

KIRKBY STEPHEN COMMUNITY ARTS

England & Wales · Charity number 1175507

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-11-01

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

Contact

Address Dalton House
Winton
Kirkby Stephen
CA17 4HL

Phone 01768371992

Email kate@kirkbystephencommunityarts.co.uk

Website www.kirkbystephencommunityarts.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE-TIME OCCUPATION FOR THE INHABITANTS OF KIRBY STEPHEN AND THE UPPER EDEN VALLEY IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR THE SAID INHABITANTS WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE.

Activities: To provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure-time occupation for the inhabitants of Kirby Stephen and the Upper Eden Valley in the interests of social welfare for the said inhabitants with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cumbria

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-09-05	£3,091	£11,972	-	-
2023-09-05	£8,764	£4,932	-	-
2022-09-05	£13,320	£9,941	-	-
2021-09-05	£5,439	£1,958	-	-
2020-09-05	£16,451	£17,450	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
KATE LYNCH	Chair	2016-09-16
Deborah Mary Kay Coleman		2017-10-17
JOHN CHRISTOPHER OCKENDEN		2018-10-16
LINDA WALKER		2016-09-16
VICKI MARGARET BERTRAM		2016-09-16

KIRKBY STEPHEN COMMUNITY ARTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1175507

Accounts



Annual Report 2023-2024

Kirkby Stephen Community Arts (KSCA) was founded in September 2016 to bring high quality activities and events to the rurally isolated community of Kirkby Stephen.

KSCA became a Registered Charity on 1st November 2018, and this is the Annual Report to the Charity Commission on activities, objectives and finances for the period September 2023 to September 2024.

KSCA is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered charity number 1175507, and the objects of the CIO are:

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During the period of this report the trustees were:

Kate Lynch

Linda Walker

Vicki Bertram

Deborah Coleman

John Ockenden

The trustees manage the CIO according to the constitution dated 1 July 2017.

The address of KSCA for correspondence is

Dalton House, Winton, Kirkby Stephen, CA17 4HL

KSCA Account Summary Sept 2023-Sept 2024

<i>Income</i>	<i>£2,760.60</i>	<i>Opening Balance Current A/c</i>	<i>£1,021.45</i>
<i>Interest</i>	<i>£330.26</i>	<i>Opening Balance Deposit A/c</i>	<i>£26,650.31</i>
<i>Plus Cash in hand</i>	<i>£0.00</i>		
<i>Total</i>	<i>£3,090.86</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>£27,671.76</i>
<i>Less Outgoings</i>	<i>£11,972.28</i>	<i>Closing Balance Current A/c</i>	<i>£509.77</i>
		<i>Closing Balance Deposit A/c</i>	<i>£18,280.57</i>
		<i>Total</i>	<i>£18,790.34</i>
<i>Income/Expenditure</i>	<i>-£8,881.42</i>		<i>-£8,881.42</i>

Current Account Summary

	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenses</i>
<i>Cinema</i>	<i>£1,510.00</i>	<i>£1,305.00</i>
<i>Theatre Shows/Talks</i>	<i>£939.00</i>	<i>£1,013.60</i>
<i>Grants</i>		
<i>Donations</i>	<i>£239.30</i>	
<i>Refreshment sales</i>	<i>£72.30</i>	
<i>Storytime/Toddlers</i>		<i>£667.40</i>
<i>Songbirds</i>		
<i>RENatured Workshops</i>		<i>£3,716.60</i>
<i>Insurance</i>		<i>£96.00</i>
<i>Premises Costs</i>		<i>£600.00</i>
<i>Equipment</i>		
<i>Marketing</i>		<i>£120.00</i>
<i>Workshops</i>		<i>£750.00</i>
<i>Fun Palace</i>		<i>£400.00</i>
<i>Flag Project</i>		<i>£3,303.68</i>
	<i>£2,760.60</i>	<i>£11,972.28</i>

Notes on the accounts

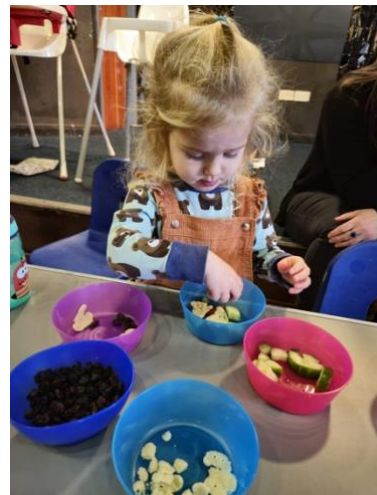
- *Expenditure exceeded income this year which was covered by our reserves.*
- *The two major expenses are for community projects which KSCA is providing free of charge to the community through workshops at the Westmorland Dales Weekend and the Flag Project with schools and community groups through 2024.*



Report on Performance and achievements through the year

Our regular programme has continued with much success:

Telling Tales, Little Wrigglers and Song-time



KSCA offers the only provision for 0-3 year-olds in the town of Kirkby Stephen with three informal groups for parents and children from birth to school age. We continue to offer a weekly Storytime, Song-time singing session and Little Wrigglers toddler group where parents and children can socialise together. This is particularly important in a rural area where public transport provision is lacking so that parents without a car would find it very difficult if these local groups did not exist. The groups are run by the Mothers & Carers and are helped every week by an enthusiastic group of ladies from the local WI who help with refreshments and lots more!



