

THE CULTURAL SISTERS

England & Wales · Charity number 1159564

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2014-12-10

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Art Stop Stoke
64-72 Hartshill Road
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 7RB

Phone 07979 238067

Email info@theculturalsisters.org.uk

Website www.theculturalsisters.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY USING CREATIVE ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS TO ENABLE THEM TO LEARN ABOUT A RANGE OF ISSUES INCLUDING HEALTH AND WELLBEING, THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS.

Activities: THE CULTURAL SISTERS USE CREATIVE ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS TO ENABLE PEOPLE TO LEARN ABOUT A RANGE OF ISSUES INCLUDING HEALTH & WELLBEING, THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS. BASED IN STOKE ON TRENT WE WORK WITH ALL PEOPLE ON ARTS AND HEALTH PROJECTS AND IMPROVING WELLBEING.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£0	£25	-	-
2023-12-31	£901	£6,197	-	-
2022-12-31	£15,943	£23,150	-	-
2021-12-31	£17,634	£17,102	-	-
2020-12-31	£26,537	£14,832	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Tim Diggles	Chair	2017-06-01
Kathy Lovatt		2018-06-28
Michael Richard Oliver		2018-02-22
PENNY VINCENT		2017-06-01

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Annual Report 2024



Some lovely words from our Chair ...

Chair's Report

The last year has been a period of taking the organisation into its final stages. As Chair I thank all the bodies over the last 28 years who funded us and who were partners. I thank all the artists, and those who have worked with us, and especially the participants for whom The Cultural Sisters were there. Most thanks of all go to the inspirational Deborah Rogers whose work for The Cultural Sisters cannot be underestimated.

I must also thank all those who have served The Cultural Sisters in many roles over the years as Trustees whose advice and hard work have kept us going through many phases of our existence.

At this time of winding down I would also like to thank Jess, and all the trustees who have expertly steered the organisation to its logical conclusion.

The Cultural Sisters dissolved on 31st December 2023

Timothy Diggles

Chair

Finances 2024

Total Income: £0.00

Total Expenditure: £25

Net Movement in Funds: (£25)

Closing Balance: £0.00

Previous Year Closing Balance: £25

Report Date: 31st March 2024

We are very grateful for the help we get from our bookkeeper Kathy Lovatt, Jess Byron who managed our invoicing and Lynne Ball who audits our accounts, they all ensure our finances are kept in order.

A full set of accounts can be viewed on application to The Cultural Sisters via Theculturalsistersheritage@gmail.com

THE CULTURAL SISTERS

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Annual Report 2023



Celebrating 28 Years of Creativity

In 2023, The Cultural Sisters artists worked with young people on two vibrant projects for SPLAT Children's Holiday Activities, delivering carnival arts sessions that brought joy and imagination to the community.

After a challenging few years, we made the difficult decision to close the organisation after 28 years of creativity, collaboration, and cultural impact.

We extend our deepest thanks to everyone who worked with us, supported us, and understood the importance, the impact, and the versatility of the arts and helped us share the love. Your contributions have shaped countless experiences and left a wonderful legacy.



Some lovely words from our Chair ...

Chair's Report

I was very pleased to have been re-elected as Chair at the last AGM, and it has been an honour to serve such a fine organisation for so many years.

The Cultural Sisters approach to involving people at a personal level is one I admire, it means everyone is valued whatever their skills, and we all learn massively from each other. Every time I see the work created in workshops, it inspires me, and I learn from them.

The past year has been a period of working with existing partners as well as taking the organisation into its final stages. As Chair I thank all the bodies who funded us and who were partners. I thank all the artists, and those who work with us, and especially the participants for whom The Cultural Sisters is there. Most thanks of all go to the inspirational Deborah Rogers whose work for The Cultural Sisters cannot be underestimated.

I must also thank all those who have served The Cultural Sisters in many roles over the years as Trustees and whose advice and hard work has kept us going through many phases of its existence. At this time of winding down I would also like to thank Jess, who has expertly steered the organisation to its logical conclusion.

Timothy Diggles
Chair



SPLAT Carnival Arts

The Cultural Sisters has had a long working relationship with SPLAT, a local community organisation which provides creative activities and play for children. Their founder, Tabby Mansha, did a Carnival Arts workshop with The Cultural Sisters when she was a teenager.

The children made a huge variety of Carnival Masks and Wands, often freely experimenting by customising the templates we brought or making their own completely. While cutting out the materials always provided a challenge for dexterity, it also brings its own sense of accomplishment.

In 2023 we provided two drop-in sessions in April with approximately 10 to 12 children in each session.

Finances 2023

Total Income: £901.00

Total Expenditure: £6,196.82

Net Movement in Funds: (£5,295.82)

Closing Balance: £25.00

Previous Year Closing Balance: £5,320.82

Report Date: 31st March 2024

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Annual Report 2022



Creative Connections in 2022

The Cultural Sisters artists worked with over 600 people on 6 projects this year. We continued to be Community Health Champions. We supported a CHC event day and received another grant to help us share health messages with people we worked with and our followers on social media. We received £5000 funding from Stoke on Trent City Council to work on two creative projects with artists and community members from the LGBTQI+ community. We continued to work with SPLAT Children's Holiday Activities to run carnival arts sessions, worked with Fegg Hayes Community Hub to make costumes with their families, and created an artwork with the Dudson Centre using mosaic techniques. We are very grateful to our artists, our support artists and volunteers, trustees and friends who continue to support us, encourage us and remind us of the importance of our work.

Some lovely words from our Chair ...

I was very honoured to be elected Chair of The Cultural Sisters Trustees again for 2022 and would like to thank all those who have been Trustees, friends and supporters of the organisation. As always we are indebted to all those who do such amazing work and would especially like to mention Jess who undertakes the administration and financial roles, such important roles often overlooked.

Since the Lockdown ended things have moved on and in 2022 a feeling of normality returned. Our projects became more accessible, and I feel this Annual Report reflects this. The Cultural Sisters have for so many years supported a multitude of people in their lives and development with extraordinary skills and innovation, 2022 was no different.

I would like to thank all those who gave financial support through grants, joint projects, fees and to the many who offered support voluntarily whether in organisation or practical work.

