	(206)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	24,697	21,902
	Difference between pension charge and cash contributions	335,742	335,000
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase) in stocks	(7,445)	(9,210)
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	54,383	(36,415)
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	107,519	(25,678)
	Cash generated from operations	110,154	510,514

22	Analysis of changes in net funds
	The charity had no debt during the year.