Remote Cinema

During the season we screened 11 films attracting audiences of 24 to 48, generally covering the licensing costs. Ice cream sales at the interval help finances!

We have set up a mailing list for the audience and this is helping to market our films. Clashes of dates have been an issue and bookings have now been made until the end of 2026 to allow screenings on the 3rd Friday each month, except October, when the Tup Sales Disco has priority.

The audience continues to be dominated by older residents, although several younger people have attended. Occasionally visitors to Kirkby Stephen have attended, drawn in by the external advertising board outside The Club.

We have a loyal team of volunteers assisting with equipment setup and have also been helped by a young volunteer using Remote Cinema as his volunteering activity for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

Changes to the licensing regime at the Club has eliminated the need for KSCA to have a separate licence for cinema and theatre events and allows public purchases of drinks before during and after our screenings.

The use of a cleaner's cupboard at The Club for secure storage of our equipment has proved to be very successful, although a leaking tap gave some cause for concern. A tap guard has been fitted to eliminate this problem.

Some equipment is now showing wear and tear. The screen frame has had a minor repair, and the screen sheet has a minor tear at one edge. This may be repairable. The front speaker stands also need replacing.

Live events with Highlights Rural Touring Scheme

We hosted four events during the year bringing professional theatre and comedy to Kirkby Stephen. We can do this by working closely with Highlights Rural Touring Scheme. Without the financial subsidy they provide we could not bring such high-quality cultural events to our local community.

5 October 2023

Every Brilliant Thing from Theatre by the Lake

A beautiful and poignant play about depression, suicide and the lengths people go to for those they love. Included a powerful post-show discussion.

Audience of 58

3 November 2023

Beyond Caring

A new play, looking behind the doors of a care home.

Audience of 42

7 March 2024

Help! I Think I'm a Nationalist

A one-man comedy show about identity, Cornwall, second homes and bagpipes.

Audience of 37

25 April 2024

Patrick Monahan's Exclusively

Edinburgh fringe favourite brought his award-winning comedy to Kirkby Club.

Audience of 37

Flags Project - Drawing Hope with Ursula Hurst

In July /August 2024, flags were put up in Kirkby Stephen as part of our year-long Drawing Hope project.

People of all ages were involved in making felt bunting and silk flags to express their feelings and hopes for their community

Bunting was put up around the town, in Jubilee Park, Silver Street Gardens, Mill Gardens, Frank's Bridge.

Large silk flags were put up on buildings in and around town.

In early August, we had an article in the Westmorland Herald.

The full project has engaged 1000+ people and included:

Workshop at Fun Palace, Sept 2023

6 days of school workshops (Brough, Warcop, Kirkby Stephen) took place during March/April 2024

Workshop at Kirkby Stephen Youth Club - March 24

Workshop at Upper Eden Day Care, Soulby - May 2024

Workshop at Kirkby Stephen Scout Group for all sections (beavers, cubs and scouts) - July 2024

2 days of workshops at the Westmorland Dales Festival, July 2024





Outdoor events

Summer School with Stomping Ground

In July/August 2024, KSCA delivered Stomping Ground 3 days of summer play days at Jubilee Park, Kirkby Stephen

21 children aged 6-13yrs attended across the three days - 75% of whom are eligible for pupil premium, young carers, SEND or living with long term health conditions.

Westmorland Dales Festival - July 2024



Stomping Ground, long established partners and supporters of KSCA, once again provided a day of wild play by the River Eden for the Westmorland Dales Festival and confirmed their place as Festival favourites.

They delivered another brilliant event with around 50 happy and absorbed children plus parents / carers – around 90 in total. It attracted a healthy mix of locals and visitors, including a large contingent from Barcelona, with spin off benefits for the wider Festival and the town itself.

The Stomping Ground team's own obvious enjoyment and organisational skills, combined with a light touch, contribute greatly to the overall success of the event. They are self-contained, turn up, get on with the job, conduct all the necessarily rigorous risk assessments and health and safety checks, all without detracting from children's enjoyment. Their adaptability is also commendable: we asked them to avoid the water this year because of pollution concerns, and apparently the children didn't even notice – a considerable sleight of hand on a hot day.



The projects above illustrate the Kirkby Stephen Community Arts programme.

If you would like any more information on our full programme, please visit www.kirkbystephencommunityarts.co.uk

Many thanks to the Trustees and the Volunteers who have worked so hard to help us achieve our aims.

Access to the arts enhances communities and creates social bonds and a sense of communal identity across generations, incomes and abilities. This is what KSCA aims to do in Kirkby Stephen.