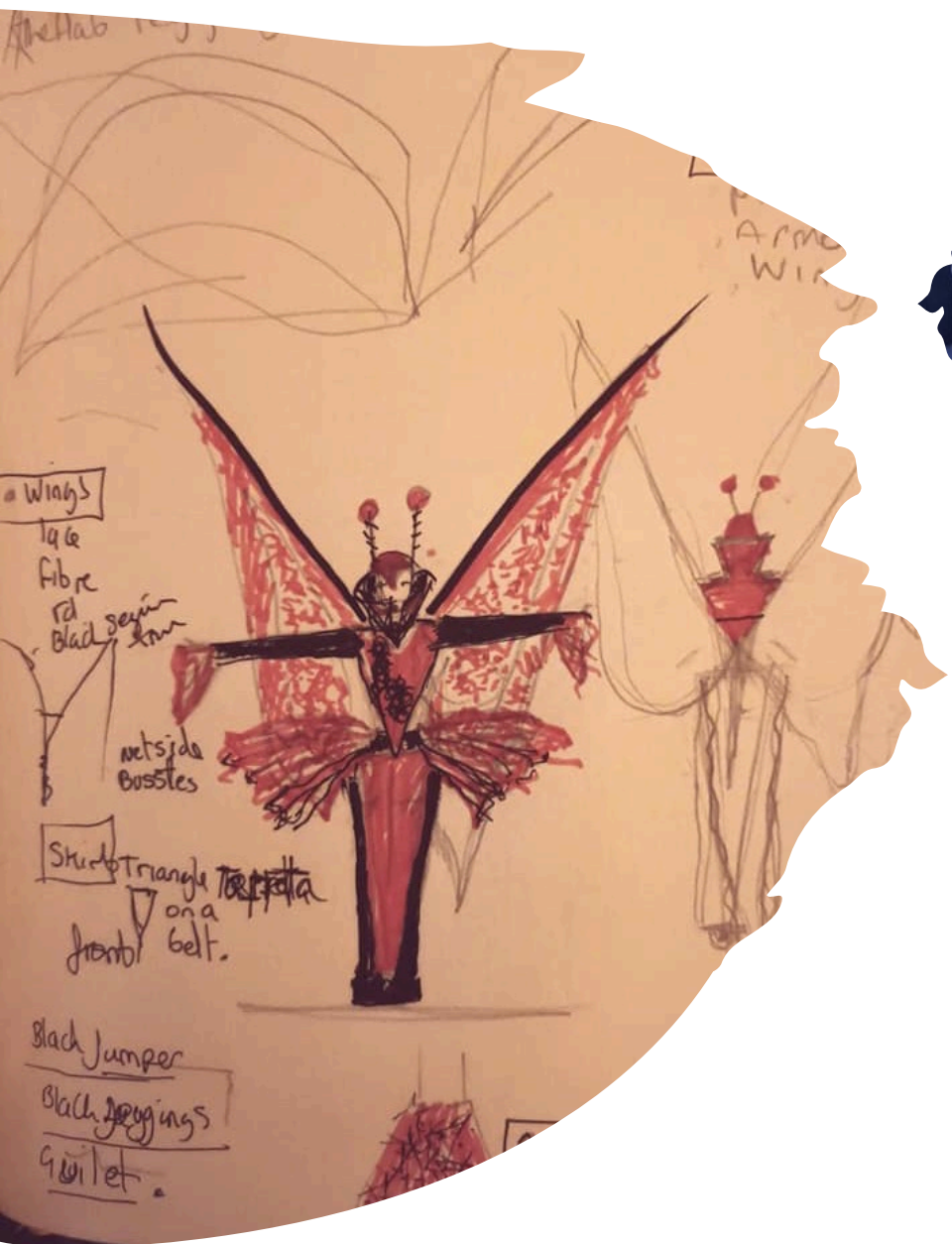
Timothy Diggles

Chair

High Peak Arts set us a lovely challenge to kick the year off working with their Project eARTh group in Buxton. Using some of our hoarded fabrics and materials they had leftover from previous projects, the group designed and made themselves individual aprons to wear at their weekly arts sessions.

Liza and Deborah worked with 30 people experiencing mental distress, teaching pattern-making printmaking and sewing machine skills 1 day a week over 5 weeks.





Fegg Hayes Hub Butterfly Costumes

Early in the year, we worked with a fabulous group of local families to create 2 butterfly themed costumes for their children to wear at the annual lantern procession led by BArts

We were very happy to see the Novels that Shaped our World garment touring the libraries of Stoke on Trent



A sound box hidden in a pocket is triggered by people approaching the garment to play the voice of ASHA member Yasse Nugloze reading ...

THE PATH AND THE WAY

Once upon a time.....In Hanley Library four people met and talked together.

They talked for much longer than they had anticipated and they enjoyed themselves.

They all came from very different worlds and shared their stories of life in Africa and Europe.

One came from a land of celebration. One came from a land of quiet. One came from a land of strength and the last, came from a land of love and creativity.

They worked hard and their determination had led them here. They were excited and determined to learn English better, to celebrate and share a different life here.

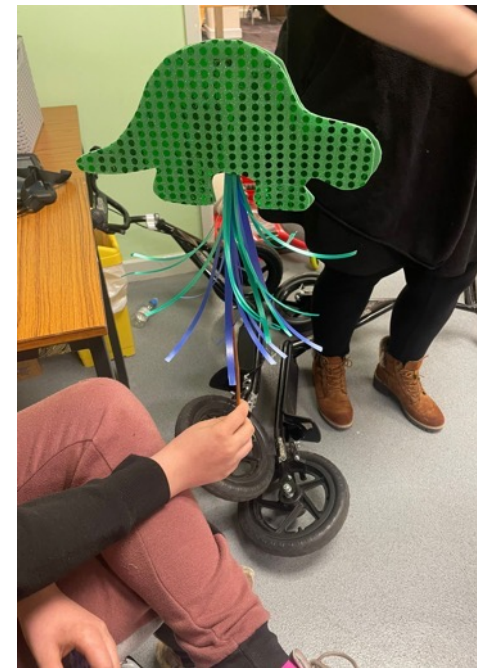
One man loved to celebrate and was happy and open. He liked to talk about his family and how they helped each other.

One man lived alone, prayed alone and felt alone.

Another man spoke of travel to a distant land and a place with a beautiful castle. Knights had fought and won and lost there.

Lastly a woman listened and encouraged connection.

They sat together by speaking about their life and freedom for themselves and their countries. They would leave in different directions to carry on a journey, taking with them love, laughter, liberty and a NEW STORY.



SPLAT Carnival Arts

The Cultural Sisters has had a long working relationship with SPLAT, a local community organisation which provides creative activities and play for children. Their founder, Tabby Mansha, did a Carnival Arts workshop with The Cultural Sisters when she was a teenager.

The children made a huge variety of Carnival Masks and Wands, often freely experimenting by customising the templates we brought or making their own completely. While cutting out the materials always provided a challenge for dexterity, it also brings its own sense of accomplishment.

In 2022 we provided three drop-in sessions in February half term with approximately 10 to 12 children in each session.

We were supported by Stoke on Trent City Council's **Better Mental Health Fund** to run two creative mental health projects, with and for members of the LGBTQI+ community.

A project to help ...

Improve mental wellbeing

Address loneliness

Support people to access mental health and wellbeing services

Support people with housing or financial insecurity to access appropriate support

Our first 6-week project, Reclaim, was led by ceramicist Sarah Fraser, supported by Deb from The Cultural Sisters, to work with 12 participants from a local group of older people from the gay community (OLGBT). We also partnered with James from SAGE Sexuality and Gender Empowerment to provide additional support.

All artists and support were also from the LGBTQI+ community.



RECLAIM | LGBTQI + Mental Health

This is a project exploring connections between creativity and mental health through transformations and changes in clay as it goes through the process of drying, dissolving and becoming soft and pliable again.

Where?
BCB Studio, Spode Works, Elenora Street, ST4 1QQ

What to expect?
This project will focus on the process and tactile qualities of clay. Fragile, strong, malleable. It will use clay that has been left as remnants and scraps from previous projects, needing human energy to take care of and reclaim it. Giving it new potential.

Traces of the process and a film documenting it will be the main outcome, part performance and ritual. A small selection of objects could be fired if the group wishes.

What will be provided?
All tools and materials will be provided, please wear warm clothes that can easily be washed.



Reclaim worked with the power of clay and the understanding that it soothes our minds and bodies. We were not making finished pieces to glaze and fire but playing with the clay. The end result (see next page) was a sculptural piece that was reclaimed by water to reveal a few hidden fired gems.

Under Sarah's guidance, we explored many clay techniques and rituals to focus on the many qualities of clay. Each technique was explored without pressure. Using old clay and bringing it back to life was significant to the group.

