

SHOREHAM WORDFEST AND COMMUNITY ARTS

England & Wales · Charity number 1163258

Details

Other names	SHOREHAM WORDFEST
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2015-08-24
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	5 Riverside Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5RU
Phone	07974 443796
Email	general@shorehamwordfest.com
Website	www.shorehamwordfest.com

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC BY THE PROMOTION OF THE SPOKEN AND WRITTEN WORD INCLUDING READINGS, DISCUSSIONS, POETRY, SONG, BOOKS, PLAYS AND OTHER WRITINGS AND THE ARTS IN PARTICULAR THROUGH A LITERARY AND WORD FESTIVAL IN THE ADUR DISTRICT AND SURROUNDING AREAS, AND SUCH OTHER ACTIVITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF THE OBJECTS AS THE MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SHALL FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE.

Activities: Celebration and promotion of the spoken and written word including readings, discussions, poetry, song, books, plays and creative arts. Holding an annual literary festival in the Adur District and surrounding areas. Attracting high profile, high quality input. Organising workshops, competitions and such other educational and creative activities, working across the arts for all ages and all people.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Brighton And Hove
- East Sussex
- West Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£48,071	£44,479	-	-
2023-12-31	£53,474	£43,131	-	-
2022-12-31	£37,740	£37,189	-	-
2021-12-31	£33,682	£29,172	-	-
2020-12-31	£16,968	£16,147	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rosalind Turner MA BA PGCE	Chair	2015-08-25
DAVID JOHNSON		2015-08-25
Ivor Gaber		2022-11-21
Janet Behan		2022-11-21
Janet Lydia Pressley		2017-11-14

SHOREHAM WORDFEST AND COMMUNITY ARTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1163258

Accounts



Registered charity 1163258

Annual Report 2024

Summary of Activities

Celebrating Shakespeare 26-28 April

This was the eighth annual weekend festival to celebrate Shakespeare's birthday. The programme featured five events starting with an entertaining evening of improvised Shakespeare scenarios by "Shake It Up Shakespeare" which appealed to a wide age range. The annual free concert of songs and sonnets in St. Mary's was at packed capacity of 200 people. There was a workshop of Elizabethan songs and dances, followed by the traditional Shakespeare Ceilidh. The last session on Sunday was a story telling session about the stories behind Shakespeare's plays with Giles Abbott, which was slightly less successful than the other events.

There were around 400 attendances over the weekend festival with positive audience feedback.

Monthly Shoreham Catalyst Club

Shoreham Wordfest works in partnership with Ropetackle Arts Centre to support Dr David Bramwell's monthly spoken word salon, inviting three people to speak about one of their passions. Subjects and speakers are varied, informative and entertaining. The events are being held in the Arts Centre foyer initially while the club becomes established, with regular audiences of 60 to 70.

Poetry Posts

Inspired by the late Marilyn Stafford, Wordfest has established four town centre public posts for locally created poetry. Submissions are invited and chosen quarterly for displays on the London and Brighton bound platform 1 at Shoreham Station, and the Poetry A-Board at The Shoreham Centre. The poetry is complemented with a suitable image and the posts are a valuable way to promote local creativity.

Tackling The Issues

Inspired by some of the discussion sessions hosted by Shoreham Wordfest, Ropetackle Arts Centre invited us to collaborate with a series of discussions on topical issues of concern. Sessions on Health and Housing followed, and an international discussion on Ukraine and Gaza during the annual Wordfest. The series ran for the year, but attendances declined. Topical debates will continue as part of the regular programming for both Ropetackle and Shoreham Wordfest.



Registered charity 1163258

Heritage Week: Adur Connected September 2024

Once again, following the success of last year's Cultural Heritage Trail, Shoreham Wordfest worked again with the Shoreham Society and Marlipins Museum to create a series of banners focusing on transport and other connections across the town. Several other venues participated as part of the national Heritage Open Days.

