

SIDMOUTH SCHOOL OF ART

Sidmouth School of Art: Trustees' Annual Report **Reporting Period: 1st August 2024 to 31st July 2025**



Mayday Madness by Kyle Baker

Exhibited at Sidmouth Wallspace

1. Charity Overview & Governance

Sidmouth School of Art (SSA) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (11995339) guided by the vision: "**Make Sidmouth the Artwork.**" We transform public spaces into galleries to nurture community health, wellbeing, and civic pride through high-quality creative engagement.

Board of Trustees (Reappointed May 2025):

- **David Shrigley (Chair):** Internationally renowned visual artist.
 - **Louise Cole (Secretary):** Specialist in programme management and community development.
 - **Coco Hodgkinson:** Community Artist and founding Artistic Director.
 - **Ian Barlow:** Business and Entrepreneurship lead.
 - **Sam Eyre:** Art Education lead and Sidmouth College collaborator.
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2. Narrative of Impact: Press & Awards

Our commitment to artistic merit and social impact achieved significant recognition:

- **National Feature:** The **CODEX** project was profiled in **AQA s MY AQA magazine (Autumn 2025)**, establishing SSA as a national voice for youth creative agency.
- **Awards:** Secretary Louise Cole received the **ACED 2025 Special Recognition Award** for "Outstanding Contribution to Art & Culture."
- **Economic Reach:** Public installations reached an estimated **563,000 visitors**, while our digital presence exceeded **500,000 views**, supporting Sidmouth's reputation as a cultural destination.



CODEX, Sidmouth College Students, Sidmouth Wallspace

3. Sidmouth Makes Art (SMArt): Outcomes & Learnings

The SMarT project, funded by Arts Council England, successfully concluded this year.

- **Aims:** To develop "Sidmouth people as the artists and Sidmouth as the artwork," building confidence, wellbeing, and a positive sense of belonging.
- **Delivery:** Involved **1,302 participants** in **43 workshops** (ages 4 to 85).

The SMarT project successfully delivered on all its objectives:

- Created seven new public artworks/installations
- Raised awareness of the importance of art and creativity
- Provided inspiration through exhibiting art in diverse spaces
- Curated participation opportunities helping people of all ages to discover talents and develop skills
- Contributed to community wellbeing through accessible art spaces
- Added value to the local tourism economy
- Mentored young people through contact with professional artists
- Developed collaborative art that inspired civic pride
- Enabled local people as participants and the primary audience

Permanent Legacies: * **Sidmouth Faces: 800 clay self-portrait tiles** to form a permanent **Wall of Faces** at the Wallspace site.

- **Our Town:** This collective vision project is now permanently installed at the **Beacon Medical Practice**.
- **Key Learnings:** We discovered a profound "community hunger" for making art. However, we also identified that managing small, fragmented funding pots is administratively unsustainable. Consequently, we are looking to transition to a **2-year project model** to focus on quality delivery over administration.



4. Deliverables: Public Art Constellations

Riverside Artspace – A Structural Milestone

Opened in **February 2025**, this is a major achievement in creating an "all-seasons" gallery from scratch.

- **Infrastructure:** Built using **5 custom gabion baskets** with plinths, creating the only outdoor gallery of its kind in the South West.
- **Key Exhibition: A Sidmouth Folk Festival Portrait** (July 2025). This featured **JJ Waller** and **Kyle Baker**, pairing national established talent with local emerging talent to facilitate professional mentorship and collaboration.



A Sidmouth Folk Festival Portrait, JJ Waller and Kyle Baker, Riverside Artspace

Sidmouth Festival of Flags – Year 2

The festival grew into a vibrant story of place, involving **40 community groups and schools**.

Impact: The flags tell a story of "civic pride and sense of place," with 8 new groups joining in 2025. It reached a global audience via a feature in **The Flag Institute's** international newsletter.

The project received great feedback with participants and viewers appreciating both the pride of taking part and the visual joy the flags flying high created.

Through this ongoing collaboration we are making Sidmouth the artwork and inspiring the community to get creative and bringing art to unusual places.



Sidmouth Wallspace (The Billboard Gallery)

Wallspace continued to be a key project in which an unloved wallspace overlooking a public car park which was turned into a public gallery available to view by the whole community and visitors to Sidmouth.

Wallspace has become part of the cultural fabric of the landscape with residents anticipating and looking forward to what is coming next, this project is hugely successful in inspiring conversations about art and our audiences response to a wide variety of mediums used, themes expressed and explored.

Its reputation is embedded with community organisations and festivals for example approaching SSA with ideas and requests for billboard projects.