In response to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia which began during the project, we made sunflowers to be included in the final piece. The sunflowers were the only pieces glazed and fired.

A quote from a new member of the OLGBT group



'The project finished, my first with the group and optimistic and excited about the next one. Oh yes, my scores for well being, improved dramatically since the first check at the start of the project. I proved a few things to myself and dare I say a little proud.'



A local filmmaker Blythe Taylor captured the project to create a film to be shown at Stoke on Trent Pride 2022.





A Place at the Table –

As part of the Jubilee celebration, the Dudson Centre invited The Cultural Sisters to create an artwork for their Centre in Hanley. "The centre was donated as a legacy by Dudson Ltd in 1996, and after a major refurbishment was opened by HM Queen in 1999." During May and June 2022, we held 7 drop-in workshops for visitors, users and staff, and designed a mosaic project we called A Place at the Table to represent equality and agency. We bought a preloved round wooden table and lots of Dudson crockery from local second-hand shops and sourced a few special pieces some from the Dudson factory shop.

About 60 people from services including bereavement care, relationship counselling, recovery and mental health projects, smashed up crockery, scratched into and prepared the table, tested out and created designs and made beautiful place settings inspired by Dudson Pottery ware themes. We laughed and learnt a lot, connected with some fabulous people and left them a special table that can move around the building.



Stoke on Trent Pride 2022
The Cultural Sister support the arts, fringe tent
and parade at our local LGBTQI+ Pride.

We support queer artists and their allies to run creative workshops that enhance the parade, promote freedom of expression and support the excellent Red Gibson to manage the fringe tent. The Cultural Sisters artists relish in creating flamboyant costumes for 2 of our queer artists to wear to head up the park parade.



Better Mental Health project 2 - Express Yourself

For the second part of our Better Mental Health funded project, The Cultural Sisters asked Ashton Blythe, a trans-artist and fine art graduate from Staffs University to facilitate a series of creative workshops with members of the LGBTQI+ community in Stoke. Ashton was supported by our fabulous Penny Lane, Jess and Deb. The project deployed various techniques to encourage the group to express themselves, and develop connections and self-esteem. The creative workshops were a buzzing hive of chatting, listening, making and laughing. The group made an androgenous sellotape body sculpture, decorated bags to express their identity and created a series of monoprints of themselves and famous LGBTQI+ people to recognise queer role models.

Finances 2022

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	Cultural Sisters Accounts 2022														
2															
3	DATE	Bal c/f	Income	Expenditure											
4															
5	01.01.2022	12527.91													
6	31.01.2022	12039.69	0.00	488.22											
7	28.02.2022	10227.62	0.00	1812.07											
8	31.03.2022	10703.58	2532.99	2057.03											
9	30.04.2022	12933.20	2500.00	270.38											
10	31.05.2022	15076.75	4195.00	2051.45											
11	30.06.2022	11506.51	715.23	4285.47											
12	31.07.2022	6704.52	0.00	4801.99											
13	30.08.2022	5042.47	0.00	1662.05											
14	30.09.2022	9085.89	5500.00	1456.58											
15	31.10.2022	5547.61	0.00	3538.28											
16	30.11.2022	5019.22	0.00	528.39											
17	31.12.2022	5320.82	500.00	198.40											
18															
19			15943.22	23150.31											
20															
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27															
28															

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Cultural Sisters Accounts 2022

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30.11.2022	5019.22	0.00	528.39
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		15943.22	23150.31
Bal c/f	12527.91		
Income	15943.22		
Expenditure	-23150.31		
Bal 31.12.2022	5320.82		

Lynne Ball

11 Joanhurst Crescent

Stoke on Trent

Staffs

ST1 4LA

3rd October 2023

Independent Examiners Report of The Cultural Sisters ending 31st December 2022

I report on the accounts of The Cultural Sisters for the year ended 31st of December 2020

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011); and

To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Conclusion

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention and the accounts presented are a true and accurate reflection of The Cultural Sisters for the year ending 31st of December 2022



L J Ball (Mrs)

THE CULTURAL SISTERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1159564

Accounts

The Cultural Sisters

Annual Report 2021



What a year it has been ...

The Cultural Sisters artists worked with over 750 people this year, a surprisingly high number considering we were working in new and restricted ways. We learnt that artists are resilient and very good at finding new ways to work. We enjoy problem solving and rose to the challenge facing artists and participants to continue, or begin engaging, with participatory arts and health projects. We became Community Health Champions and received a grant to help us share health messages with people we worked with and received training on Health Literacy and Listening Skills. We saw the return of SPLAT Children's Summer Activities where we ran carnival arts sessions and returned to CAFAG to complete a series of community glass workshops previously interrupted by the pandemic. We are very grateful to our trustees and friends who continue to support us, encourage us and remind us of the importance of our work.

Some lovely words from one of our Co-Chairs ...

I was very proud to be elected The Cultural Sisters Co-Chair again, they are an inspirational organisation who in 2021 reached 26 years of existence, which in the field they work in is a magnificent achievement. What has been outstanding throughout that time has been the consistent high quality of work, the enthusiasm of participants and partners, and the dedicated work of many artists.

2021 saw the Lockdown easing, and face to face projects, with many precautions, were able to happen again. I would like to thank the funding bodies and organisations who worked with us to make the special take place in so many places and with so many people. It's been a very hard couple of years for artists who depend on project work for their income, The Cultural Sisters is fortunate to have so many great artists involved, and we were able to help support them in a small way through the most difficult time.

I would also like to thank the other Trustees who have been able to meet online and have given their time in many most valuable ways. We are always looking for more people to be involved and if you are interested, contact us.

Tim Diggles, Co-Chair

High Peak Community Arts

Connect Keep Learning Take Notice Be Active Give

5 Ways to Wellbeing Bunting Project

We designed this textile project for Project Earth in response to a local public health project themed on the New Economics Foundation; 5 Ways to Wellbeing campaign.

The people of Buxton and New Mills were invited to make bunting to display in their windows or gardens to help create connection in their neighbourhoods.

After coming out of lock down and with the threat of another coming, we needed to create a project for 50 people that could be done both at a group with support from an artist, and independently and safely at home. Most of the sessions were postponed due to another lockdown and people were happy to have a task to work on from home.

We provided 50 individual kits of fabric, a bunting template, tape, ribbon and paints and brushes for members of the 2 groups to use with us, or at home. This resist method uses masking tape and fabric paint to create pictures on fabric, they could cut out and sew using materials they had had in previous kits and practice their skills learnt during home-based sewing projects.

<https://www.highpeakarts.org/>

<https://neweconomics.org/2008/10/five-ways-to-wellbeing>





Stitch Around Time

Early in the year, Under One Roof commissioned us to work in Shelton on a textile project based around St Marks with a focus on heritage.

As participatory artists, we were tasked to research, practice and report on how to connect the church's heritage with the diverse communities that surrounds St Marks.

Artists Sam Mace and Deb Rogers spent time experiencing the church, whilst documenting and discussing the furniture, the kneelers and recently uncovered embroidery work. They designed a small textile project and set about finding people to work on it and a model that might bring them together and maybe connect them to the church. They pulled out many of our old and newly found skills and approaches and talked to park visitors, shop owners and workers, community projects in the area, phoned people and invited friends and associates directly and through social media.

