

Wirksworth Arts Festival. Chair's Report 2023

The Festival consists of 3 main parts: the Trail Weekend, the Artist in Residence/central exhibition, and events run in partnership with a range of other local groups and organisations.

1. The Trail Weekend is always the focal point of the Festival, and the event on which we survive or fall. We had a good number of venues, over 70, made up of homes and gardens and public spaces. We had over 160 artists applying and, through the Arts Panel, chose 132 to exhibit. We estimate 4000 people at the Trail. We sold 3000 wristbands, and there were children and others with free wristbands. We were pleased to offer free wristbands to refugee families and carers.

Setting up was extremely hard work, and we wouldn't have done it without all our wonderful volunteers, and full-time input from some trustees. The Trail Weekend was a fantastic success. We had masses of feedback in person, via email afterwards, phone calls and on social media. Feedback was about the quality of the art, the amount artists sold (almost every artist sold) and visitors enjoyed the chance to chill out in the Food Court, a new development for us in 2023.

2. The Central Exhibition, 'Stones and Power' - this was the exhibition set up by our Artist in Residence from 2022, Jemma Gunning, who works mainly in printing. Visitors loved the exhibition, especially the massive wall hanging showing a local quarry. She has grown immensely over the period of her residency, and we hope that the way her work has developed is partly to do with the time she spent here, how she used her time, and how she developed her work. Hence, work exhibited in the RA Summer Show.

3. Partnership events - The Performance Programme is run in partnership with Town Hall Events - it was a very successful and varied programme; performances included A Jazz Night, Too Darn Soulful and Lemn Sissay. Our partners MusicWirks provided the pop up music during the weekend and various musical events as well, including Thomas Truax.

The Tunnel Project - the Festival was pleased to be supporting artist Rhys Taylor of Harpo Arts, a respected Street artist who is working on a large artwork for the town and has been engaging people of all ages in Wirksworth in discussions about the Tarmac owned steel tunnel which is on a public footpath. This won't be finished until the end of 2023.

Our long-term partner Gig On The Roof provided a Sunday night concert featuring local bands. This is an important event for bringing in younger people to both perform and to listen and also engages a large and varied selection of local people.

Other Festival events include the Clypping of the Church, which is inherently tied into the Festival, concerts in the church and our Children's Trail 'Where's Woolly' linked to the discovery of a mammoth in the local area!

Managing, funding and delivering the Wirksworth Festival 2023.

We held our AGM in April 2023. We attracted a new trustee and lost one who retired.

The 2023 Artist in Residence, Feral Practice, was appointed in April 2023, and began her 3-month residency in July. Her work will be exhibited in the 2024 Festival.

As can be seen from the attached accounts, almost all of our income comes from the Trail Weekend: wristbands+artists' fees+catering. We also have some local sponsorship, and a generous donation from The Ampersand Foundation which sponsors our Artist in Residence programme. We could not manage without the in kind funding offered by the Wirksworth Town Council and in particular, long standing sponsorship from two local businesses.

WIRKSWORTH ARTS FESTIVAL

Balance Sheet as at 31.1.2023

	2022	2023
ASSETS		
Fixed Assets	0	0
Cash		
Leek Building Society	10,171.02	25,615.69
Lloyds Bank	17,131.51	8,062.49
Pay Pal	424.54	143.08
Petty cash	38.2	0
Electronic Transfer	45	0
Total Cash	27,810.27	33,821.26
Debtors	0	0
TOTAL ASSETS	27,810.27	33,821.26
LIABILITIES		
Creditors	0	0
	25,418.41	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0	0
Charity Funds		
Opening balance equity	19,307.17	19,307.17
Retained earnings	11,234.27	8,402.85
Deficit/surplus	-2,731.17	6,111.24
	27,810.27	33,821.26

Approved by independent examiner

Signed

Dated

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WIRKSWORTH FESTIVAL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Wirksworth Festival
(the trust) for the year ended 31st January 2024.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section
130 of the Act; or

2. The accounts do not accord with these records.

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.

Signed:



Robert Baird

Independent Examiner

The Manor House, St Mary's Gate, Wirksworth. DE4 4DQ

14th August 2024