

INDEPENDENT ARTS

England & Wales · Charity number 297474

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02147908
Registered	1987-08-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	48/49 High Street Newport Isle of Wight PO30 1SE
Phone	01983822437
Email	info@independentarts.org.uk
Website	www.independentarts.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (A) TO PROMOTE, MAINTAIN, IMPROVE AND ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC AND IN PARTICULAR PERSONS HAVING SPECIAL NEEDS IN THE ARTS GENERALLY AND IN PARTICULAR BY THE PRODUCTION OF EDUCATIONAL PLAYS AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE ARTS INCLUDING (BY WAY OF EXAMPLE ONLY AND NOT OF LIMITATION) THE ARTS OF BALLET, FILM, DRAMA, MIME, DANCE, SINGING AND MUSIC, POETRY, LITERATURE, THE GRAPHIC ARTS, SCULPTURE CRAFTS AND DESIGN ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT. (B) THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE-TIME OCCUPATION, PARTICULARLY THERAPEUTIC FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE, WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE AND IN PARTICULAR FOR MENTALLY OR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED OR AGED OR OTHER PERSONS HAVING SPECIAL NEEDS ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Activities: Through the power of creativity we create a healthier, happier, more fulfilled and connected society on the Isle of Wight. We are a pioneering creative health charity. We deliver co-created artistic programmes to support mental health, wellbeing and physical health.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** ISLE OF WIGHT
- Isle Of Wight

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£439,224	£374,616	-	-
2024-07-31	£343,413	£380,628	-	-
2023-07-31	£307,357	£412,803	-	-
2022-07-31	£303,510	£412,513	-	-
2021-07-31	£376,927	£300,139	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Jacqueline Heany	Chair	2022-01-27
Brian James Marriott		2020-07-30
Esme Bates		2025-10-30
Gary John Peace		2025-10-30
Graham Barnetson		2022-01-27
Jodie Jones		2018-07-19
Jonathan Bean		2023-12-19
Leah Rice		2023-12-19
Louise Elliott		2025-10-30
Monica Ogilvy-Morris		2023-12-19

INDEPENDENT ARTS

England & Wales - Charity number 297474

Accounts

INDEPENDENT ARTS

**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 JULY 2025**

Charity registration number 297474 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 02147908



Message from the Chair of Trustees

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Independent Arts' Annual Report for 2025. This year has been one of both challenge and celebration, as we continue to build on our mission of improving wellbeing and quality of life through the power of creativity.

In October 2024, we welcomed Rosanna Sloan to the role of Chief Executive. She came to us with a wealth of experience and a passion for helping people lead happier, healthier and more fulfilled lives through engaging in arts activities.

Working closely with our trustees and staff, Rosie has refined and strengthened our strategy, putting in place the plans and structures that will enable us to direct our services to meet the needs of the Isle of Wight community both now and in future years.

The past twelve months have shown, once again, the vital role that Independent Arts plays. We have continued with our work in care homes and our ever popular weekly "Singabout" sessions. Both activities are aimed at older people. We have continued to extend our reach and developed innovative programmes, including "Arts Lab", a youth-led programme aimed at young people aged 12 and above, and "Men's Art Project" aimed at improving mental health by creating a safe space for men to come together and express themselves through creative arts.

We have strengthened partnerships with other creative health organisations, recognising that the best way to serve our island is to work collaboratively, both here and across the UK.

Most importantly, we have seen first-hand the positive impact that creativity brings—reducing isolation, building confidence, and fostering connection among people of all ages.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and artists, whose commitment and passion drive everything we do. I would also like to thank our funders, supporters, and partners for their trust and generosity, which enable Independent Arts to continue its essential work.

As Chair of Trustees, I am immensely proud of the organisation's achievements this year and excited for the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we are ensuring that the arts remain accessible, inclusive, and transformative for everyone in our community.

Jacquie Heany
Chair of Trustees

Message from Chief Executive – Rosanna Sloan

This financial year has been one of review, refinement, and development for Independent Arts—and my first as Chief Executive. Since joining in October I have been blown away by the output and impact the charity makes daily to people's lives on the Island. The programmes we run are essential lifelines focusing on connection, fulfilment and support.

A single day with Independent Arts shows the breadth of our work: three workshops in our Creative Hub that support mental health and wellbeing; two SingAbout groups that bring people together to combat social isolation; four workshops in care homes supporting people living with dementia and disability; and a specialist projects such as ArtsLab, which builds confidence, wellbeing, and leadership in young people. Independent Arts truly is a remarkable organisation and a vital cog to improve health outcomes for people on the Island.

None of this would be possible without our remarkable team of staff, volunteers, practitioners, patron and trustees. Their talent, passion, and dedication drive everything we achieve to make a difference daily to people's lives.

It has been a joy to work on our strategy and direction and build on the excellent foundations that have been established over the last 38 years. We are now strengthening our connections with the Creative Health sector, we are looking at best practice and innovation in our field to ensure our programmes have the best outcomes for our participants and we are developing projects which explore a range of art forms to continue our excellent reputation for quality and creativity.

This important work depends on the generosity of our funders, businesses, and the public. I am deeply grateful to everyone who has supported us this year—your contribution makes this possible.

Finally, I would like to thank the whole Independent Arts community for making me feel so welcome in my first year. Together, we will continue to make Independent Arts the beating heart of Creative Health on the Isle of Wight.

Rosanna Sloan
Chief Executive

Trustees' report

The Trustees who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st July 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting for Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective 1st January 2019.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have read the Commission's Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance and have had regard to this when running the Charity.

Who We Are and What We Do

Independent Arts improves people's health and wellbeing on the Isle of Wight through creative activities enabling people to connect, live well and thrive.

We are a pioneering creative health charity who deliver artistic programmes designed to address the diverse needs of our community, from improving emotional wellbeing to supporting physical health, at every stage of life.

We provide an essential, safe and welcoming space to connect with others and discover creativity, at our Hub, in Newport, and through our workshops across the Island.

Why we do what we do: Our purpose is to improve people's health and wellbeing on the Isle of Wight through creative activities, enabling people to connect, live well and thrive.

How we do this:

- Creative Health Programmes
 - We respond to identified need to co-create a diverse range of creative health programmes.
- Through Innovation
 - We pioneer, test and lead on new methods of creative health delivery
- Bringing People Together
 - We create spaces where participants can connect with others, feel welcome, supported and valued and build communities.
- Everyday Creativity and Wellbeing
 - We deliver workshops and events to help people experience the many benefits of creativity for everyday health and wellbeing.

What we did in the year to July 2025:

Delivered over 3,100 workshops this year

Welcomed over 2,361 visitors to our Creative Hub and held 8 exhibitions

Helped more than 1,650 people weekly this year through our programmes

Supported over 500 people weekly through our sessions in care homes.