Annual Festival: Making Waves 30 September to 20 October

Another ambitious programme of talks, authors, drama, walks, discussion and song for the 13th annual Wordfest. There were 28 events, with 2,304 tickets sold, drawing an audience from across the South-East region and beyond. Headline events included: Hugh Bonneville in conversation at St. Mary de Haura, Caroline Lucas, former Brighton MP and leader of the Green Party with her book, "Another England", and the third highly successful "Fatal Shore" crime writing festival. Kate Mosse talked about her last book in the Joubert family chronicles, "The Map of Bones." The first all day History event, focusing on Sussex social history, was very well received along with the second theatre trail at Marlipins museum, featuring ghostly tales of Sussex. Unfortunately, we could not get a good audience for the former Children's Poet Laureate Joseph Coelho and have concluded it is difficult for us to attract children and families to our events. It is also difficult to attract a large audience for new writers, but the smaller events focusing on translation and comedy writing were appreciated by those attending.

Concluding Remarks

Shoreham Wordfest continues to keep to its original mission of supporting literary and creative arts with an annual festival in the autumn, as a counterpoint to the annual Adur Arts Trail in June. The annual programme now includes the Celebrating Shakespeare weekend in April, the monthly spoken word Catalyst Club and the series of poems on display in high profile public positions.

The activities are supported by an enthusiastic team of volunteers with the two roles of Festival Director and Operations Director increasingly occupying much of their time throughout the year.

There is a question of capacity particularly for the Autumn Festival which this year stretched over three weeks. New volunteers continue to be recruited and they are making a contribution to programming and the overall direction of the festival. The Trustees are all actively involved with the festival and keep an active oversight.

Costs have increased but the charity turned over a small profit on the year's activities.

Rosalind Turner, Festival Director



registered charity 1163258

Annual



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's report
on the accounts**

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name: SATONHEMM WOODFEST

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 DECEMBER 2024 Charity no (if any) 1167258

Set out on pages

as attached (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. ~~Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination,

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: Neville Pressley Date: 3 OCT 2025

Name: NEVILLE PRESSLEY

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

F.C.A (retired)

Address: 9 North Street, Shoreham by Sea BN435DJ

SHOREHAM WORDFEST AND COMMUNITY ARTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1163258

Accounts



Shoreham Wordfest 2023 Annual Report

Two festivals were held during the year. The annual Celebrating Shakespeare weekend took place on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 April and the autumn Wordfest took place from 30 September to 15 October.

Both festivals were very successful with good audience numbers, both covered their costs and the autumn Wordfest generated a profit of around £10,000. The full accounts are attached along with the details of the two festivals.

Audience feedback for both festivals was very positive with events regularly achieving 5 and 4 star ratings. Critical comments are welcomed as useful feedback but previous complaints such as sound and seating have been remedied. Feedback often includes suggestions for future programming which is always welcome.

The Celebrating Shakespeare team, led by Libby Longhurst with Dave Sutton, Janet Pressley and Sherron Baker, have developed a good formula for the weekend festival. This year's four events were well attended with highlights being the performance of Midsummer Night's Eve by Bowler Crab company and the free concert of music, songs and play extracts in St. Mary de Haura Church.

The autumn Wordfest increased both ticket sales and book sales this year, with the early release of tickets for the main events yielding an enthusiastic response. There was a balance of local creative events alongside high-profile speakers and performers – Lemn Sissay being a particular highlight along with the second Fatal Shore crime festival, featuring Richard Osman among other best-selling authors.

As always there is a whole team effort underpinning both festivals which are organised and run entirely by a dedicated team of volunteers. Performers and speakers are mostly paid of course as is Akhil Padmajan our website manager and ticket administrator. The design for the autumn festival publicity was produced by Stephanie Young at Say Design, who also organised the social media campaign. Felicity Knight is fundamental to the efficient operation of the organisation as volunteer coordinator and generating funding through business sponsorship which covers the cost of the festival brochure. Marian Gerrett is the financial administrator who monitors income and expenditure, organises payments and the annual accounts. We are grateful to Neville Pressley who acts as our Independent Financial Examiner.