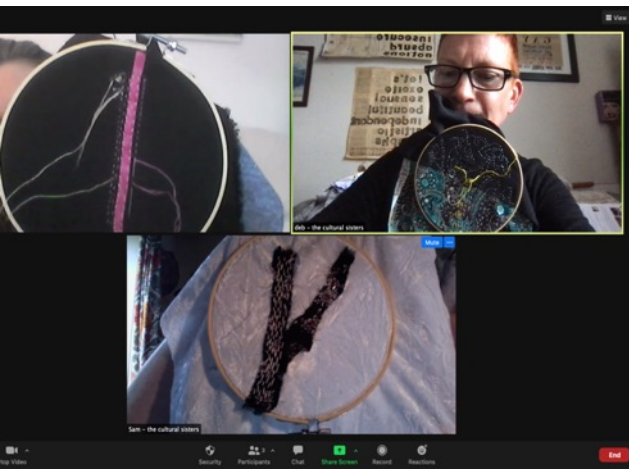
[You can find a copy of our scoping report here.](#)





Sam and Deb devised a range of sewing sessions, some people met with us online, others in the Asian fabric shops in Shelton and others sewed at home. We invited people to get in touch to collect one of 20 kits from us, or have one delivered, and respond creatively using the inspirational images, tools and some fabrics provided by Anmol Fashions.

[You can find the guide to making a heritage cross-stitch here.](#)



Some of the 20 stitchers have continued to work with us creating fabulous costumes and creative workshops for our local Pride. Others have joined us on other new projects and workshops.

Liz Ankers Staffs Uni Placement

Following an introductory online session with fine art students from Staffordshire University Arts department, a second year BA student contacted us to gain experience of participatory arts work.

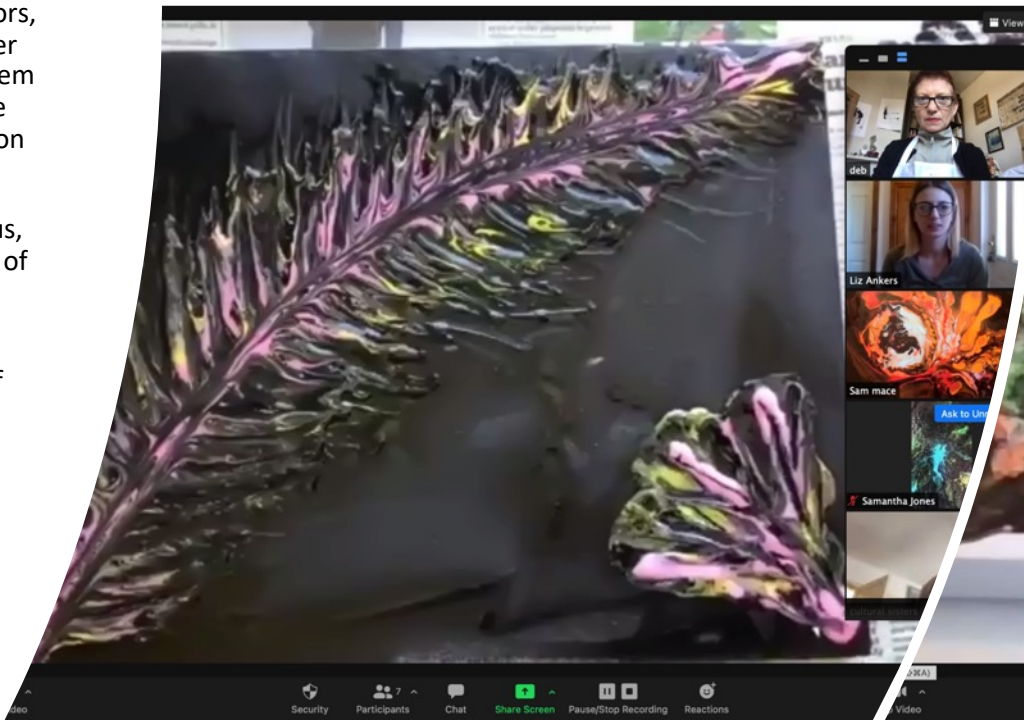
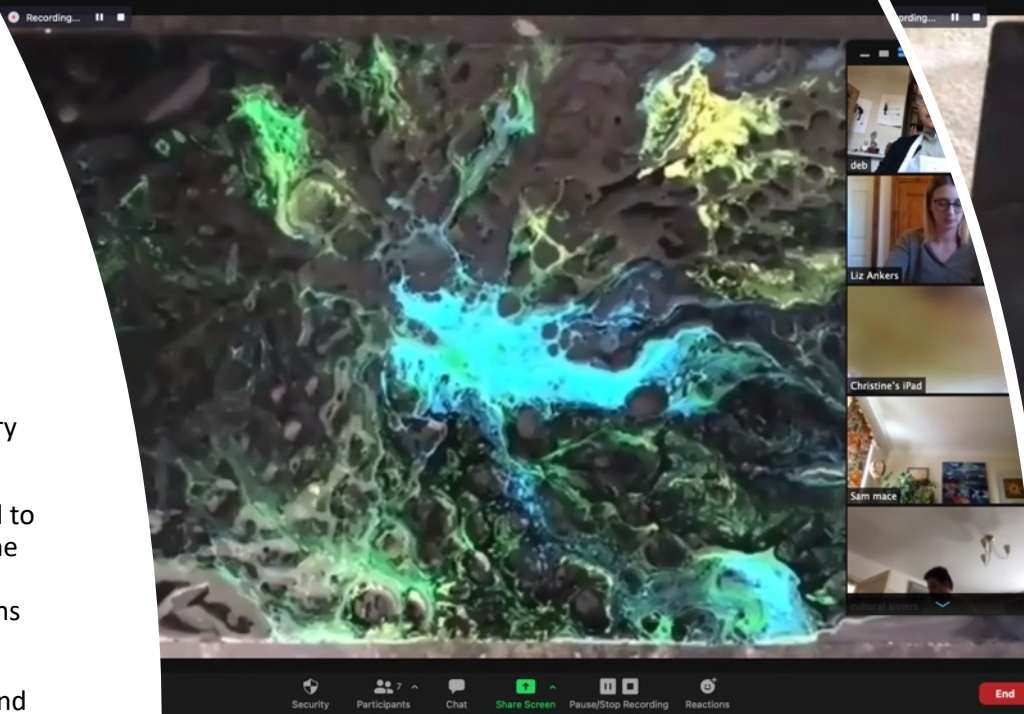
Liz Ankers was a fabulous student who wanted to gain experience of participatory arts. During the months she remotely spent with us, she used her own practice to inspire the creative sessions she designed for participants.

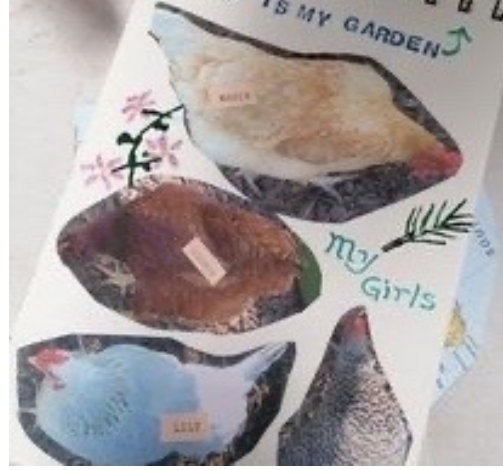
Under our guidance and support Liz planned and led a socially distanced creative activity outdoors, with members of arts and health group Wonder Women. She also made instructive films for them and made-up and delivered creative kits, to use and follow and led an additional creative session with them on zoom.