Made our Creative Hub available to participants 6 days per week.

Delivered 453 number of workshops at our Creative Hub.

Delivered weekly singing for wellbeing sessions at six locations across the Isle of Wight, engaging around 180 older adults per week.

Facilitated over 1,850 creative workshops in care homes with more than 16,500 attendances. Engaged 18 young people aged 12+ in a year-long, youth-led creative programme.

Partnered with National Landscapes to deliver 24 nature-based creative workshops and 4 field trips for home-educating families

Delivered 42 morning workshops for home-educated children aged 8–14 and their carers.

Here is a sample of our activities and what our participants say:

Singabout

Singabout offers accessible, inclusive singing sessions that promote wellbeing and reduce social isolation. There are six *Singabout* groups that run across the Isle of Wight, engaging an average of 180 participants a week. The majority of attendees are aged over 55, with many living alone, acting as unpaid carers, or living with health conditions.

"I feel an adrenalin shot and a rush after I've been there, like when I used to play football!" "I'm a carer and don't leave the house too often—coming here is a real lifeline. It should be on prescription!" – Freshwater Singabout participant.

Workshops for Wellbeing

Our workshops are delivered in care homes by freelance artists and offer creative opportunities for improved mental and physical health, wellbeing and social connections for some of our Island's more vulnerable older residents. Activities with elderly and frail participants include visual arts, creative writing, movement, music, singing, reminiscence and soundbeam.

"The residents that attend the sessions thoroughly enjoy the music and chats with the musicians. Even the non-verbal residents clap and tap feet and seem happier. Some residents find it hard to communicate feelings but our residents love these sessions and it brings joy to their days. Daisy – Activities Coordinator, Eden House on Music Workshop

"Mum always really enjoyed the Independent Arts visits to Cherry Trees as shown by her amazing clay animal collection. We always enjoyed seeing the new creations too! Keep up the amazing work. It makes a big difference to the lives of those finding themselves in an unimaginable situation in life." Daughter of Cherry Trees Care Home resident with exhibits in the care homes exhibition Autumn 2024.

Wellbeing Cafe

This is a workshop supported by 3 volunteers for participants who may need more support and guidance. Need in Wellbeing Cafe ranges from varying stages of dementia, residents from local care homes to various mental health conditions. For some, simply attending the group is a huge

step, particularly trying new activities each week, but the routine of a weekly workshop is really important.

"I don't know what I'd do if I couldn't come here, it's a good change of environment and I don't have the noise and distraction that I have at home. It gives me a break."

Move and Groove

Is a gentle creative dance session, designed to improve participants balance, coordination and confidence. Mainly attended by those of retirement age and above, for many who attend Move and Groove, the group is also a social lifeline, providing them with a group of friends, who after their workshop chat over tea and homemade cake.

"It's a real feel-good group... we go away feeling good"

Arts Lab

A group for young people from 12+, an experimental art space where participants can work with professional artists, try new art mediums, build a portfolio, take part in youth social action projects, and make friends. Many of the young people who attend have been attending for over two years and we have seen them grow in confidence, develop their art practice, and form firm bonds with their peers.

"i like coming here to socialise, i cant socialise with anyone at my school but here i get on with everyone"

Mindful Moments

Started as our morning mindfulness over, the group varies from mindful creative practices to sound baths and meditation. The group proved so popular we expanded the over to add Mindful Afternoons, and Mindful Evenings, both offering more in the way of mindfulness; sound baths, meditations, reiki. For participants who may need additional support with their mental health, we host the peer support team directly after Mindful Moments, so people have the chance to stay after their session and chat before the weekend.

"This group has saved my life."

Singing for Breathing

A 6-week cohort designed to improve lung health or anxiety related to breathing, COPD, or long covid. Participants are asked to attend all 6-weeks if they are able, as the course works to a set standard as prescribed by the Singing For Lung Health course by Asthma + Lung UK. Many participants attend the course more than once as they find it so beneficial, and some move onto our SingAbout groups on a long-term basis.

"I used the take 5 technique from singing for breathing before my driving test. I was very nervous but doing that really helped and prepared me beforehand."

Chess Craft

Another popular workshop that crosses generations, for anyone 8+ who knows how, or wants to learn, to play chess. Supported by two practitioners, the group is encouraged to rotate game play, crossing abilities, ages, and backgrounds. We have seen the confidence of the young

people improve as they bond with older generations over the game, and likewise older participants have gained lots in helping younger participants,

"This is such a nice club to come to...a really nice way to spend my Saturday mornings"

Men's Art Project

The Men's Art Project (MAP) began in January 2025 with a clear purpose: to offer men a supportive space to come together, connect, and explore creativity. Recognising that men can often face challenges in finding emotional outlets and engaging with the arts, MAP was designed as a positive and inclusive project to offer an important chance to engage in creativity.

"It's been a really wonderful journey so far, we've laughed a lot and had some really beautiful moments of creative, purposeful silence."

Looking ahead

Our priority is to strengthen the charity's financial resilience by growing our earned income. This will enable us to leverage match funding for projects that directly respond to identified needs and remain aligned with our charitable purpose. At the same time, we are reviewing and enhancing our Fundraising Strategy to navigate the increasingly competitive landscape for grant funding, which continues to be, and will remain, our primary source of income

Funders & Supporters

Our work this year has been made possible through the commitment and generosity of our funders, whose support has enabled us to create lasting impact. We would like to thank:

- The Baring Foundation
- Henry Smith Foundation
- Warburtons Community Grants
- Isle of Wight Council
- Isle of Wight National Landscapes
- Sovereign Network Group
- The DWF Foundation
- The National Lottery
- Tudor Trust

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts over the past year. We were once again proud to be the associated charity of the Wight Proms Festival, a highlight in the Island's cultural calendar. This year, we were thrilled to run nightly raffles throughout the festival, raising an incredible £10,000 to support our work. Such a fantastic achievement would not have been possible without the generosity of local Island businesses who kindly donated prizes, and the many festival-goers whose support and enthusiasm made the raffles a huge success.

The Garlic Farm, Isle of Wight Distillery, Cowes Gallery, Goddards Brewery, House of Cowes, Joli of Cowes, Vivus Interiors, Rapanui, Isle of Wight Mushroom Culture, Wooldridge Interiors, Isle of Wight Tomatoes.

We were also incredibly fortunate to be chosen as a supported charity by the Wight Strollers during their wonderful production of *Sweet Charity*. Their generosity and dedication to helping local causes is truly inspiring, and thanks to their hard work and the amazing support of their

audiences, we were presented with a very generous donation of £1,500. We are deeply grateful for this contribution, which will make a real difference to the work we do.