KIRKBY STEPHEN COMMUNITY ARTS

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Annual Report 2022-2023

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Kate Lynch

Linda Walker

Vicki Bertram

Deborah Coleman

John Ockenden

The trustees manage the CIO according to the constitution dated 1 July 2017.

The address of KSCA for correspondence is

Dalton House, Winton, Kirkby Stephen, CA17 4HL

KSCA Account Summary Sept 2022-Sept 2023

Income	£8,763.80	Opening Balance Current A/c	£589.15
Dep/Ac Interest	£202.79	Opening Balance Deposit A/c	£23,047.52
Plus Cash in hand	£0.00		
Total	£8,966.59	Total	£23,636.67
Less Outgoings	£4,931.50	Closing Balance Current A/c	£1,021.45
		Closing Balance Deposit A/c	£26,650.31
		Total	£27,671.76
Income/Expenditure	£4,035.09		£4,035.09

Current Account Summary

	Income	Expenses
		£1,280.0
Cinema	£1,372.00	0
		£1,175.8
Theatre Shows/Talks	£920.00	0
Grants	£5,760.00	
Donations		
Refreshment sales	£110.25	
Storytime/Toddler Group	£451.55	£579.70
Songbirds	£150.00	
Steps Up project		
Insurance		£96.00
Premises Costs		£670.00
Equipment		
Marketing		£374.00
Workshops		
W.Dales Festival		£756.00
	£8,763.80	£4,931.5

The accounts were audited and found to be correct by J. Poulson on 11/12/23

Notes on the accounts

- Income is still somewhat reduced by the after-effects of Covid, but thanks to the generosity of the John Strutt Foundation we are still able to subsidise events.
- Costs of the Re-Natured Project will fall into the next financial year and are estimated to be in the region of £4000.



Report on Performance and achievements through the year

Our regular programme has continued with much success:

Telling Tales and Songtime

Our regular weekly pre-school storytime sessions continue to be run during the term-time with great enthusiasm and loyal parents and children. Telling Tales has had a new lease of life, with some of the Mums taking over the hosting of the group, supported by members of the WI. This session has gone from strength to strength, and the team share out the responsibilities of the weekly group.



Jan Donaldson stood down from Songtime in July 2023 – the trustees thank her for her enthusiasm and commitment over the years. Sabrina Cadman took over Songtime, with support from Margaret Harris, and the group now meets in the Methodist Church Hall on a Tuesday.



In July 2023 a new toddler group started, run by Sabrina Cadman with the support of two other local Mums and some funding from the local authority. This takes place in Kirkby Club on a Friday morning.

Remote Cinema

Audiences remain consistent and appreciative, with a core team of volunteers delivering the monthly screenings.

During the season we screened 10 films attracting audiences of 17 to 43, mostly covering licensing costs. Ice cream sales at the interval help finances! After some minor adjustments we are now happy with the audio system, although we have noted that many films only make token use of the rear channels.

We are still haven't found a method of connecting the hearing assistants and will trial subtitles for future screenings.

Kirkby Stephen Sports & Social Club (now The Club) has allowed us the use of a cleaner's cupboard for secure storage of our equipment, and this has proved to be very successful.

"Remote cinema have done it again. The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry – I can't remember a more poignant film. Don't miss it." Audience member

Live events with Highlights Rural Touring Scheme

Nov 22 – Shakespeare, His Wife and the Dog – audience of 81

Oct 22 – Gav Cross' Twisted Tales for Terrible Children – audience of 48

Mar 23 – Alfie's First Fight for ages 5+ - audience of 22

April 23 – Vinland for ages 7+ - audience of 28

May 23 – The Mystery of the Blue Moon Saloon – audience of 45

"Massive thanks for bringing this delightful and absolutely hilarious piece of inclusive theatre to Kirkby Stephen – community entertainment at its best!" Audience member

Music events with Penny Milligan

Penny Milligan continues to programme 4-5 musicians each year. 2022-23 included Maurice Dickson, Blue Rose Code, Reg Meuross.

Fun Palace

October 2022 saw our first Fun Palace since pre-covid. With an 'eco' theme we welcomed Cumbria Master Composters, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Nateby and Wharton WI, Upper Eden History Society, Walkers are Welcome and enthusiastic individuals to join us to share skills and enjoy arts, science and sports. Despite the hiatus due to the pandemic, this remains one of our very favourite events in the calendar as we invite people to share skills, refreshments and entertainment in this free community event.

Outdoor events

Jubilee Summer Scheme, July 2023 – this was the third iteration of our 3-day summer school held at Jubilee Park for children with pupil premium referrals, SEND and young carers. This was facilitated by Stomping Ground and supported by Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership.



Family Wild Play Day – we held 3 drop in events for families this year. One was held at Frank's Bridge as part of Westmorland Dales Day, two were held at Jubilee Park. These were delivered by Stomping Ground and we had some wonderful families join us for some fabulous wild play.