This was a very interesting time to learn with us, the pandemic meant we had adapted our way of working and Liz was able to test out our traditional and new approach to participation.

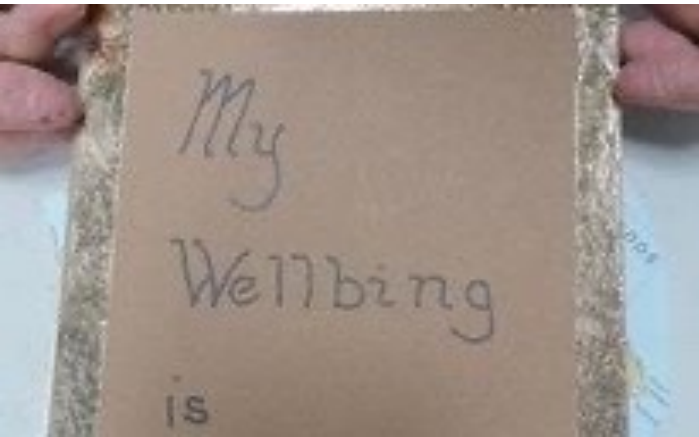
We were able to demonstrate the resilience of artists and our ability to keep changing and moving forward whilst maintaining our values.

We invited Liz to work with us again at Pride.





Common Purpose Books : A scrapbooking project for local people attending Space to Connect



We delivered a lovely day of making with local people attending the BArts 'Space to Connect' project in Stoke Town and half a day to members of the ASHA project.

Deb worked with 35 people, and 2 volunteers providing knowledge, enthusiasm and a range of quirky, interesting and relevant materials and the tools to create different pages related to happiness and wellbeing. Common Purpose books encourage personal and deeper thinking around a subject. Each person took their new book home to use for personal reflection.

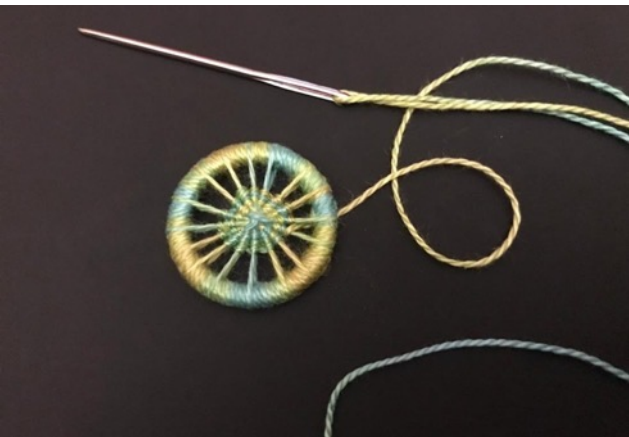




The Lyme Trust

A new creative partnership developed with The Lyme Trust, a local housing charity supporting people with mild to moderate mental health issues.

Sixteen people took part in creative workshops. Tie dyeing was a popular and very successful activity that helped participants feel that art was less scary than they thought. A Mexican Day of the Dead themed collagraphic printmaking session later in the year, took participants by surprise as the technique was so effective and simple and the prints could be used on Halloween cards or given as gifts.



Threading Time with Clair Holdsworth

We joined up with Clair Holdsworth, a creative researcher from Keele University, to explore the preciousness of time and how it impacts on ourselves as women and creatives.

Twelve female artists and friends came together with Clair at her exhibition at Keele Uni having made-time to sit and talk and make Dorset Buttons.

We invited another 12 friends of The Cultural Sisters to join us and Clair at the Art Stop to do some experimental sewing and dyeing whilst thinking and talking about the benefits, short and long term, of 'making time' to make.

Stoke on Trent Pride

Hanley Park

August 2021

We saw the return of Stoke on Trent Pride in 2021.

To celebrate, we created some beautiful iridescent costumes, inspired by 'freedom', for the Pride Park Parade, taking us back to our costume making days and World Aids Day Parades of the late 90's.

We commissioned 18 of our creative queer allies to run 'freedom' themed workshops on the day including plate decals, clay rituals, costume, drawing and painting and placard making. We also commissioned and supported local non-binary artist Red Gibson to manage the Fringe tent.

Many, many thanks to all the fabulous artists and volunteers that help us bring creativity to Stoke on Trent Pride, we feel it makes it very special and we could not do it without you. X

We engaged 200plus people in the parade, 140 people in pre and post parade workshops, and 80 people saw the poetry, comedy, singer songwriters and talks in the Fringe tent.







High Peak Community Arts

During July we supported 40 fabulous people from High Peak Community Arts - Project eARTh groups on a lovely African Arts themed project designed by a fabulous High Peak artist Amanda Whewell

Amanda had prepared a thorough and inspiring worksheet and we encouraged group members in their exploration and learning and their weaving, printing and thinking.

“Work with what you can find or have“

Mark Making - Painting - TingaTinga

High Peak Community Arts Clock Project ... continued ...

After 18 months of disruption to face to face creative workshops, we were able to continue the wonderful glass clocks project with the Project Earth Group in St. Annes church hall in Buxton. The project had been put on hold, mid-flow, since the first lock down in March 2020. We worked with over 20 fabulously creative people, some of them had designed and worked on the clocks with us in 2020, and others were new to the project. Over 5 weekly sessions, participants were able to learn glass fusing skills, with some refreshing their previous learning. Each person experimented with fused glass techniques to create an agreed element for their beautiful group clock.

The two completed clocks, 1 based on months and seasons, and the other themed on cogs and connections, are now being used in St Anne's Church Hall, Buxton and the new High Peak Community Arts Building.

For more information...

<https://www.highpeakarts.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Annual-Evaluation-Report-High-Peak-Community-Arts-Project-eARTh-2020-21.docx.pdf>

<https://www.highpeakarts.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/High-Peak-Community-Arts-Project-eARTh-Evaluation-Report-June-2021-May-2022.pdf>



'Novels that Shaped our World' project with Hanley Library and ASHA group

In 2019, Hanley Library staff invited us to work at the library with local refugee and asylum seekers to create a piece of work for the library based on cultural celebrations. The project was postponed due to Covid restrictions and 2 years later we designed an appropriate project engaging people from ASHA in Hanley Library, where we had conversations with the men, new to the city, about the library and how and what they celebrated.

In the library we collaged and drew mini version of ourselves in our favourite celebratory or fantasy outfits. We used copies of the mini people to create a pattern on fabric and used the fabric to make an African farmer inspired garment, represented and talked about during the library session.

The artwork is intended to be an interactive garment for people to try on. When passing the garment, a sound piece goes off and plays the voice of Yasse reading 'The Path and The Way', a story about us meeting in the library, a place he will be able to visit and learn and practice his English reading, writing and speaking skills.

The garment is touring the libraries of Stoke.





Novels that Shaped our World'
with Hanley Library and ASHA group
images featuring Liza Rivia of The Cultural Sisters and Facinet Keita of ASHA

Statement of Financial Activities 2021

	2021	2020
Analysis		
Income		
Invoices	£15,544	£12,214
Grants	£1,500	£14,320
Other	£590	£2
Total	<u>£17,634</u>	<u>£26,537</u>
Expenditure		
Fees/Materials	£14,234	£12,101
Running Costs	£2868	£2,401
Other	0	£321
Total	<u>£17,102</u>	<u>£14,832</u>
Income from:		
Income	<u>£17,634</u>	<u>£26,537</u>
Expenditure on:		
Expenditure	<u>£17,102</u>	<u>£14,832</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>£532</u>	<u>£11,705</u>
Total funds brought forward	<u>£11,996</u>	<u>£291</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>£12,528</u>	<u>£11,996</u>

We are very grateful for the help we get from our bookkeeper Kathy Lovatt, Jess Byron who manages our invoicing and Lynne Ball who audits our accounts, they all ensure our finances are kept in order.

