

Charities Report 2024

Cwtsh Community and Arts Centre continued its recovery from Covid which had affected classes and other events taking place at Cwtsh.

The beautiful but old building had some issues over the year with some high heating bills, roof leaks and damp walls. The building continued to need regular attention. The roof was checked by a qualified roofer and no damage was found as required by insurance. Also, some damp was found on one of the inner walls. This was probably caused by water leakage onto the outside of the wall but there had been some difficulty contacting the occupier next door to find the cause.

Although the web site continued to provide valuable information to the Cwtsh community, the underlying structure of the web site had not been revised since 2015 and the committee felt that it would benefit from a redesign exercise to reflect current usage and needs. This was carried out by a commercial web site design company who had developed the original web site. Although this was done at a very reasonable price, some of the desired features had to be reconsidered because of the cost. However, all agreed that the new design gave a new and fresh look whilst still providing the necessary information. It was also more efficient to administer.

The web site also had some issues with security warnings to users. This was due to an expired security certificate and this was corrected by the web site hosting company.

In November Cwtsh played a coordinating role as a hub in Newport's "Art on the Hill" festival where various venues displayed local art works, with Cwtsh hosting music and literary presentations.

Many exhibitions were held in Cwtsh including a wide variety of subjects involving photography, paintings, papercut and collage. Some highly regarded artists were involved including Ruth Searle (A Celebration of Animals and Nature), Sue Thomas (Threadmarks – also involving a demonstration by the Gwent Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers), and also photographs taken in Newport in the 1990s by our own John Briggs who spends a tremendous amount of time in organising and hanging all exhibition pieces. The exhibitions were open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday for viewing during their display at Cwtsh.

Open Mic sessions were held throughout the year at The Murenger pub in Newport with some eminent local poets such as Mike Jenkins from Merthyr, the prizewinning Jonathan Edwards and our own Chairman Alan Roderick who also compered and organised the sessions.

First Friday presentations were held throughout the year on the first Friday of the month at Cwtsh. There were diverse subjects such as Flat Holm (an island in the Bristol Channel) and 'Utopia on Usk' on the work of Johnson Blackett, the town architect responsible for the planning of the Gaer and Malpas estates.

Regular classes in French, creative writing, poetry, watercolour painting and oil painting continued in Cwtsh throughout the year.

The membership scheme continued to be a success with a healthy membership giving advantages of support both financial and physical.

Jim Calvert

Trustee

Cwtsh Community and Arts Centre Accounts 2024 (Charity number 1157225)

Introductory notes

These accounts cover the period from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024.

Income

Income source	Amount
Murenger Open Mics	461.50
First Fridays etc	678.63
First Friday sponsorship	440.00
Cwtsh room rental	3,450.00
Gallery income	316.55
Coffee money	33.50
Donations	358.50
Membership	630.00
Refund from insurance company	9.64
Total	6,378.32

<u>Expenditure</u>	Amount
Rent (Newport City Council)	1375.00
Welsh Water / Dwr Cymru	211.00
Virgin (WiFi Rental)	777.60
Electricity (British Gas)	1,508.16
Insurance	614.60
Webber Design (website hosting)	168.00
Annual Premises Licence Fee	70.00
Posters	319.50
Contribution to Art on the Hill	50.00
Bank charges	97.18
Printer ink	110.18
Reimbursement of FF fee (Ben Wildsmith) to DO	30.00
Reimbursement of a member for overpayment of membership fee	90.00
Amp, microphone, stand	183.99
Supplies for exhibition launch (JB)	17.62
Printing for children's exhibition (JB)	25.98
Total	5,648.81

Bank Reconciliation

Opening balance		2,259.87
Add income	6,378.32	8,638.19
Subtract expenditure	5,648.81	
Closing Bank Balance		2,989.38

These accounts are a true and accurate record.

David Osmond (Treasurer, Cwtsh Community and Arts Centre) October 9th 2025