Each year, we are proud to receive the generous support of the Fairest Isle Festival, whose commitment to the arts greatly enriches our work. This year, they hosted a wonderful series of workshops dedicated to early music, offering participants a unique opportunity. It was an inspiring and enjoyable day to be part of, helping not only to raise awareness of Independent Arts but also vital funds to support our ongoing projects.



Through our Big Give Christmas Campaign, we are delighted to share that we raised an incredible £4,000 in donations, which was then matched by the Big Give and our generous match funder, ShareGift. This brought the total to an amazing £8,000 to support our work. We are truly grateful to everyone who donated during the campaign and over the last year. A special thank you goes to the wonderful individuals who make regular monthly donations—your ongoing support makes such a lasting difference.

Financial review

The Charity's funds remain stable. The Charity had income of £439,224 (2024: £343,413) and expenditure of £374,616 (2024: £380,628) giving rise to a surplus of £64,608 (2024: £37,215 deficit). Total Funds at 31/07/2025 are made up as follows:

Restricted funds £54,177

Unrestricted funds £76,459 of which 3 months running costs are designated as emergency reserve £63,982 leaving

£12,477 in general reserves.

Creditors are £97k less than the previous year. £85k of this relates to the release of deferred grant income in the year. The remaining 13k related to routine timing difference of trade creditors.

Going concern

The Trustees have assessed the charity's financial position and have a reasonable expectation that Independent Arts has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements.

In making this assessment, the Trustees have considered projected income and expenditure, committed funding agreements, unrestricted reserves, and the ongoing demand for the charity's services. Despite a challenging economic climate, Independent Arts continues to demonstrate strong relationships with funders and community partners, a diverse programme portfolio, and robust financial management practices.

The Trustees are confident that the charity's reserves policy, income generation strategy, and operational adaptability place it in a strong position to respond to emerging risks and continue delivering creative health programmes across the Isle of Wight.

Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Reserves policy

The Trustees carefully considered and adjusted the Reserves Policy necessary to balance risk with the growing need for the Charity's activities. It has maintained a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be sufficient to manage the costs of notice periods, property liability and the continuation of key roles for a short period where there is a challenge in securing funding. This amount is equivalent to three months anticipated expenditure.

Where our reserves position is below the agreed level, the Finance and Resource Committee actively monitor the situation and seek to return reserves to the policy position as soon as possible.

The charity holds any funds not required immediately in a series of investment accounts accessed through the CAF Flagstone portal. The Chief Executive and Treasurer monitor cash flow each quarter and reinvest or withdraw funds as needed.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Jacqueline Heany

Jonathan Bean

Leah Rice

Monica Ogilvy-Morris

Josie Pook

Graham Barnetson

David Lindsay (Resigned 10 April 2025)

Brian Marriott

Jodie Jones

Geof Ruck (Resigned 10 April 2025)

Gary Peace (Appointed 4th February 2026)

Esme Bates (Appointed 4th February 2026)

Louise Elliott (Appointed 4th February 2026)

Risk Management

Trustees operate a comprehensive risk register which is reviewed quarterly, to consider the risks and mitigating actions that may affect both the day to day and long term running of the charity.

Safeguarding

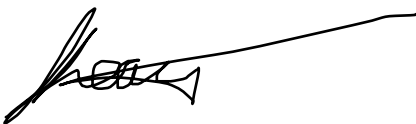
We have a strong commitment to safeguarding our clients and those engaged in our work.

This year we have continued, as part of our annual review, to strengthen both our policy, procedure and practical implementation of these documents in the organisation.

Our Chief Executive is our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Jacquie Heany is our lead trustee for safeguarding and Ralph Ridler, Operations Manager, is our Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

All staff are safeguarding trained, and all staff, practitioners, trustees and volunteers are DBS checked.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Jacqueline Heany

Trustee

Date 27/02/2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF INDEPENDENT ARTS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Independent Arts (the charity) for the year ended 31 July 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of AAT, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.

the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.



Streets Rowlands Webster,
Austin House 43 Poole Road Bournemouth Dorset BH4 9DN

Date 31/12/2025

INDEPENDENT ARTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	99,065	249,840	348,905	176,003	164,346	340,349
Charitable activities	4	87,449	1,672	89,121	-	-	-
Investments	5	1,198	-	1,198	3,064	-	3,064
Total income		187,712	251,512	439,224	179,067	164,346	343,413
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	130,580	244,036	374,616	185,364	195,264	380,628
Total expenditure		130,580	244,036	374,616	185,364	195,264	380,628
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		57,132	7,476	64,608	(6,297)	(30,918)	(37,215)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 August 2024		19,327	46,701	66,028	25,624	77,619	103,243
Fund balances at 31 July 2025		76,459	54,177	130,636	19,327	46,701	66,028

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

INDEPENDENT ARTS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 JULY 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	11		3,460		5,190
Tangible assets	12		730		912
			<u>4,190</u>		<u>6,102</u>
Current assets					
Stocks	13	350		350	
Debtors	14	16,217		18,289	
Cash at bank and in hand		122,620		151,598	
		<u>139,187</u>		<u>170,237</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(12,741)		(110,311)	
Net current assets			126,446		59,926
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>130,636</u>		<u>66,028</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	16	54,177		46,701	
Unrestricted funds	17	76,459		19,327	
		<u>130,636</u>		<u>66,028</u>	

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 July 2025.

The director acknowledges her responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 27/02/2026


Jacqueline Heany
Trustee

Company registration number 02147908 (England and Wales)

INDEPENDENT ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Independent Arts is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 48/49 High Street, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1SE.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements. No material uncertainties or post-balance-sheet events have arisen since year end.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

INDEPENDENT ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Intangible fixed assets other than goodwill

Intangible assets acquired separately from a business are recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Intangible assets acquired on business combinations are recognised separately from goodwill at the acquisition date where it is probable that the expected future economic benefits that are attributable to the asset will flow to the entity and the fair value of the asset can be measured reliably; the intangible asset arises from contractual or other legal rights; and the intangible asset is separable from the entity.

Intangible assets comprise of the charities website. The costs is amortised on a straight line basis over its estimated useful life of 5 years. Intangible assets are stated at cost less amortisation and are reviewed for impairment whenever there is an indication that the carrying value may be impaired.