A full set of accounts can be viewed on application to The Cultural Sisters

The Cultural Sisters 2020

Address

The Cultural Sisters, Art Stop, 72 Hartshill Rd, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7RB

Phone: 07979 238067 **E-mail:** info@theculturalsisters.org.uk [facebook.com/theculturalsisters](https://www.facebook.com/theculturalsisters)

twitter: [@culturalsisters](https://twitter.com/culturalsisters) Insta: [@theculturalsisters](https://www.instagram.com/theculturalsisters)

Charity Number: 1159564

Trustees

Tim Diggles Co-Chair; Carl Wilson Co-Chair; Kathy Lovatt, Mike Oliver, Penny Vincent

The Cultural Sisters

Deborah Rogers

Fiona Waddle

Associate Artists:

Jessica Byron, Sam Mace, Liza Rivia, Penny Lane, Liz Ankers, Peta Murphy, Melanie Stace

Accountants

Auditor - Lynne Ball

Bookkeeper - Kathy Lovatt

Bank: The Co-operative Bank



CULTURAL SISTERS INCOME EXPENDITURE 2021

DATE	Bal c/f	Income	Expenditure
01.01.2021	11996.15		
31.01.2021	11977.75	0.00	18.40
28.02.2021	11630.56	0.00	347.19
31.03.2021	9812.17	0.00	1818.39
30.04.2021	9625.81	0.00	186.36
31.05.2021	9564.62	0.00	61.19
30.06.2021	12232.00	4359.00	1691.62
31.07.2021	12259.62	270.00	242.38
30.08.2021	9340.12	1430.00	4349.50
30.09.2021	10408.62	3760.00	2691.5
31.10.2021	12690.29	2700.00	418.33
30.11.2021	13892.32	3115.12	1913.09
31.12.2021	12527.91	2000.00	3364.41
		17634.12	17102.36

Bal c/f	11996.15
Income	17634.12
Expenditure	-17102.36

Bal 31.12.2021 12527.91

Lynne Ball
 11 Joanhurst Crescent
 Stoke on Trent
 Staffs
 ST1 4LA

16th October 2022

Independent Examiners Report of The Cultural Sisters ending 31st December 2021

I report on the accounts of The Cultural Sisters for the year ended 31st of December 2021

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Co

To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Conclusion

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention and the accounts pres



L J Ball (Mrs)

Commissioners (under Section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011); and

presented are a true and accurate reflection of The Cultural Sisters for the year ending 31st of December

THE CULTURAL SISTERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1159564

Accounts

The Cultural Sisters

Annual Report from the strange year that was 2020

And we were 25 years old

Words from the Co-Chairs and our trustees 2020

Co-Chair's Report

Firstly, I thank all the organisations who have funded The Cultural Sisters whether through grants or working with us.

2020 was, as we all know, amongst the most difficult times for any organisation working face to face with people, writing in October 2021 things are only slowly improving, and could go back. We are living in a time which no-one could have envisaged and has probably changed the landscape for participatory arts for ever.

Throughout this Deborah has kept The Cultural Sisters going, we could have easily folded, so she deserves huge appreciation for her undaunted commitment; as has Jess Byron, who well deserves a special mention for the often unseen financial work she has undertaken in such trying circumstances; and many thanks to Sam Mace who took the reins during the winter months to enable Deborah to focus on the final months of her MA in Fine Art at Derby University.

For The Cultural Sisters to have reached twenty-five years of existence is also a major achievement. It is doubtful when they began, they would ever have thought it possible. The body of work during that time has been amazing and one of the most important artistic inputs into the North Staffordshire art community. The legacy they offer to both new and experienced artists is immeasurable. Thousands of people have gained invaluable arts experiences, improving lives.

Thank you to all who have participated, organised, shared during what has been a most difficult, and in the end, memorable year.

Tim Diggles, Co-Chair



Our projects and people in 2020

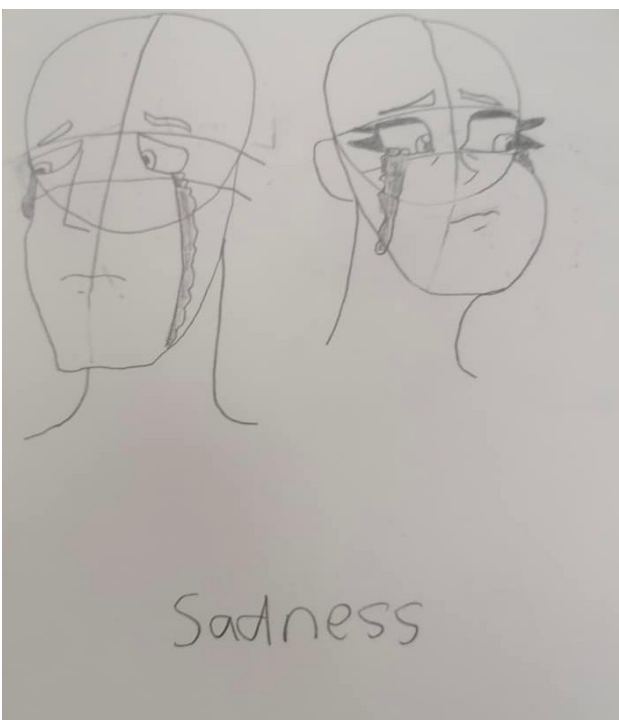
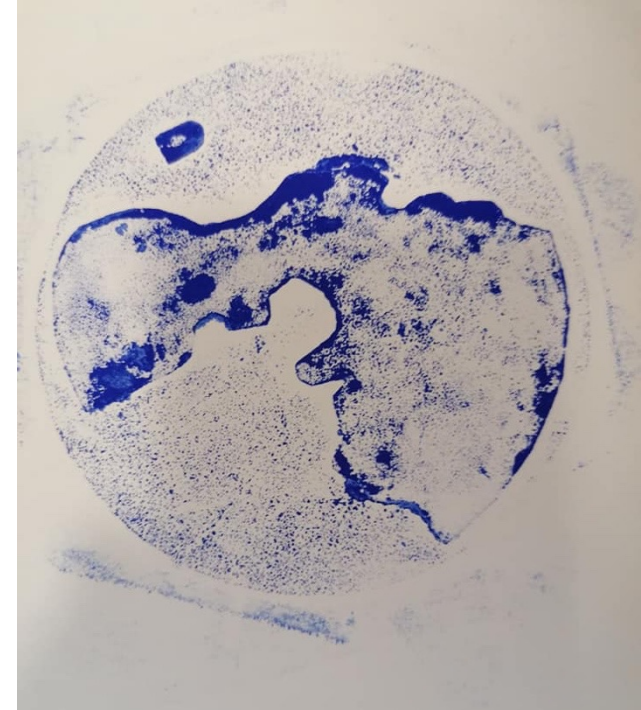
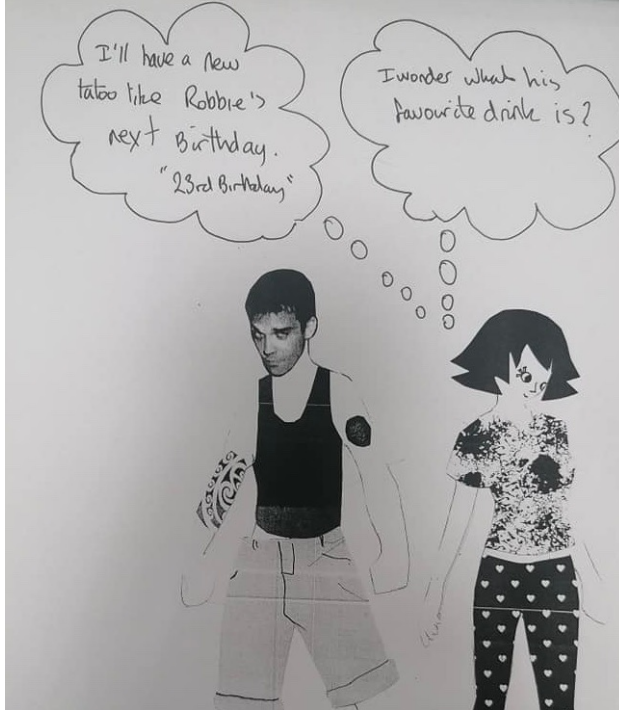
We worked directly with about 70 people before lock down was announced and a further unknown number that accessed our online films via Cafag and Project eARTH in Buxton.