Stomping Ground attracted an audience of over 90 happy and absorbed children & grownups for a day of wild play by the River Eden, and were a much-appreciated highlight of the Westmorland Dales Festival



Re:Natured

Stomping Ground and KSCA delivered a programme of sessions of wild play for adults (14+) which included introducing artists to share their unique approach to working in nature. A set of 6 Sunday half-day sessions culminated in a full day sharing new-found skills and appreciation of nature.



Invited artists included writer Monique Speksnijder, landscape artist Richard Shilling, musician and BlueJam Arts founder Jilly Jarman.



The projects above illustrate the Kirkby Stephen Community Arts programme.

If you would like any more information on our full programme, please visit www.kirkbystephencommunityarts.co.uk

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KSCA Account Summary Sept 2021-Sept 2022

Income	£13,319.76	Opening Balance Current A/c	£210.28
Dep/Ac Interest	£10.94	Opening Balance Deposit A/c	£20,036.58
Plus Cash in hand	£0.00		
Total	£13,330.70	Total	£20,246.86
Less Outgoings	£9,940.89	Closing Balance Current A/c	£589.15
		Closing Balance Deposit A/c	£23,047.52
		Total	£23,636.67
Income/Expenditure	£3,389.81		£3,389.81

Current Account Summary

	Income	Expenses
Cinema	£610.31	£2,146.89
Theatre Shows/Talks	£1,635.40	£1,399.00
Grants	£5,750.00	
Donations		
Refreshment sales	£30.00	
Storytime	£114.05	
Songbirds	£150.00	
Steps Up project	£5,000.00	£5,522.00
Insurance		£96.00
Premises Costs		£70.00
Equipment		
Marketing		£247.00
Workshops	£30.00	£40.00
Writing Club		£420.00
	£13,319.76	£9,940.89

The accounts were audited and found to be correct by J. Poulson on 29/12/22

Notes on the accounts

- A significant sum was invested to improve the sound quality of the cinema equipment.
- The Steps Up Theatre Project with local schools was cancelled and some costs had already been incurred.
- Income is still somewhat reduced by the after-effects of Covid, but thanks to the generosity of the John Strutt Foundation we are still able to subsidise events.



Report on Performance and achievements through the year

It has continued to be somewhat challenging for Kirkby Stephen Community Arts, with continued impact from Covid-19 but also dealing with the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. But activities continue and audience numbers are looking really positive. We continue to work with amazing professional companies and freelancers, but our core administrative team is made up of volunteers who give up much time and energy to make these activities happen.

Our two major projects lined up for 2022 were unfortunately cancelled:

KSCA Steps Up was cancelled because of difficulties with a major partner. This was a great regret because we had many enthusiastic students lined up to take part, after two very successful workshops at Kirkby Stephen and Appleby Grammar Schools in the Easter holiday.

Luke Jerram's Museum of the Moon: cancelled due to the company stalling on the project. We are still in conversation with them, and have had several site visits, but the overall project is still very much TBC.

However, our regular programme has continued with great success.

Telling Tales and Songtime

Our regular weekly pre-school storytime sessions continue to be run during the term-time with great enthusiasm and loyal parents and children. Songtime sees group numbers of 40+ and Telling Tales has had a new lease of life, with some of the Mums taking over the hosting of the group, supported by members of the local WI.



Remote Cinema

Following the Covid-19 pandemic we showed a varied collection of films, most of which attracted sufficient audience to cover licensing costs. Our Remote audiences have returned to pre-pandemic levels, and we've seen some good audience response.

Sept 21 – Ammonite

Oct 21 – First Cow

Nov 21 – Nomadland

March 22 – Mothering Sunday

April 22 – Lawrence After Arabia

Sept 22 – Downton Abbey

Due to comments that the sound quality was poor and impairing the experience, screenings were stopped in spring 2022 in order to explore improvements to the system.

A significant investment was made into amplification equipment which could manage disks recorded in multiple channels, together with appropriate speakers. This was launched with a "Pay What You Decide" screening of Downton Abbey and sound quality improvements were positively commented on by the audience.

We are still making modifications to the system and an outstanding task is to find a method of connecting the hearing assistants.

Steps Up Project

It was with great regret that the trustees of Kirkby Stephen Community Arts made the decision to cancel the Steps Up project with local schools.

The inaugural project in 2018 was a huge success, and the feedback from participants and audience was fantastic. After such a challenging time for young people recently, we were keen to revisit this success. A project this ambitious, however, requires commitment from all the partner institutions. Despite all our best efforts - securing funding which meant no financial investment from participants and partners; a year-long planning process, and huge amounts of unpaid time and energy - our key partners were not prepared to fully commit to the project, despite earlier promises.

We were hugely sorry to disappoint our potential participants, but we wanted the best possible experience for them all and we couldn't be certain that we could deliver that. We will be spending some time now thinking about how we might deliver community-wide projects, and how we best promote the arts for local people.

Many thanks to all those who have invested time and money in this project so far, your work really has been appreciated by the Trustees of KSCA.