Amortisation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Software	20% Straight line
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1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant and equipment	20% Reducing balance
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

INDEPENDENT ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.11 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

INDEPENDENT ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	51,315	630	51,945	176,003	164,346	340,349
Grants	47,750	249,210	296,960	-	-	-
	<u>99,065</u>	<u>249,840</u>	<u>348,905</u>	<u>176,003</u>	<u>164,346</u>	<u>340,349</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Sales of services	<u>87,449</u>	<u>1,672</u>	<u>89,121</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	<u>1,198</u>	<u>3,064</u>

INDEPENDENT ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Heading	Heading
	2025	2024
	£	£
Direct costs		
Depreciation and impairment	1,912	1,959
Charitable activities	372,704	378,669
	<u>374,616</u>	<u>380,628</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	130,580	185,364
Restricted funds - general	244,036	195,264
	<u>374,616</u>	<u>380,628</u>

7 Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	720	.
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	182	229
Amortisation of intangible assets	1,730	1,730
	<u>2,632</u>	<u>2,969</u>

The amortisation of intangible assets is included within administration expenses.

8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

Transactions with Trustees

Jodie Jones donation	10
Graham Barnetson donation	800
Josie Pook donation via Company Quantifi consulting Ltd	300
Jonathan Bean donation	10
Brian Marriot donation	100
Leah Rice donation	360

INDEPENDENT ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Chief Executive	1	1
Managers	2	2
Other Staff	8	7
Total	11	10

Total staff costs:

Salaries: £198,110

Social security: £8,528

Pensions (defined contribution scheme): £6,271

Other benefits: £0

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Aggregate compensation	24,261	-

10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

11 Intangible fixed assets

	Software £
Cost	
At 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025	8,650
Amortisation and impairment	
At 1 August 2024	3,460
Amortisation charged for the year	1,730
At 31 July 2025	5,190
Carrying amount	
At 31 July 2025	3,460
At 31 July 2024	5,190

INDEPENDENT ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £
Cost	
At 1 August 2024	19,332
At 31 July 2025	19,332
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 August 2024	18,420
Depreciation charged in the year	182
At 31 July 2025	18,602
Carrying amount	
At 31 July 2025	730
At 31 July 2024	912

13 Stocks

	2025 £	2024 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	350	350

14 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	14,301	16,175
Other debtors	500	500
Prepayments and accrued income	1,416	1,614
	16,217	18,289

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security	3,369	2,877
Trade creditors	6,612	18,478
Other creditors	-	85,146
Accruals and deferred income	2,760	3,810
	12,741	110,311

INDEPENDENT ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

16 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 August 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 July 2025 £
Singabout	15,321	1,665	(16,986)	-
Sing for Breathing, Dancesense	5,153	1,125	(6,278)	-
Mindful Moments	2,692	833	(3,525)	-
Youth Arts Lab	8,071	2,651	(10,722)	-
Reaching Communities	15,464	140,068	(113,615)	41,917
Warburtons	-	400	(400)	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	51,000	(46,750)	4,250
IOW Council - National Landscape Fund	-	13,000	(12,881)	119
IOW Council - Early Help Grants - Home Education	-	4,193	(4,158)	35
SNG	-	7,672	(7,672)	-
Sovereign Housing Association	-	4,320	(4,320)	-
The Baring Foundation	-	21,250	(13,394)	7,856
DWF Foundations	-	1,240	(1,240)	-
Other	-	2,095	(2,095)	-
	<u>46,701</u>	<u>251,512</u>	<u>(244,036)</u>	<u>54,177</u>

Previous year:	At 1 August 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 July 2024 £
	<u>77,619</u>	<u>164,346</u>	<u>(195,264)</u>	<u>46,701</u>

17 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 August 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 July 2025 £
Emergency reserve (3 mths running costs)	-	-	-	63,982	63,982
General funds	19,327	187,712	(130,580)	(63,982)	12,477
	<u>19,327</u>	<u>187,712</u>	<u>(130,580)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76,459</u>

INDEPENDENT ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

17 Unrestricted funds

(Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 August 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 July 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	25,624	179,067	(185,364)	-	19,327

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
At 31 July 2025:			
Intangible fixed assets	3,460	-	3,460
Tangible assets	730	-	730
Current assets/(liabilities)	72,269	54,177	126,446
	76,459	54,177	130,636
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 July 2024:			
Intangible fixed assets	5,190	-	5,190
Tangible assets	912	-	912
Current assets/(liabilities)	13,225	46,701	59,926
	19,327	46,701	66,028

INDEPENDENT ARTS

England & Wales - Charity number 297474

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 02147908 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 297474

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Tudor John Limited
Nightingale House
46-48 East Street
Epsom
Surrey
KT17 1HQ

INDEPENDENT ARTS

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Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8 to 9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10 to 14

**Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 July 2024**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Independent Arts is an Isle of Wight Charity, established in 1987, using the arts to improve wellbeing, quality of life and to reduce social isolation. We believe that art has a positive impact on mental health at all stages of life, and we deliver vital services across all ages, mindful of the range of needs:

- Often older people on the Isle of Wight are amongst the most vulnerable including those in care homes and those of the fringes of social care.
- More than one third of children on the Island live in poverty, significant numbers of children identified with special educational needs and there are a higher proportion of children failing to achieve basic literacy and numeracy standards in year 6 than across England.
- Mental health services are stretched, which can affect people of any age.
- Arts and wellbeing are interlinked, and we focus on bringing arts to those who might not otherwise be able to benefit from them.

To further the Charity's purposes for the public benefit, we carried out the following activities:

- We engaged highly skilled and trained arts practitioners to provide a wide range of creative activities aimed at improving wellbeing and reducing loneliness among older people, especially those living in care homes.
- We designed and delivered a range of inspirational creative activities for children and young people, together with their families or through partnership arrangements with IOW Council's Family services, schools, and the home school network. We targeted our support to areas of deprivation and to those most affected by health inequalities.
- We recognise that isolation, bereavement and poor health caused by the pandemic is still having a profound impact on the wellbeing of people across the island creating an even greater need for our community activities and wellbeing support.
- We sought to support an increasing number of participants with mental health issues, especially young people - and we sought ways to improve our skills and knowledge in this area further, ensuring our staff also felt supported by the inclusion of peer support workers.
- We continued our resolve to work collaboratively across the community and to make arts for wellbeing activities accessible for all.
- We undertook specific place-based activities to promote the cultural assets of the Isle of Wight and to raise aspirations especially among young people, of the natural beauty and of the UNESCO Biosphere status.
- Our Creative Hub continued as a designated safe space as a means of supporting wellbeing and encouraging initial engagement in arts activities open up to six days a week.

Public benefit

The Trustees have read the Commission's Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance and have had regard to this when running the Charity.

**Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 July 2024**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

We continued to run our longstanding programmes in the community, in care homes, in schools and at the Creative Hub in Newport. Some adjustments to scheduling were made and participants attending SingAbout and DanceMakers were consulted and asked if they could pay a small weekly or monthly contribution towards the costs, whilst funding continued to be a challenge. Where possible we strove to maintain sessions but did pause or cease sessions where either the attendee numbers made them unviable, or where groups could be combined or moved to free venues, we did. This resulted in closing the SingAbout session in Bembridge, reducing East Cowes to a fortnightly session and towards the end of the year, taking the tough decision to close DanceMakers in Sandown and Newport and to pause DanceSense, until such time as grant funding for these sessions is found.