Details of events and the annual accounts are attached along with charts showing the postcode locations of our customers which indicate a widening geographical spread. In summary this has been a very good year for Shoreham Wordfest with two popular festivals which are in keeping with the educational and cultural objects of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Rosalind Turner, Shoreham Wordfest Programme Director, 6/8/24



registered charity 1163258

www.shorehamwordfest.com

Annual Accounts 2023

Balance B/F 1 Jan 2023	26,558
Total Income	53,474
Total Expenditure	43,131
Balance C/F 31 Dec 2023	37,001

Represented by

Income

Autumn Tickets	38,976.43
Book sales	6,268.89
Brochure Ads	3,710.00
Shakespeare	3,109.27 ,
ADC	1,000.00
Other	410.00
Total	53,474.59

Expenditure

Autumn Artists	18,762.11
Autumn Expenses	12,297.80
City Books	5,015.11
Shakespeare	2,929.17
General Overheads	4,127.08
Total	43,131.27

Creditor 2023

Marlipins 200.00

Debtor 2023

Shoreham Society Heritage 214.63



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name: STONEHAM WORDFEST

On accounts for the year ended

31 DECEMBER 2023 Charity no (if any): 1163258

Set out on pages

as attached (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: Neville Pressley Date: 5 JULY 2023

Name: NEVILLE PRESSLEY

Relevant professional: F.C.A (retired)

SHOREHAM WORDFEST AND COMMUNITY ARTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1163258

Accounts



Shoreham Wordfest CIO 1163258 ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Review of activities 2022

Celebrating Shakespeare One -day Festival 23 April.

A very successful event after two year's gap due to Covid pandemic. Audience feedback was very positive and the costs were met by ticket income, along with a health contribution to St. Mary de Haura after a packed free concert in the morning.

	Total attendance	Total sales
St. Marys Concert	197	£544 to church Collection
Beth Miller On Shakespeare	42	
Singing Workshop	38	
King Lear one man performance	75	
Total attendance	352	
Total sales		£1482.87
Total Costs		£1460.07

Shoreham Catalyst Club

This new initiative started in January 2022 as a monthly salon-style event in the foyer of Ropetackle Arts Centre, in partnership with, and hosted by Dr David Bramwell, founder of Brighton Catalyst Club. The format of three short talks by different people sharing their passion for a particular topic has proved very successful. By the end of the year the monthly session was selling out in advance and will continue into 2023.

Schools project

Despite dedicated efforts by our School and Community lead, the idea of a writing project with the two local secondary schools did not come to fruition due to lack of capacity from schools, which are still struggling with catch up for their pupils after the long disruption to core education. We will revisit our offer for children and young people in the new year.

Main Festival: Shoreham Wordfest 3 - 16 October 2022

Number of events	25	
Number of tickets sold	2532	
Total postcodes	82	78 towns
Ticket income	30812	
Other income	5234	<i>adverts, admin fees, book sales</i>
Event costs	22353	
Overhead costs	9969	
Carry forward	3724	
Books sold	186	144 City books stock + 42 others

Number of performers	98
Number of vol. sessions	125
Number of vols on events	24
Number of venues	3
Videos recorded	6
Feedback forms	357 majority 4/5 rating

Positive impact

- Strong ticket sales & no. of sold-out events
- Professional and visible team – hoodies!
- Enthusiastic audience comment and feedback
- Appreciative comments from performers
- Increased visibility and awareness of Wordfest
- Variety of events and diversity of speakers

Things to improve or change

Auditory and visual arrangements in St. Mary’s Church: best for song and recitation, not spoken word
 Challenge of finding suitable venues of right size – prioritise Shoreham Centre for future festivals
 Diversity and demography of audience

Source of ticket sales

Wordfest website	72%
Ropetackle	20%
Shoreham Art Gallery	6%
Markets, phone, door	2%