Goodbye Creative Carers

Due to a change in commissioning, we finished working with the Telford and Staffordshire Creative Carers projects just as lockdown began.

We were able to bring together 10 members of two Telford Me Time groups in February and we were very happy that some of them continued to meet online to work with the fabulous Shropshire based visual artist Caris Jackson.





Anime and Me

exploring identity through animation

We were able to complete the fabulous Anime and Me project just before lockdown, using animation inspired techniques to develop confidence, recognise and celebrate skills and explore identity with students from Strathmore College.

Students were also able to think about gender identity and experiment with alternative identities.

Jess Byron produced a beautiful set of postcards of their work for the students to remind them and others of their skills and positive attributions.

Two Cultural Sisters artists, Deb and Jess, and animation artist Poppy Kent worked with 6 students, their therapist and support workers.



Strathmore College card images



Fused Glass work to combat isolation and grow confidence

We began two lovely new fused-glass projects with community members early in 2020;

One for CAFAG in Stoke on Trent tackling isolation and developing confidence whilst learning fused glass making skill; And another for High Peak Community Arts Project eARTh, with people with mental health and physical disabilities making fused glass clocks for Buxton based GP surgeries.

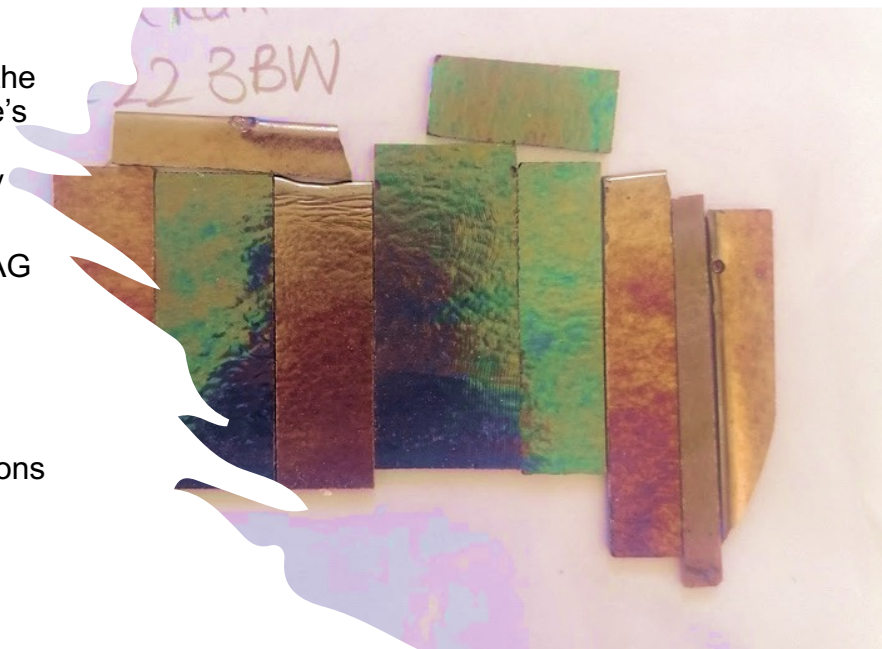
We worked face to face with a group of 7 people at CAFAG over 4 weeks and a group of 18 at Buxton.

Both projects were postponed part way through due to lockdown, but both organisations worked with us to develop alternative ways to engage with their communities. This was a fabulous task for us to get our creative heads round. We learnt about the pros and cons of writing clear, simple instructions and how much time this took in comparison to face to face working as well as how to edit films ensuring they met the needs of the community.

We learnt that data and digital exclusion were issues for a lot of the people we worked with, along with motivation and time as people's roles changed at home. We recognised the creative restrictions creating packs for people to work with at home and how to safely design, fill and deliver the packs.

You can see our instructional films on The Cultural Sisters, CAFAG and HighPeakComArts You Tube Channels

At the end of the year, we went back to work directly with people from High Peak Arts Project eARTh and developed a 5 ways to wellbeing bunting project that members could make during sessions or at home for those still shielding. This linked with a High Peak NHS led project to help support and connect people during yet another lockdown.



Arts, Health and Participation in a time of a pandemic

It is no surprise that we worked a lot less directly with fabulous people in 2020 on a range of needs led, confidence building projects that support wellbeing.

But we did keep exploring and supporting new ways of helping people to engage with the arts and if possible, with us and with each other.