Writing Club at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School, Oct 2021-March 2022

The Club ran at KSGS every Monday from October 2021 through to the end of March 2022. I ran it, and attended every week except once when school was closed due to heavy rain.

Attendance was limited, despite initial enthusiasm and indications that some older pupils were particularly interested; they never came. The regulars were all year 8s, mainly girls, though one boy came quite often, making a solid core of 4 pupils.

They were enthusiastic and engaged, a pleasure to work with. The Club took place during their lunch break, and they left to have lunch mid-way through. This worked quite well, once I'd adapted to it: I used the first 20 mins to set up the exercises and get them underway, then they went off for lunch. On returning, 20 mins remained (often eaten into by need to finish homework, etc before their next lesson!) in which they finished off or looked back over what they'd written.

I found the pupils had limited concentration and didn't want to do anything remotely 'like English'! This was ok, as our original intention in offering the Club was not just to recruit budding writers, but also to provide a welcoming space for those who were feeling at a loose end. However, had my intention been to help the students complete and polish their work, this short, broken time slot would not have been sufficient.

I encouraged the students to work on their pieces during the week, and occasionally they did this. I typed up their drafts, and gave them to them the following week, hoping to give them a sense of achievement, seeing their work set out professionally.

Live events with Highlights Rural Touring Scheme

We've seen consistently good audiences attending live performances and had great response to the visual art workshop in February 2022.

Nov 21 – Hello & Goodbye, Elysium Theatre

Feb 22 – Mambo Jambo in Concert

Feb 22 – Print workshop with artist Vega Brennan

April 22 – Yes! Yes! UCS! Townsend Productions

In June 2022, we worked alongside Highlights to support a performance of The Secret Garden for Kirkby Stephen Primary School Key Stage 2 children.

Music events with Penny Milligan

Penny Milligan is now programming regular music events with fantastic folk artists, seeing audiences of 60-80+. This has been a great addition to the programme after several years of local people missing her 'Acoustic Tearoom' events!

Outdoor events

Jubilee Summer School, July 2022 – a 3-day summer school held at Jubilee Park for children with pupil premium referrals, SEND and young carers. This was facilitated by Stomping Ground and supported by Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership.

Family Wild Play Day – a 1-day drop in event for families held at Jubilee Park. This was facilitated by Stomping Ground and supported by Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership.



The projects above illustrate the Kirkby Stephen Community Arts programme.

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During the period of this report the trustees were:

Kate Lynch (Chair of Trustees)

Linda Walker (Treasurer)

Vicki Bertram

Deborah Coleman

John Ockenden

The trustees manage the CIO according to the constitution dated 1 July 2017.

The address of KSCA for correspondence is

Dalton House, Winton, Kirkby Stephen, CA17 4HL

**KSCA Accounts Sept
2020-Sept 2021**

Income	£5,438.62	Opening Balance Current A/c	£479.38
Dep/Ac Interest	£1.83	Opening Balance Deposit A/c	£16,284.75
Cash in hand			
Total	£5,440.45	Total	£16,764.13
Less Outgoings	£1,957.72	Closing Balance Current A/c	£210.28
		Closing Balance Deposit A/c	£20,036.58
		Total	£20,246.86
Income/Expenditure	£3,482.73		£3,482.73

Current Account Summary September 2020- September 2021		
	Income	Expenses
Cinema	£97.92	£61.44
Theatre shows/talks	£307.00	£920.00
Open Mic		
Donations/Grants	£5000.00	
Refreshment Sales		
Vocal Workshop		
Storytime	£33.70	£58.45
Songbirds		
Theatre Project		
Insurance		£89.00
Premises costs		£70.00
Equipment		
Marketing		£175.00
Activity Packs		£583.83
Fun Palace		
Training/ Expenses		
Stomping Ground		
Freegle		
Raffle		
Total	£5,438.62	£1,957.72

The accounts were audited and found to be correct by J. Poulson on 16/12/21

Notes on the accounts

Due to the Covid pandemic activities were greatly reduced during this financial year with many audience facing events cancelled. Thanks to the generous grant from the John Strutt Foundation, and the cancellation of licence fees for the cinema, we managed to cover our costs despite the lack of other income.

The Steps Up Theatre Project with local schools was postponed because of the pandemic but is on target to go ahead in July 2022. This project ran at a cost of over £13,000 in July 2018 and we have ring-fenced this amount of funding in the deposit account to cover this, so our reserves are not quite as high as they appear!



Report on Performance and achievements through the year

It's been another challenging year for Kirkby Stephen Community Arts, but it's been rewarding to see activities re-starting, albeit with reduced audience numbers and increased administrative tasks!

The year started very slowly due to the national lockdown but, since Easter, we have seen a return to our more usual programme of events. We continue to work with amazing professional companies and freelancers, but our core administrative team is made up of volunteers who give up much time and energy to make these activities happen.