As a result, the charity's activities, throughout the year included the following:

- 6 SingAbout sessions lasting two hours each (five weekly and one fortnightly group) led by professional artists, enabling 180 older adults to enjoy a convivial and sociable time to sing.
- Several 6-week courses of Singing for Breathing, aimed at improving lung health due to respiratory conditions and anxiety related breathing issues.
- 4 weekly dance sessions aimed at improving balance, posture and physical activity for those especially with reduced mobility and neurological conditions.
- 2 weekly craft sessions aimed at older adults, many of whom live alone or in local secure living accommodation.
- Drop-in sessions to encourage intergenerational communication through Make & Create and Chess play.
- Peer support sessions held to improve support for adults with mental health conditions.
- We provided a full range of artist led workshops for wellbeing to 30 island care homes including music, singing, craft, reminiscence and Soundbeam, averaging 34 x 1-hour sessions every week.
- We also designed and delivered our island inspired education programme, Wavelength, which engaged of pupils and parents, taking as a theme island-based innovation and ingenuity. Our aim was to embed creativity into the science curriculum and to foster improved learning and soft skill outcomes.
- We created a whole new suite of projects under the ArtsLab name, aimed at inspiring young people to use their creativity to learn new skills that would help build self-confidence, learn techniques to improve their mental health and develop their aspirations and voice in their community.
- On average 850 participants were supported every week - in various community settings, in care homes and in the Creative Hub in Newport.
- More than 40 professional arts practitioners were engaged to support the delivery of projects and workshops
- Dozens of existing and new volunteers were engaged to welcome, nurture and support participants and to help maintain excellent behind the scenes functionality
- Invited families to attend recognition events at the Hub to acknowledge the success of their children involved in creative projects
- 7 exhibitions of creative work were curated and produced, to celebrate the achievements and the creative health of the Island.

How many people we've helped this year:

We have helped more than 1,200 people this year, most of them through regular weekly contact and participation at a 90-120min arts-based session.

Changes in our organisation and work:

- We are supporting with more younger people with many complex needs arising from poverty, neurodivergence, special educational needs and poor mental health.
- 3 new trustees, with lived experience, arts, mental health, psychiatric care, fundraising skillsets appointed early in 2024.
- As we write this report, we are planning a change in leadership, following the move by Lisa Gagliani as CEO since December 2019. Trustees have led recruitment for Lisa's successor who is Rosanna Houston, who joined us on 30th September 2024. A smooth transition handover was thoroughly planned.

Our proudest achievements:

We feel most proud when our participants spontaneously tell us the difference they feel:

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 July 2024

Eileen from Creative Cafe today - *"I feel so much better since I've started coming here, it is helping me get over my cancer. I had lost the confidence to speak to people but now I am chatting again so much that my daughter says it is like having a new mum."*

A participant of wellbeing cafe taking part in soap carving "Oh I just love doing this, I really love it here!"

"What a big difference Singing for Breathing has made to my head and physically, I feel better than I have in years!"
"I've had such an awful day at school and so needed to come here" - Evie, ArtsLab participant



*A small selection of our
range of activities.*

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial review

A review of the Charity's financial position at the end of the year concluded that the year's finances were turning a corner. Whilst another deficit was predicted from mid-year onwards, the strength of our funding pipeline and securing a 3-year grant from the Lottery Reaching Communities fund from January 2024, means that we are confident for the years ahead.

Trustees supported the executive to undertake a slow down in the previously agreed growth plan, instead focussing on trying to maintain both the quality and breadth of charitable activity, whilst reducing where practical the operational costs. Trustees remain committed to paying staff and arts practitioners fairly and to the National Minimum Wage.

The Charity had income of £343,413 (2023: £307,357) and expenditure of £380,628 (2023: £412,803) giving rise to a deficit of £37,215 (2023: £105,446 deficit)

Reserves policy

The Trustees carefully considered and adjusted the Reserves Policy necessary to balance risk with the growing need for the Charity's activities. It has maintained a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be sufficient to manage the costs of notice periods, property liability and the continuation of key roles for a short period where there is a challenge in securing funding. This amount is equivalent to three months anticipated expenditure.

Where our reserves position is below the agreed level, the Finance and Resource Committee actively monitor the situation and seek to return reserves to the policy position as soon as possible.

The charity holds any funds not required immediately in a series of investment accounts accessed through the CAF Flagstone portal. The chief executive and treasurer monitor cash flow each quarter and reinvest or withdraw funds as needed.

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 July 2024

Going concern

Since March 2020 Trustees have considered the impact that the Covid pandemic has had on the Charity's finances. In this most recent year, Trustees have also considered the impact of the increasing cost of living and the focus of charitable giving on primary needs such as food and heating. The charity has therefore implemented actions accordingly to limit costs, whilst recognising the income necessary to retain loyal, living wage paid staff.

The most considerable impact of Covid was on our work with care homes in 2020-2021 and since then the team have worked tirelessly to ensure this area of activity has been restored, with only minor cancellations this past year due to infection.

During the course of the year, the Charity maintained considerable focus on a diverse fundraising strategy.

- The Chief Executive led in-house and freelance bid writing resources to target a wide range of Trusts and Foundations. Competition for funds has meant a much higher proportion of applications this year have been unsuccessful or partially funded.
- The Community Fundraiser established new relationships and nurtured existing ones, to secure sufficient unrestricted funding from local supporters.
- All grant applications aim to ensure full cost recovery.
- Larger, multi-year grants are prioritised and researched extensively before submission.
- The funding pipeline for the year ahead is strong.
- For the year ahead, the charity is grateful to funders who have pledged ongoing support to core costs.

FUTURE PLANS

After almost five years in post, our chief executive Lisa Gagliani MBE resigned mid-May to take up another position, so the latter part of the year has been taken up with recruitment of a new chief executive for which the trustees are grateful to all staff involved to ensure a smooth transition.

The brief however is clear; The priority is to continue to stabilise the charity's finances by keeping costs contained, whilst working hard to secure additional longer term core cost grant funding and continuing both the traded income with care homes and island-based community fundraising strategy.

There is comfort in secured support from Reaching Communities and the Tudor Trust as we approach the year ahead, plus recent wins of grants including Baring Foundation, which will fund a new service aimed at improving men's mental health through collaborative arts.