Events @ Ropetackle 63% WF 37% RT

Website analytics

Age of users	18-24	10%
	25-34	14%
	35-44	21%
	45-54	18%
	55-64	17%
	65+	20%
Gender of users	59% Female	41% male

Early consideration of activities 2023

Catalyst Club monthly
 Tackling the issues – joint series with Ropetackle in discussion
 Economy; Democracy; Migration
 Celebrating Shakespeare April 21-22
 Drama Project: Tales of Shoreham
 Annual Wordfest: 1 – 15 October tbc

Appointment of new trustees agreed: Janet Behan. Ivor Gaber.



registered charity 1163258

Shoreham Wordfest
Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ending 31 December 2022

General Unrestricted Funds

Balance at 1 Jan 2022	23,598
Transfer from Restricted Fund	2,408
Total Income	37,740
Expenditure on events 33,359	
General overheads 3,830	
Total Expenditure	(37,189)
Balance at 31 December 2022	
26,557	

Restricted Fund

Adur District Council – Cultural Projects

Balance at 1 January 2022	2,408
Transfer to General Funds	2,408
Balance at 31 December 2022	Nil

The balance of the fund has been used for subsidising children and family participation in Wordfest activities



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name SHOREHAM WORDFEST

On accounts for the year ended

31 DECEMBER 2022

Charity no (if any)

1163259

Set out on pages

as attached

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022

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Independent examiner's statement

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* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Neville Pressley

Date:

23 May 2023

Name:

NEVILLE PRESSLEY

Relevant professional

F.C.A (retired)

qualification(s) or body (if any):

[Empty box for qualification(s) or body]

Address:

25 CHURCH ST,
SHOREHAM BY SEA
WEST SUSSEX BN 43 5DQ

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

NONE

Signed: [Signature]
Name: [Name]

SHOREHAM WORDFEST AND COMMUNITY ARTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1163258

Accounts



Registered charity 1163258

Annual report 2021

Much of 2021 was still restricted in terms of social and cultural activity due to the global coronavirus pandemic. Despite this Shoreham Wordfest had a busy year with a number of successfully completed projects and the first annual autumn Wordfest since 2019.

Local and Live

The Local and Live project funded by the Arts Council England (ACE), and run in partnership with Ropetackle Arts Centre, was affected by intermittent lock down periods during the autumn of 2020 and the remaining programme could not be completed until June 2021.

The Arts Council funded investment in camera and recording technology which meant that we could conduct some activities remotely even during the lockdown in early 2021. In January we presented a recorded performance of Janet Behan's play, *Kathleen and Me*, watched live on YouTube by over 100 people followed by an interactive discussion on Zoom. The Wordfest team supported a number of other live-stream events at The Ropetackle Arts Centre with remote viewings of around 100 people each time.

Once the restrictions were lifted towards the end of May we scheduled the remaining ten events to be held at Ropetackle, which were well attended, with coronavirus precautions in place. The final event was held on 16 June with some of the events recorded and shown on the Wordfest website. The report to the Arts Council is available; all targets were met and some were exceeded. The report was accepted by ACE and we received the final grant settlement.

Schools Poetry Project

As schools continued to be open throughout the spring and summer terms, the Schools and Community team, led by Chrissie Ient, managed to coordinate another schools poetry project with workshops in four schools led again by Kay Walton and joined by rapper Jon Clark. On-line resources were developed for other schools to use.

The schools which submitted poems were Sompting Primary, The Globe and Seaside Primary in Lancing, St. Nicolas and St. Mary's and St. Peter's Catholic School in Shoreham and Eastbrook Primary in Southwick. Poems were written on the themes of Fast Forward or Choice. Schools put forward the best examples for inclusion in a book which was launched at a celebration with the young poets and their families in December.