We hope that next year will continue to be fruitful, but we will monitor the government guidelines and the local Covid situation.

Willow Sculpture, Jubilee Park

In February, we engaged two Forest school practitioners to plant a willow play sculpture at Jubilee Park with some additional support from Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership. In part this was to encourage visitors to use this little-used piece of land but also to help create outdoor play opportunities for younger people whilst indoor activities are still not possible.



Window Wanderland



In March, we partnered with Kirkby Stephen Community Support and Highlights Rural Touring to create a Window Wanderland and to help 'Light Up Eden' for the Spring Equinox. 120 jam jar lantern making kits were freely distributed across the area – to children and young people, WI members, residents at Mill Gardens and individuals.

Beautiful 'stained glass' windows were created across the area – with materials and advice provided by artist and facilitator, Katie Mundy. These were then added to a district wide google map so people could go and see them themselves (below).



https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=15-Moo9oPYmX07_JnWFHnwlKyxCd3-Lm&ll=56.479549275023466%2C-0.3706848183797895&z=7



Fables at the Kitchen Table

In April, we paid for Reception to year 4 groups at Brough Community Primary School to watch a live online theatre production of Stute Theatre's 'Fables at the Kitchen Table'.

Our storyteller, Soph usually travels the world collecting stories, but recently has had to spend much more time at home. Finding inspiration from a book of Aesop's Fables, and items that she has found in her kitchen, Soph brings to life some of our fables using puppetry, storytelling, costume, music and song.



Telling Tales and Songtime

Our regular weekly pre-school storytime sessions began again in April, initially held outdoors only due to restrictions. These have continued for the rest of the year, with a friendly and engaged small group of children and their grown-ups. Costs have increased as, due to covid, we now provide individually wrapped snacks but we have kept the entry cost as £1 per family to make sure it is as inclusive and affordable as possible.

Songtime didn't start again until September, because of the risks associated with singing in indoor spaces. Since re-starting in September the group has returned enthusiastically, with some new volunteers helping Jan with refreshments.



Summer Arts Programme

During the summer, we supported Kirkby Stephen Community Support's summer arts programme with marketing and administration. These activities were mainly funded by Cumbria's Holiday Activity Funding, but the programme started with a KSCA funded free performance of Opera North's Whistle Stop version of The Magic Flute on Church Green, Kirkby Stephen. Over 100 audience members enjoyed a 40min version of this wonderful piece of work – with audience members as young as 6months!



Theatre with Highlights Rural Touring

We were pleased to have performances back in Kirkby Stephen in late Spring, thanks to our partnership with Highlights Rural Touring.

Dinosaur Detectives (June) – a family puppet show based on the extraordinary life and finds of Mary Anning.

Balbir Singh Dance Company's Love and Spice (June) - a beautiful love story told through kathak dance and live music, with spices cooked on stage and individually wrapped Indian snacks provided for the audience. *'Amazing. Just so good to see live performances again. the company were so professional, engaging and accessible yet conveyed an unusual message in a very different way.'* Audience member

Kuumba Nia Arts' SOLD (July) - A forgotten story giving one woman's first-hand account of brutality at the height of the slave trade, told through traditional African storytelling fused with live music and dance.

'Fantastic, high-quality show. Very powerful' Audience member

The projects above illustrate the Kirkby Stephen Community Arts programme.

If you would like any more information on our full programme please visit www.kirkbystephencommunityarts.co.uk

Many thanks to the Trustees and the Volunteers who have worked so hard to help us achieve our aims.

Access to the arts enhances communities and creates social bonds and a sense of communal identity across generations, incomes and abilities. This is what KSCA aims to do in Kirkby Stephen.



KIRKBY STEPHEN COMMUNITY ARTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1175507

Accounts



Annual Report 2019-2020

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER - 1175507

Kirkby Stephen Community Arts (KSCA) was founded in September 2016 to bring high quality activities and events to the rurally isolated community of Kirkby Stephen.

KSCA became a Registered Charity on 1st November 2018 and this is the Annual Report to the Charity Commission on activities, objectives and finances for the period September 2019 to September 2020.

KSCA is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered charity number 1175507, and the objects of the CIO are:

“To provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure-time occupation for the inhabitants of Kirby Stephen and the Upper Eden Valley in the interests of social welfare for the said inhabitants with the object of improving their conditions of life.”

During the period of this report the trustees were:

Kate Lynch (Chair of trustees)

Linda Walker. (Treasurer)

Vicki Bertram

Deborah Coleman

John Ockenden

The trustees manage the CIO according to the constitution dated 1 July 2017.