Strategically, our programme development priorities include:

- Developing our creative health & wellbeing project engaging older people in visual arts, in partnership with social housing organisations and several care homes.
- Developing improved relationships within our community through more intergenerational projects, which has proved so fulfilling this year.
- Preparing the organisation for potential Arts Council NPO status in 2027, as the Creative Health lead for the Isle of Wight.
- Identifying and working with lead partners such as IOW Council, to access suitable properties for siting our high street-based delivery and youth offer, for when our current tenancy ends in late 2026.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Safeguarding

We have a strong commitment to safeguarding our clients and those engaged in our work.

Our Chief Executive, Lisa Gagliani acts as the designated safeguarding lead and Jacquie Heany is our lead trustee for safeguarding. We have a safeguarding Policy and Procedure which is reviewed each year. All staff are safeguarding trained, and all staff, practitioners, Trustees and volunteers are DBS checked. No safeguarding complaints were received against any representative of Independent Arts and no safeguarding reports were made to the Charity Commission in 23/24 reporting year.

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

**Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 July 2024**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
02147908 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
297474

Registered office
48/49 High Street
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1SE

Trustees

J Jones
D C Lindsay
B J Marriot
G R Ruck
G Barnetson
J Heany - Chair of Trustees
J Pook – Treasurer
L Rice (appointed 20 December 2023)
M Ogilvy-Morris (appointed 20 December 2023)
J Bean (appointed 20 December 2023)

Company Secretary

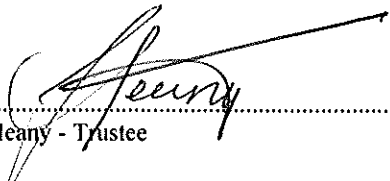
L E Gagliani MBE (resigned 30 September 2024)
R Houston (appointed 30 September 2024)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner

Tudor John Limited
Nightingale House
46-48 East Street
Epsom
Surrey
KT17 1HQ

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 11th DECEMBER 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
J Heany - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Independent Arts (Registered number: 02147908)**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Independent Arts ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 July 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.



Hazel Day BSc (Hons) FCA DChA

Tudor John Limited
Nightingale House
46-48 East Street
Epsom
Surrey
KT17 1HQ

Date: 20th January 2025

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 July 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		176,003	164,346	340,349	307,118
Investment income	2	<u>3,064</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,064</u>	<u>239</u>
Total		<u>179,067</u>	<u>164,346</u>	<u>343,413</u>	<u>307,357</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities		<u>185,364</u>	<u>195,264</u>	<u>380,628</u>	<u>412,803</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(6,297)	(30,918)	(37,215)	(105,446)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>25,624</u>	<u>77,619</u>	<u>103,243</u>	<u>208,689</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>19,327</u>	<u>46,701</u>	<u>66,028</u>	<u>103,243</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

**Balance Sheet
31 July 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	7	5,190	-	5,190	6,920
Tangible assets	8	<u>912</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>912</u>	<u>1,141</u>
		6,102	-	6,102	8,061
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	9	350	-	350	350
Debtors	10	18,289	-	18,289	24,854
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>104,897</u>	<u>46,701</u>	<u>151,598</u>	<u>119,882</u>
		123,536	46,701	170,237	145,086
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(110,311)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(110,311)</u>	<u>(49,904)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>13,225</u>	<u>46,701</u>	<u>59,926</u>	<u>95,182</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>19,327</u>	<u>46,701</u>	<u>66,028</u>	<u>103,243</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>19,327</u>	<u>46,701</u>	<u>66,028</u>	<u>103,243</u>
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds				19,327	25,624
Restricted funds				<u>46,701</u>	<u>77,619</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>66,028</u>	<u>103,243</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 July 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

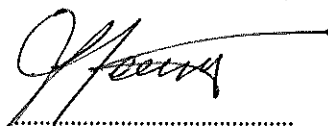
The notes form part of these financial statements

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

**Balance Sheet - continued
31 July 2024**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 11th December 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Heany', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

J Heany - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

INCOME

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

EXPENDITURE

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Intangible fixed assets consist of website costs which have been capitalised and are being amortised using a straight line basis over a period of 5 years.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery - 20% on reducing balance

STOCKS

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

TAXATION

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 July 2024

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>3,064</u>	<u>239</u>

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	229	285
Computer software amortisation	<u>1,730</u>	<u>1,730</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 July 2024 nor for the year ended 31 July 2023.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 July 2024 nor for the year ended 31 July 2023.

5. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Chief Executive	1	1
Managers	2	2
Other Staff	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000 in either 2024 or 2023

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	135,423	171,695	307,118
Investment income	<u>239</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>239</u>
Total	<u>135,662</u>	<u>171,695</u>	<u>307,357</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	<u>233,427</u>	<u>179,376</u>	<u>412,803</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(97,765)	(7,681)	(105,446)
Transfers between funds	<u>6,031</u>	<u>(6,031)</u>	<u>-</u>

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 July 2024

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
Net movement in funds	(91,734)	(13,712)	(105,446)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	117,358	91,331	208,689
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>25,624</u>	<u>77,619</u>	<u>103,243</u>

7. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer software £
COST	
At 1 August 2023 and 31 July 2024	<u>8,650</u>
AMORTISATION	
At 1 August 2023	1,730
Charge for year	<u>1,730</u>
At 31 July 2024	<u>3,460</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 July 2024	<u>5,190</u>
At 31 July 2023	<u>6,920</u>

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £
COST	
At 1 August 2023 and 31 July 2024	<u>19,332</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 August 2023	18,191
Charge for year	<u>229</u>
At 31 July 2024	<u>18,420</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 July 2024	<u>912</u>
At 31 July 2023	<u>1,141</u>

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 July 2024

9. STOCKS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Stocks	<u>350</u>	<u>350</u>

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	16,175	20,687
Other debtors	500	500
Prepayments	<u>1,614</u>	<u>3,667</u>
	<u>18,289</u>	<u>24,854</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	18,478	2,470
Social security and other taxes	1,806	1,350
Other creditors	1,071	892
Accruals and deferred income	<u>88,956</u>	<u>45,192</u>
	<u>110,311</u>	<u>49,904</u>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.8.23	Net movement in funds	At 31.7.24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	25,624	(6,297)	19,327
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	77,619	(30,918)	46,701
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>103,243</u>	<u>(37,215)</u>	<u>66,028</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	179,067	(185,364)	(6,297)
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	164,346	(195,264)	(30,918)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>343,413</u>	<u>(380,628)</u>	<u>(37,215)</u>

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 July 2024

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.8.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.7.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	117,358	(97,765)	6,031	25,624
Restricted funds				
Restricted Fund	91,331	(7,681)	(6,031)	77,619
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>208,689</u>	<u>(105,446)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>103,243</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	135,662	(233,427)	(97,765)
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	171,695	(179,376)	(7,681)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>307,357</u>	<u>(412,803)</u>	<u>(105,446)</u>

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 July 2024.