Celebrating Shakespeare

Planned events for the Celebrating Shakespeare weekend in April were paused due to the covid lockdown, but resumed in July with a performance of *The Tempest* by This is My Theatre. The event was held in St. Mary de Haura church but with a restricted audience of 60. The audience were positive about the abbreviated interpretation and despite the small numbers the event covered all its costs.

Annual Wordfest: *Fast Forward*

Rescheduling the Local and Live events into May and June meant that we were planning for the autumn festival while still delivering and then reporting on the Arts Council Project. There was also no certainty that we could deliver cultural activities in the autumn.

The autumn festival went ahead with 37 events in October, with the theme of *Fast Forward* to capture the spirit of moving on from the pandemic. Some events, such as the BBC's Any Questions live broadcast, were still held with social distancing and precautions were taken to limit the spread of covid throughout the festival.

Festival highlights included David Olusoga and Cerys Matthews, a very successful launch event at Sussex Yacht Club featuring a virtual appearance by Alexander McCall Smith and a very well attended Environment Day featuring Knepp Estate's Isabella Tree. There were around 2400 tickets sold with an income of £28,406 and a carry forward after costs of £6439.

Audience feedback was very positive and we gained four new volunteers during the festival. The book stall was a great success with nearly 300 books sold and over £3000 in sales for our independent book supplier, City Books Hove.

Rosalind Turner

Programme Director



registered charity 1163258

Shoreham Wordfest

Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ending 31 December 2021

General Unrestricted Funds

Balance at 1 Jan 2021	16,183
Transfer from Restricted Fund	2,905
Income	33,682
Expenditure	(29,172)
Balance at 31 December 2021	23,598

Restricted Funds

Adur District Council – Cultural Projects

Balance at 1 January 2021	6,575
Grant received	2,162
Expenditure: Children’s Poetry Project	(4,829)
Transfer to Arts Council Project (match funding)	(1,500)
Balance at 31 December 2021	2,408

Arts Council England – Local and Live Project

Balance at 1 January 2021	4160
Transfer of ADC grant	1500
Grant received	1433
Income	2047
Expenditure	(6234)
Transfer to General Fund	(2906)

Balance at 31 December

Nil

Total Funds at 31 December 2021
26007

Represented by

Bank Balance 31 December 2021
26353

Less creditors (247)

Total Funds at 31 December 2021 26007

Note: The balance on the Arts Council Restricted Fund has been transferred to the General Fund as a contribution to general overheads



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name SHOREHAM WORDFEST

On accounts for the year ended

31 DECEMBER 2021

Charity no (if any)

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* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Neville Pressley

Date:

30.10.2022

Name:

NEVILLE PRESSLEY

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

F.C.A (retired)

SHOREHAM WORDFEST AND COMMUNITY ARTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1163258

Accounts

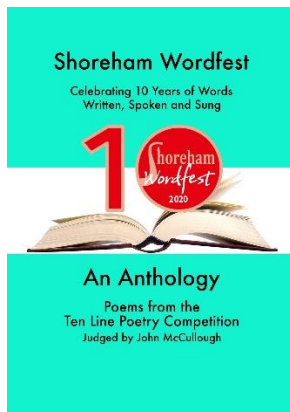


www.shorehamwordfest.com

Annual Report 2020

2020 was a year where all plans were set aside and normal activities ceased as we all faced the impact of a global pandemic.

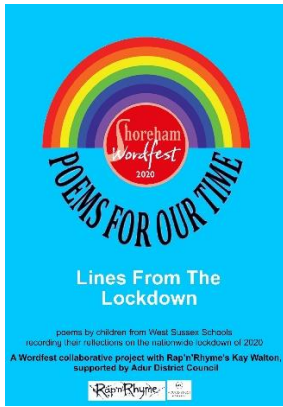
We were planning for our 10th annual Shoreham Wordfest, with celebratory events planned to take place throughout the year. When it became clear that the March lockdown would continue for the foreseeable future, the first event to be cancelled was the annual Celebrating Shakespeare festival due to take place in April, followed by the cancellation of a special Wordfest event in May with author Alexander McCall Smith. By June we finally accepted that the annual autumn festival would also have to be cancelled, but a number of other successful projects continue throughout the year by adapting to the circumstances, and new opportunities arose.