The address of KSCA for correspondence is Dalton House, Winton,
Kirkby Stephen, CA17 4HL

Financial Report for the period September 2019 – 2020

Kirkby Stephen Community Arts

Current Account Summary September 2019- September 2020

	Income	Expenses
Cinema	£1,241.50	£976.10
Theatre shows/talks	£1,149.00	£1,726.00
Open Mic		
Donations/Grants	£5,843.50	
Refreshment Sales	£130.00	
Vocal Workshop		
Storytime	£122.00	£40.03
Songbirds	£167.00	
Theatre Project	£2,000.00	£6,318.79
Insurance		£252.00
Premises costs		£320.00
Equipment		£767.40
Marketing		£872.20
Activity Packs	£425.00	£879.86
Fun Palace		£230.00
Training/ Expenses		
Stomping Ground		
DVD Sale		
Freegle		
Raffle	£74.00	
Lady Anne Play	£979.50	£358.61
Spoke	£4,296.69	£4,709.17
Total	£16,428.19	£17,450.16

KSCA Account Summary September 2019-September 2020

Income	£16,428.19	Opening Balance Current A/c	£808.35
Dep/Ac Interest	£23.08	Opening Balance Deposit A/c	£17,261.68
		Total	£18,070.03
Total	£16,451.27	Closing Balance Current A/c	£786.38
		Closing Balance Deposit A/c	£16,284.75
Less Outgoings	£17,450.16	Total	£17,071.13
Income/Expenditure	-£998.89		

Notes

Income and expenditure are both at a lower level this year due to the curtailment in almost all activities since March due to the Covid-19 restrictions. We have used some of our reserves to cover the costs that have not been recouped.

Ring-fenced Grants from the Westmorland Community Foundation have ensured that we have been able to cover the on-going costs of the Theatre Project with local schools. £5000 is ring fenced in the Deposit Account for these activities when we are able to resume them.

The costs of the 'Lady Anne Play' were subsidised by a grant from the Westmorland Dales National Park.

The generous, non-specific, John Strutt Foundation Grant enables us to keep ticket prices low to ensure that events are accessible to all and to subsidise many activities for the local community.

Grants from Eden District Council and Kirkby Stephen United Churches Charity, along with John Strutt Foundation funding, enabled us to provide Activity Packs for children and adults during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

The major equipment purchase this year was a hearing loop system to improve the quality of the Cinema and Theatre experience for those with hearing difficulties. This has yet to be tested because of the closure of performances due to Covid-19.

These accounts were prepared by the treasurer. They have been independently audited and found to be accurate.

Report on Performance and achievements through the year



Kirkby Stephen Community Arts continues to work hard to programme and present engaging events and activities in Kirkby Stephen for local people. We were delighted to receive a 4th grant from the John Strutt Foundation and have used that towards furthering our engagement with local people.

During 2019-2020 we were pleased to continue a range of popular events at Kirkby Stephen Sports and Social Club, saving money on rental and storage that we can then invest into our programme.

Our regular events, monthly cinema and weekly preschool Storytime sessions, continued to be popular and our theatre events have received appreciative audiences.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all live events were paused in March according to government guidelines. We have continued to work imaginatively with our user groups, offering alternatives to our usual programme.

Spoke

In September 2019, we project managed and supported Kirkby Stephen Town Council as they celebrated the Tour of Britain coming through the area. This included a family day on Church Green, with a range of free activities including arts and crafts, poetry, movement, food and drink, a session with Stomping Ground, cycling advice from Coast to Coast Cycles and a bike-powered smoothie maker; free theatre and film events at Pennine View Campsite, and a day of activity and celebration when the tour came through. Approximately 2000 people engaged with these activities, including 700 pupils from local schools.

Remote Cinema

Remote Cinema had a successful early season with 8 screenings of mainly blockbuster films attracting an average audience of 35 (ranging from 13 to 60). The age range of the audience is predominantly the over-50s who are less inclined to want to travel to Kendal or Penrith, but occasionally our films attract younger audiences. We experimented with two matinees which had smaller audiences, but will continue as we believe that there is a potential audience for such screenings.

We experienced problems in November as the scheduled film was not available until the following month. A replacement film by the same director did not attract as good an audience as usual. The family film at Christmas was also less successful due to the busy time of year it was screened and the lower admission prices for under-18s.

Our February film was also cancelled due to the absence of the usual projection team, and the inability of the deputy to screen the film because of a family bereavement.

Following a successful matinee on a Sunday in March, all our activities were stopped due to the Coronavirus pandemic lockdown.

We have invested in simple hearing loop equipment which we have not yet been able to try. We are now preparing for a slow start to the 2020-2021 season in a Covid-19 secure manner.

'A film that had completely passed me by, brought to life by rural cinema. Thank you, it was wonderful.' Regular audience member

Theatre

All five of the following performances were supported by Highlights Rural Touring Scheme.

Tetradecathlon

Our first drama of the Autumn 2019 season was Tetradecathlon by one woman performer Lauren Hendry, chronicling her training for the Tetradecathlon world championships, a 14-event track and field competition.

Slime

An immersive piece of theatre for 2-5 year olds and their families, Slime turned Kirkby Stephen Sports and Social Club into an undergrowth world for Slug and Caterpillar. The hilarious and surreal show was told with a handful of words and lots of slime, and included a 20 minute play session at the end. The performance was attended by Kirkby Stephen Primary School nursery children plus additional parents and children, who laughed, danced and squealed with delight throughout.