INDEPENDENT ARTS

England & Wales - Charity number 297474

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 02147908 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 297474

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Tudor John Limited
Nightingale House
46-48 East Street
Epsom
Surrey
KT17 1HQ

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Contents of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023

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Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7 to 8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9 to 14

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 July 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Independent Arts is an Isle of Wight Charity, established in 1987, using the arts to improve wellbeing, quality of life and to reduce social isolation. We believe that art has a positive impact on mental health at all stages of life, and we deliver vital services across all ages, mindful of the range of needs:

- Often older people on the Isle of Wight are amongst the most vulnerable including those in care homes and those of the fringes of social care.
- One third of children on the Island live in poverty, significant numbers of children identified with special educational needs and there are a higher proportion of children failing to achieve basic literacy and numeracy standards in year 6 than on the 'mainland'.
- Mental health services are stretched, which can affect people of any age.
- Arts and wellbeing are interlinked, and we focus on bringing arts to those who might not otherwise be able to benefit from them.

To further the Charity's purposes for the public benefit, we carried out the following activities:

- We engaged highly skilled and trained arts practitioners to provide a wide range of creative activities aimed at improving wellbeing and reducing loneliness among the elderly, especially those living in care homes.
- We designed and delivered a range of inspirational creative activities for children and young people, together with their families or through partnership arrangements with IOW Council's Family services, schools, and the home school network. We targeted our support to areas of deprivation and to those most affected by health inequalities.
- We continued to adapt to the Covid pandemic in how we supported people affected by long periods of isolation, bereavement, and poor health, and in the way we worked as a team and in our approach to social distancing, and hygiene.
- We sought to support an increasing number of participants with mental health issues, especially young people - and we sought ways to improve our skills and knowledge in this area further, ensuring our staff also felt supported by the inclusion of peer support workers.
- We stepped up our resolve to work collaboratively across the community and to make arts for wellbeing activities accessible for all.
- We undertook specific place-based activities to promote the cultural assets of the Isle of Wight and to raise aspirations especially among young people, of the natural beauty and of the UNESCO Biosphere status.
- Our Creative Hub became a designated safe space as a means of supporting wellbeing and encouraging initial engagement in arts activities.

Public benefit

The Trustees have read the Commission's Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance and have had regard to this when running the Charity.

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 July 2023

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

During the year the Independent Arts team worked hard in a challenging financial climate, ever conscious of the cost-of-living crisis affecting participants, volunteers and staff alike.

Our Growth Plan had to be paused, to enable us to be agile enough to sustain our core audiences and activities. Also, recognising the financial challenges ahead and mindful of the impact of rising costs to our supporter community, we scaled-back the celebrations planned to acknowledge our 35th Anniversary year. We focused on targeted celebration events and activities including the production of a short video early in the year, commissioned to award winning island firm Nosy which we used to accompany smaller but nonetheless meaningful events:

- In February we held an anniversary event for all our freelance artists at the Creative Hub.
- In March, ahead of Newport Minster's planned refurbishment closure, we invited all participants to a Big SingAbout there.
- In April we organised a celebration tea party for our volunteers at the Creative Hub.
- In July we hosted a supper for 35 supporters and funders to thank them for their continued support.

Early in the year the team understood that the risk of several high value funded projects were nearing completion, that more vulnerable people were likely to need our support and that future funding from Trusts and Foundations would be increasingly competitive.

Always conscious of the health, safety and wellbeing of all involved and whilst striving to maximise our front-line care in the community, we were able to implement a number of cost-saving measures to our Growth Plan budget:

- Collaboration with like-minded local organisations to share skills and resources more widely.
- Reducing some staff hours to improve efficiencies over short term periods, and not renewing some staff fixed term contracts, at mid-year and year end.
- Taking the difficult decision to close the Creative Hub, temporally on Saturdays.
- The finance and resource sub committee supported the team in many practical ways from extra fundraising to volunteering.

As a result, the charity's activities, throughout the year included the following:

- 7 weekly SingAbout sessions lasting two hours each, led by professional artists, enabling 180 older adults to enjoy a convivial and sociable time to sing.
- 2 x 12-week courses of Singing for Breathing, aimed at improving lung health due to respiratory conditions and anxiety related breathing issues. In addition, we trained two new practitioners to be able to resume this activity, following the resignation of a member of the team mid-way through the year.
- 4 weekly dance sessions aimed at improving balance, posture and physical activity for those especially with reduced mobility and neurological conditions.
- 2 weekly craft sessions aimed at older adults, many of whom live alone or in local secure living accommodation.
- Drop-in sessions to encourage intergenerational communication through Make & Create and Chess play.
- Peer support sessions held to improve support for adults with mental health conditions.
- We provided a full range of artist led workshops for wellbeing to 30 island care homes including music, singing, craft, reminiscence and Soundbeam, averaging 25 x 1 hour sessions every week.
- A project called Supporting Young Minds, aimed at improving mental health and sense of place for young people, encouraging youth voice and engaging artists to pitch to work with them. These activities took place across Sandown, Ryde, Ventnor and Newport.
- We also designed and delivered a new education programme called Wavelength, which engaged six island schools, six community partners and hundreds of pupils and parents, taking as a theme island-based innovation and ingenuity. Our aim was to embed creativity into the science curriculum and to foster improved learning and soft skill outcomes.
- We concluded a two-year heritage themed programme funded by Historic England, as part of the heritage action zone for Newport (HAZ) whilst also leading the cultural consortium partnership.
- We designed and delivered an exceptional community led creative response to mark the National Gallery bringing John Constable's 'The Cornfield' to Newport for six days in May.
- On average 545 participants were supported every week - in various community settings, in care homes and in the Creative Hub in Newport.
- More than 40 professional arts practitioners were engaged to support the delivery of projects and workshops
- Dozens of existing and new volunteers were engaged to welcome, nurture and support participants and to help maintain excellent behind the scenes functionality

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 July 2023

- 7 exhibitions of creative work were curated and produced, to celebrate the achievements and the creative health of the Island.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial review

A review of the Charity's financial position at the end of the year concluded that the year's finances had been more challenging than the previous year. Trustees supported the executive to undertake a slow down in the previously agreed growth plan, instead focussing on trying to maintain both the quality and breadth of charitable activity, whilst reducing where practical the operational costs.

This need was exacerbated by the economic environment driving higher running costs and accelerating demand for the Charity's services by more vulnerable adults and children.