Poetry and Short Story Competition

The Wordfest Poetry team decided to press ahead with the 10th anniversary poetry and short story competition, which was launched in April with a closing date of August. The competition was open to Sussex residents who were invited to submit 10 line poems or 10 word short stories.

We were delighted by the response with 171 poems and 271 short stories submitted. The judges were poet John McCullough and fiction writer Catherine Smith. The final selection of poetry entries was compiled into a book published by Shoreham Wordfest and the prizes were awarded in a live ceremony at the beginning of August.

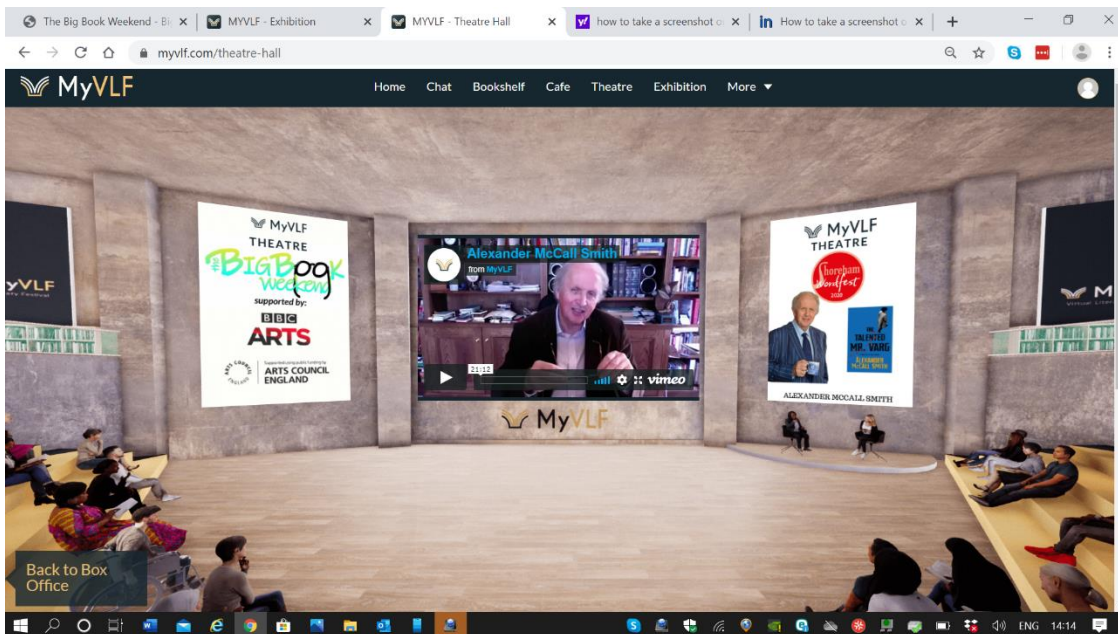


Children's Poetry: Lines from the Lockdown

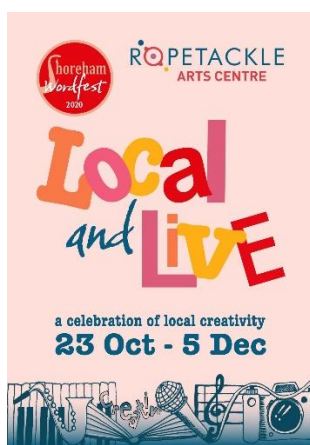
The Schools and Community Team were planning school-based poetry workshops, in partnership with Kay Walton of Rap'n'Rhyme which would lead to school performances and a competition to select and publish the best submissions from primary schools in Adur. Due to school closures the direct workshops could not go ahead but the team designed worksheets and recorded performances which were put on the Wordfest website to be used as a home learning resource, promoted by the local schools.