'We loved this – what a fantastic opportunity for the children!'

Teacher at Kirkby Stephen Primary School

Same, Same ... but Different

A family show from Sonia Sabri Dance Company, mixing Kathak and contemporary dance, live music and physical storytelling to create a colourful world, exploring our curiosities and fears, the times we feel different and when we belong. We augmented this performance with two workshops – one at Kirkby Stephen Primary School and one at Brough Community

Primary School, which was a huge help to audience development as many children who had done the workshops came along to the performance with their family members, and were first time attenders to KSCA events.

'This afternoon children in years three, four and five enjoyed a dance performance and workshop from Rural Highlights Scheme entitled 'same same different'. We were introduced to kathak as well as hip hop and contemporary dance. We really enjoyed having a go at all three as well as dancing collaboratively to emphasise the important message that it's ok to be sometimes different to others and sometimes the same!'

Teacher at Brough Community Primary School



Shoo Shoo Baby's Christmas Cabaret

A high-octane and hilarious end to 2019 came in the form of Shoo Shoo Baby and their wonderful Christmas cabaret. Audience sat cabaret style, enjoying drinks and nibbles as they laughed and sang along.

Zoom Café – digital offer

In August KSCA hosted their first live digital event, Zoom Café with performer Jake Oldershaw (who has been to Kirkby Stephen in two previous performances, The Boy Who Bit Picasso and Library Lion). A small, capacity audience of 12 joined us for two short performances, plus some time to socialise during the interval and a post-performance Q&A.

'We thoroughly enjoyed this performance – especially sharing it with friends we hadn't seen during lockdown'

KSCA Steps Up

In November 2021, we scheduled two full day workshops with Tangled Feet at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School, opened up to yr5+ from local primary schools, and Kirkby Stephen and Appleby Grammar Schools. Approximately 40 students joined us for these free participatory days, working with professional arts practitioners. These days were a starting point for our planned bigger project for summer 2020 (subsequently cancelled due to covid-19).

'Lily (yr 5) loved it today, thank you.'

Telling Tales

**You're never too old,
too wacky, too wild,
to pick up a book
and read to a child.**

-Dr. Seuss

The Storytime sessions held once a week during term-time continue to be popular with Carers and their pre-school children. The morning is structured around a storytelling session followed by a craft activity linked to the story. The children then enjoy a snack whilst the parents and carers have a chance to socialise over tea or coffee. Numbers attending each week vary between 12 and 24 children. We continue to charge only £1 per family, notwithstanding the number of children attending, so that the sessions are affordable to all. Sadly, these sessions had to cease in March when the lockdown began. We are looking at starting sessions again with a change of format from the autumn if Covid-19 regulations allow.

A big thank you must go to all the volunteers who help provide refreshments and craft activities for these sessions.



Kirkby Stephen Little Songbirds

The Storytime sessions held once a week during term-time continue to be popular with Carers and their pre-school children. Numbers at events pre-March 2020 were regularly at 35-45 under 5s per session. Due to safeguarding concerns about volunteers, we stopped these sessions in early March due to the Covid-19 pandemic. During the first national lockdown, little songbirds were encouraged to 'sing and send', with their songs and nursery rhymes being posted on the facebook page.

A big thank you must go to Jan Donaldson and her volunteers for their hard work.



Fun Palace

In October 2019 we took part in the national 'Fun Palace' initiative. We worked with other local organisations to provide a day of fun for over 100 participants of all ages. The local Cumbria Wildlife Trust provided the materials for two sessions and helped children to make bird boxes for installation at Smardale Nature Reserve, which was followed up in the October half term later with an outdoor session at Smardale showing the children where they could find their boxes.

There were science activities for any age to try with local Chemist Mike Walker, an interactive quiz with Kirby Stephen Silver Band, calligraphy with Upper Eden History Society, willow lantern making with Stomping Ground, disability sport activities, with WI member Anne Craddock, lego, colouring and biscuit decorating. Activities went on throughout the day with refreshments provided and all for free!



Street

In February 2020, we ran a session at Kirkby Stephen Local Links with The Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal and theatre company Imitating the Dog, inviting local people to come along and tell us their stories of Kirkby Stephen and the surrounding area. These collected stories will help towards a theatrical installation, to be held at the Brewery Kendal and in village halls across Cumbria (now moved online due to Covid-19).

KSCA Creates Activity Packs



During the May half term, KSCA distributed activity packs to over 300 local people from age 2 – 100. We created three different packs, working with local artists and designers to create bespoke colouring sheets, wildflower seeds, postcards, craft activities and quizzes.

These were hand delivered across the area by volunteers, and part funded by Eden District Council as part of their Creative Eden programme.

'Thank you so much for the pack I received today. It will help me move on after losing my husband to the virus. I have been so supported by the community.'

'Thank you for our packs. We are off to pop our wildflower seeds in our allotment this afternoon'



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