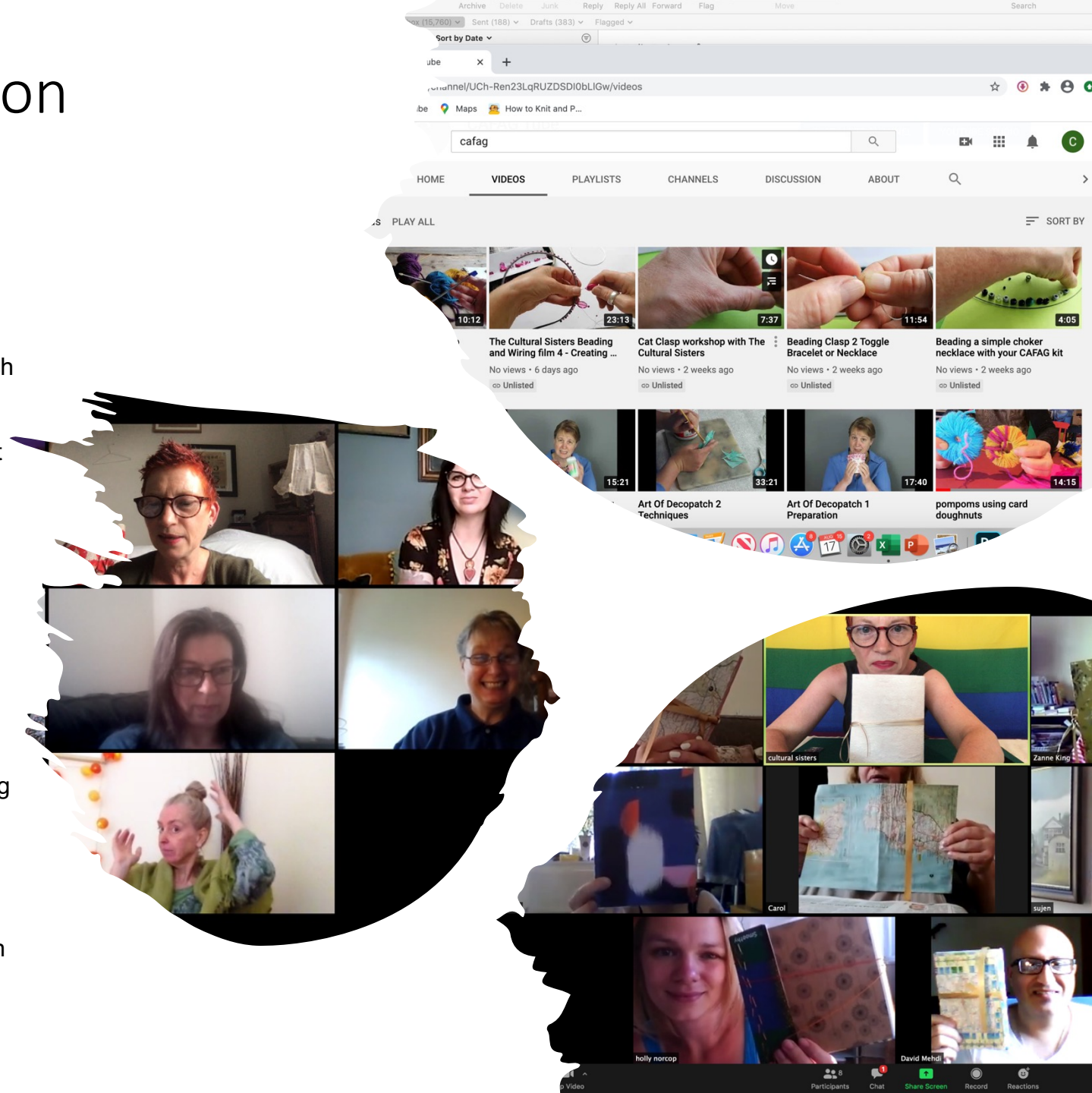
We received 2 small, but very important grants from Stoke on Trent City Council - £8k and The Arts Council England - £6k.

They not only helped pay for our running costs, which was a lovely relief for our mental health and helped assure us that we are an important service in the City, but very importantly we could pay our artists for all postponed and cancelled work.

We were able to bring our artists together, online, to share how we felt, how we were managing and explore what could help us move forward in this strange time.

We shared our knowledge to learn; filming and editing skills; making up packs for participatory creative activities at home; running workshops online and accessible film platforms.

We shared our concerns and supported each other. We were able to join online events and discussions for artists across the country and share our learning. We had time to reflect and work on our own creative practice and creative thinking.



What have we learned from the work in 2020?

The ability to work in a blended way – online and face to face.

Forced me to think about how I work.

Limited creativity/ choice of materials and methods for participants.

Very challenging to stick rigidly to strict covid-safe approaches. Is it sustainable?

The grants enabled us to hide away and avoid some of the challenges.

When we were asked to do stuff e.g., sending packs out, we have risen to the challenges.

Deb has encouraged us to have a can-do attitude and find a way.

Really hard to make new contacts as we are restricted to small numbers and short sessions.

However, feedback from participants is that it's more relaxed, not in crowds.

More time to reflect. Focus on quality rather than quantity.

Work with Strathmore really stretched our processes.

Learned new skills e.g., photo editing, film editing.

Time for my own research and expanding practice.

Online courses which improved my life and practice. E.g., Trans allyship. Black History, Black Lives Matter & white supremacy.

Keeping in touch with other artists.

Learning Zoom and Teams.

Perspective shifts.

Tough working in one small office, no change of threshold/ space. Lack of stimulation.

Internet at Art Stop very challenging.

Q . How has your confidence level changed?

A. Anxiety, but been ok once we've done it. Mainly COVID anxiety. Questioning myself having had an enforced break from it.

Statement of Financial Activities 2020

	2020	2019
Analysis		
Income		
Invoices	£12,214	£11,310
Grants	£14,320	-
Other	£2	-
Total	<u>£26,537</u>	<u>£11,310</u>
Expenditure		
Fees/Materials	£12,101	£11,693
Running Costs	£2,401	£3,794
Other	£321	£1,037
Total	<u>£14,832</u>	<u>£16,794</u>
Income from:		
Income	<u>£26,537</u>	<u>£11,310</u>
Expenditure on:		
Expenditure	<u>£14,832</u>	<u>£16,794</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>£11,705</u>	<u>(£5,483)</u>
Total funds brought forward	<u>£291</u>	<u>£5,774</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>£11,996</u>	<u>£291</u>

Due to Covid 19 we were unable to use our office and workshop space for most of 2020 and our very generous landladies agreed to halt our subscription costs for 6 months. This has left us with additional funds to help us remain sustainable into 2021 and 2022 as we are unsure about the future of participatory arts. The grant from ACE and Stoke CC bought us zoom and enabled us to meet and support artists and we are researching what is it we should invest in to really support us to move forward in 2021/22.

Cafag paid us in full we owe them fused glass sessions in the future.

A full set of accounts can be viewed on application to The Cultural Sisters

The Cultural Sisters 2020

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Phone: 07979 238067 **E-mail:** info@theculturalsisters.org.uk [facebook.com/theculturalsisters](https://www.facebook.com/theculturalsisters)

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Charity Number: 1159564

Trustees

Tim Diggles Co-Chair; Carl Wilson Co-Chair; Kathy Lovatt, Mike Oliver, Penny Vincent

The Cultural Sisters & Misters

Deborah Rogers

Fiona Waddle

Associate Artists:

Sandy Auden, Rachel Ballard, Jessica Byron, Samantha Jones, Poppy Kent, Anne Kinnaird, Sam Mace,
Liza Rivia

Accountants

Auditor - Lynne Ball

Bookkeeper - Kathy Lovatt

Bank: The Co-operative Bank



CULTURAL SISTERS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2020

DATE	Bal c/f	Income	Expenditure
01.01.2020	291.06		
31.01.2020	800.69	1820.00	1310.37
28.02.2020	3444.39	3202.81	559.11
31.03.2020	2238.13	625.00	1831.26
30.04.2020	1710.95	1140.00	1667.18
31.05.2020	3387.41	2694.03	1017.57
30.06.2020	6533.98	5400.00	2253.43
31.07.2020	10114.70	5540.00	1959.28
30.08.2020	13330.17	3920.90	705.43
30.09.2020	12859.22	0.00	470.95
31.10.2020	13093.32	1645.00	1410.90
30.11.2020	12535.03	550.00	1108.29
31.12.2020	11996.15	0.00	538.88
		26537.74	14832.65

Bal c/f	291.06
Income	26537.74
Expenditure	-14832.65
Bal 31.12.2020	11996.15

Lynne Ball
 11 Joanhurst Crescent
 Stoke on Trent
 Staffs
 ST1 4LA

6th April 2022

Independent Examiners Report of The Cultural Sisters ending 31st December 2020

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To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Conclusion

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention and the accounts presentec

L J Ball (Mrs)

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I are a true and accurate reflection of The Cultural Sisters for the year ending 31st of December 20

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To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Conclusion

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention and the accounts presented are a true and accurate reflection of The Cultural Sisters for the year ending 31st of December 2020

.....

L J Ball (Mrs)