Again, we were delighted by the response with 114 poems submitted by children from 18 different schools, including some from the wider West Sussex catchment. The team decided to include all the submissions under the title of Poems for Our Time: Lines from the Lockdown. The book was launched in October with a live, socially distanced celebration event for children and families. It serves as a historical record of the impact of the pandemic on children and their responses. Copies have been sent to the British Library and the County records office.

The Big Book Weekend



As we started to adapt to working from home and using technology, new opportunities arose including the launch in May of The Big Book Weekend, an on-line literary festival, by authors Kit de Waal and Molly Flatt. Local Literary festivals were invited to submit proposals for book events and author talks. Alexander McCall Smith agreed to take part with Shoreham Wordfest and we eventually appeared as the second event in the weekend programme, with over 800 people watching the 20 minute talk and reading, which greatly increased our profile amongst national literary festivals. The BBW enterprise showed that people were keen to take part in virtual events and that with good design and funding this could be a satisfactory experience, extending the audience numbers considerably beyond the capacity of normal live event.



Local and Live Festival

By the summer months the Covid restrictions were gradually easing and live indoor events could take place from September onwards, with social distancing and various preventative measures. Working in partnership with Ropetackle Arts Centre, we bid for an Arts Council grant to support the return to live performances. We successfully applied for just under £15,000 to support the cost of putting on events with restricted audience numbers and to fund the purchase of cameras and other technology to support recording and live streaming events to a wider audience.

The aim was to feature local performers and speakers with a mix of spoken word, drama and live music. This would give paid opportunities for the performers, technicians and front of house staff, many of whom had not worked since the lockdown in March, and also an income stream for the Ropetackle Arts Centre. It would be an opportunity to test and build audience confidence in returning to events, and a chance for training and developing in a recording and live-streaming.

The programme of 21 events was planned to start in October and end in December. The publicity was launched with an eye-catching design by local artist Judith Berrill. The cameras and equipment were researched and the system designed by our web-manager Akhil Padmajan. The recording system was tested at the two poetry celebration events in early October, and the recordings were put onto the website, along with an on-line shop to sell the poetry books.

The live events started on 23 October and it was clear there was an appetite for coming to live events, even though the seating was restricted to 60 in the auditorium designed to take 220 at full capacity. We held 8 events up to 30 October when it was clear that we were entering another national lockdown for November.

A further two events were held in early December, but the programme was then paused for the lockdown throughout the early months of 2021. By that point we had established that people would want to come back to events as soon as it was safe to do so, had guaranteed work for performers and technicians and had not only established a recording system but had also run our first live stream. This would be the basis for some more lockdown events in 2021.

Concluding remarks

2020 was a year unlike any other, but despite the difficulties faced by everyone through Covid 19, it was clear that cultural activities remained important and that we could respond creatively and innovatively, which would serve us well in the future, building resilience as an organisation.

Rosalind Turner

Programme Director

Shoreham Wordfest

www.shorehamwordfest.com



Noise Next Door



Christmas Carol



Dr John Froude



Camera set up

Shoreham Wordfest
Income and Expenditure Account for
The Year Ending 31 December 2020

General Unrestricted Funds

Balance at 1 January 2020	16097	
Income	3926	
Expenditure	<u>(3840)</u>	
Balance at 31 December 2020		16183

Restricted Funds

Adur District Council - Cultural Projects

Balance at 1 January 2020	10000	
Expenditure	<u>(3425)</u>	
Balance at 31 December 2020		6575

Arts Council - Local and Live

Grant received	13042	
Expenditure	<u>(8882)</u>	
Balance at 31 December 2020		4160

Total Funds at 31 December 2020		<u>26918</u>
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Represented by

Bank Balance 31 December 2020	27382	
Less Creditors	<u>(464)</u>	

Total Funds at 31 December 2020		<u>26918</u>
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registered charity 1163258