Examples of Wallspace presentations include:

- ***Vibrations In the Valley – a collaboration with Sidmouth Folk Festival, Sidmouth Sea Fest, SidyFest and Sidmouth International Jazz Festival.***
- ***Mayday Madness*** by local Photographer Kyle Baker
- ***River a collaboration with River Sid Catchment Group and young people***
- ***Make A Million Flowers Bloom with Maureen Hawkrigde and 401 participants aged 4 to 85.***



Make A Million Flowers Bloom, Sidmouth Wallspace

The Micro Museums (Telephone Boxes)

Sidmouth's town square is home to two iconic red telephone boxes which have been repurposed by Sidmouth School of Art to add a new cultural dimension to this busy part of town. These *ying* and *yang* art spaces for 'old' objects/artworks of curiosity and 'new' mini contemporary artworks, continue to add interest and engage the town's residents and visitors.

The installations are created in partnership with local groups and help to bring stories of events, places and people connected with Sidmouth.

Delivered **6 exhibitions**, including **CODEX**, **Suffragettes/Suffragists**, and **Traditions of Folk**.



5. Funding & Sustainability: Supporters Programme

To address funding challenges, we launched a three-tier **Supporters Scheme**:

- **Friends, Art Champions, and Patrons:** Allowing individuals to invest in "visual joy" and community wellbeing.

Our three-tier Supporters Programme is designed to foster philanthropy and nurture ongoing support for the arts in our community. By joining as a Friend, Art Champion, or Patron, supporters are not only helping to widen participation and enhance wellbeing through creative activities, but also actively contributing to a culture of generosity and positive social impact.

- **SSA Online Shop:** Revenue from art prints, sketch books and other items also helps to directly fund local creative workshops.

6. Financial Review (Year Ending 31 July 2025)

Sidmouth School of Arts Annual Receipts and Payments accounts have been prepared by our accountant Duncan Akers of Easterbrook Eaton – who also conduct an Independent Examination.

A summary of the Receipts and Payments Accounts is as follows;

	Amount (£)
Heading	
Gross Income (Grants, Donations, Sales)	£42,418
Total Payments (Project & Operating)	£33,988
Net Receipts	£8,430
Cash Funds at Year End	£11,997
Restricted Reserves	£0

7. Conclusion

This year, SSA proved that art is a vital catalyst for resilience. From building the **Riverside Artspace** gabions to the **Wall of Faces**, we have shown that local funding—like the **Keith Owen Fund**—can revitalize "special areas" for the benefit of all. Our "constellation of activities" ensures that in Sidmouth, creativity is not just seen; it is lived. New partnerships, sponsorship and longer-term funding for the future are key aspirations for the year ahead in parallel with continuing to deliver our public benefits to increase engagement with and participation in the visual arts.

8. Declaration

Approved by the Trustees on 20th May 2026.

Signed:



Name: David Shrigley

Designation: Trustee

Date: 20.5.2026



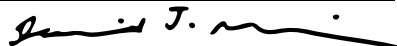
Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/08/2024		31/07/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	29,938	-	-	29,938	14,505
Sales - Art prints and postcards	480	-	-	480	1,165
Gift Aid received	5,019	-	-	5,019	2,257
Subscriptions and Match Funding	181	-	-	181	-
Sidmouth Sensory Garden Outdoor Art Space	2,700	-	-	2,700	-
Winter lights festival Grant Income	-	-	-	-	3,500
Winter lights festival donations & sponsorship	-	-	-	-	5,841
Your Town My Town donations & sponsorship	-	2,000	-	2,000	1,250
Confluence - River Sid and Its Tributaries	2,100	-	-	2,100	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	40,418	2,000	-	42,418	28,518
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	40,418	2,000	-	42,418	28,518
A3 Payments					
Cost of Goods sold	-	-	-	-	603
Direct Expenses - Wallspace	4,020	-	-	4,020	780
Norman's family charitable trust expenditure	-	-	-	-	1,509
Sidmouth Makes Art Match funding	-	-	-	-	9,784
Winter lights festival expenditure	-	-	-	-	11,315
Advertising	1,364	-	-	1,364	1,881
Audit & Accountancy	420	-	-	420	-
Consulting	17,100	-	-	17,100	10,260
Bank fees	61	-	-	61	65
Computer expenses	276	-	-	276	411
Insurance	504	-	-	504	500
Subscriptions	182	-	-	182	-
Postage, freight and courier	24	-	-	24	29
Printing and Stationery	184	-	-	184	-
Sundries	5	-	-	5	59
Your Town My Town Expenditure	6,598	3,250	-	9,848	-
Sub total	30,738	3,250	-	33,988	37,745
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	30,738	3,250	-	33,988	37,745
Net of receipts/(payments)	9,680	- 1,250	-	8,430	- 9,227
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,317	1,250	-	3,567	12,794
Cash funds this year end	11,997	-	-	11,997	3,567

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	HSBC bank account	11,980	-	-
	Owed by Louise Cole	17	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	11,997	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		David Shrigley	20.5.26	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Sidmouth School of Art

On accounts for the year
ended

31 July 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1199539

Set out on pages

3 and 4

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/07/2025**.

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 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn 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:

Date: 28 May 2026

Name:

DUNCAN AKERS

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

FCA

Address:

Easterbrook Eaton Ltd
Cosmopolitan House
Old Fore Street, SIDMOUTH EX10 8LS

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.