The Charity had income of £307,357 (2022: £303,510) and expenditure of £412,803 (2022: £412,513) giving rise to a deficit of £105,446 (2022: £109,003 deficit)

Reserves policy

The Trustees carefully considered the application of the Reserves Policy to balance risk with the growing need for the Charity's activities. It has maintained a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the Charity should be sufficient to manage the costs of notice periods, property liability and the continuation of key roles for a short period where there is a challenge in securing funding. This amount is equivalent to three months anticipated expenditure.

Going concern

Since March 2020 Trustees have considered the impact that the Covid pandemic has had on the Charity's finances. In this most recent year, Trustees have also considered the impact of the increasing cost of living and the focus of charitable giving on primary needs such as food and heating. The charity has therefore implemented actions accordingly to limit costs, whilst recognising the income necessary to retain loyal, living wage paid staff.

The most considerable impact of Covid was on our work with care homes in 2021 and during 2022/3 the team have worked tirelessly to ensure this area of activity has been restored.

During the course of the year, the Charity maintained considerable focus on a diverse fundraising strategy.

- The Chief Executive led in-house and freelance bid writing resources to target a wide range of Trusts and Foundations. Competition for funds has meant a much higher proportion of applications this year have been unsuccessful or partially funded.
- The Community Fundraiser established new relationships and nurtured existing ones, to secure sufficient unrestricted funding from local supporters.
- The Workshops for Wellbeing Manager secured pre-Pandemic levels of sales to care homes, whilst also implementing cost increases to ensure that arts practitioners could continue to afford to travel widely across the island with increased fuel costs.
- All grant applications aim to ensure full cost recovery.
- Larger, multi-year grants are prioritised and researched extensively before submission.
- The funding pipeline for the year ahead is strong.
- For the year ahead, the charity is grateful to funders who have pledged ongoing support to core costs.

FUTURE PLANS

Trustees together with the chief executive and staff, agreed to six organisational goals for the coming year, these being:

- To diversify income and services offered - to sustainably meet the wellbeing needs of all ages and types of need
- To maximize the potential of the high street presence the Creative Hub affords
- To work more collaboratively with other organisations, for common purpose
- To increase the visibility & profile for the Charity island-wide, so that we aren't 'a hidden gem'
- To continue to support the Island's most vulnerable, those living in residential care homes, with creative workshops for well-being
- Adapt well to working in a post-Covid world

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

**Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 July 2023**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Safeguarding

We have a strong commitment to safeguarding our clients and those engaged in our work.

Our Chief Executive, Lisa Gagliani acts as the designated safeguarding lead and Jacquie Heany is our lead trustee for safeguarding. We have a safeguarding Policy and Procedure which is reviewed each year. All staff are safeguarding trained, and all staff, practitioners, Trustees and volunteers are DBS checked. No safeguarding complaints were received against any representative of Independent Arts and no safeguarding reports were made to the Charity Commission in 22/23 reporting year.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
02147908 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
297474

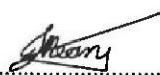
Registered office
48/49 High Street
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1SE

Trustees
J Jones
D C Lindsay
B J Marriot
D J McMullen (resigned 28.2.23)
G R Ruck
W R Varley (resigned 28.2.23)
G Barnetson (appointed 28.2.23)
J Heany Chair of Trustees
J Pook Treasurer

Company Secretary
L E Gagliani MBE

Independent Examiner
Tudor John Limited
Nightingale House
46-48 East Street
Epsom
Surrey
KT17 1HQ

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 16th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
J Heany - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Independent Arts (Registered number: 02147908)**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Independent Arts ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 July 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.



Hazel Day BSc (Hons) FCA DChA

Tudor John Limited
Nightingale House
46-48 East Street
Epsom
Surrey
KT17 1HQ

Date: 16th January 2024

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 July 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		135,423	171,695	307,118	303,097
Investment income	2	239	-	239	413
Total		135,662	171,695	307,357	303,510
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities		233,427	179,376	412,803	412,513
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)					
Transfers between funds	13	(97,765) 6,031	(7,681) (6,031)	(105,446) -	(109,003) -
Net movement in funds		(91,734)	(13,712)	(105,446)	(109,003)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		117,358	91,331	208,689	317,692
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		25,624	77,619	103,243	208,689

The notes form part of these financial statements

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

**Balance Sheet
31 July 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	7	6,920	-	6,920	-
Tangible assets	8	1,141	-	1,141	1,426
Investments	9	36,090	15,164	51,254	65,394
		<u>44,151</u>	<u>15,164</u>	<u>59,315</u>	<u>66,820</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	10	350	-	350	350
Debtors	11	24,854	-	24,854	39,382
Cash at bank and in hand		6,173	62,455	68,628	150,060
		<u>31,377</u>	<u>62,455</u>	<u>93,832</u>	<u>189,792</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(49,904)	-	(49,904)	(47,923)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>(18,527)</u>	<u>62,455</u>	<u>43,928</u>	<u>141,869</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>25,624</u>	<u>77,619</u>	<u>103,243</u>	<u>208,689</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>25,624</u>	<u>77,619</u>	<u>103,243</u>	<u>208,689</u>
FUNDS	13				
Unrestricted funds				25,624	117,358
Restricted funds				77,619	91,331
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>103,243</u>	<u>208,689</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 July 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

**Balance Sheet - continued
31 July 2023**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 16th December 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
J Heany - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

INCOME

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

EXPENDITURE

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Intangible fixed assets consist of website costs which have been capitalised and are being amortised using a straight line basis over a period of 5 years.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery - 20% on reducing balance

STOCKS

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

TAXATION

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 July 2023

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deposit account interest	239	413
	<u>239</u>	<u>413</u>

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	285	356
Computer software amortisation	1,730	-
	<u>1,730</u>	<u>-</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 July 2023 nor for the year ended 31 July 2022.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 July 2023 nor for the year ended 31 July 2022.

5. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
Chief Executive	1	1
Managers	2	2
Other Staff	8	10
	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000 in either 2023 or 2022

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	108,638	194,459	303,097
Investment income	413	-	413
Total	<u>109,051</u>	<u>194,459</u>	<u>303,510</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	137,993	274,520	412,513

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 July 2023

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued			
	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(28,942)	(80,061)	(109,003)
Transfers between funds	6,027	(6,027)	-
Net movement in funds	(22,915)	(86,088)	(109,003)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	140,273	177,419	317,692
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	117,358	91,331	208,689
7. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
			Computer software £
COST			
Additions			8,650
AMORTISATION			
Charge for year			1,730
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 July 2023			6,920
At 31 July 2022			-
8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
			Plant and machinery £
COST			
At 1 August 2022 and 31 July 2023			19,332
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 August 2022			17,906
Charge for year			285
At 31 July 2023			18,191
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 July 2023			1,141
At 31 July 2022			1,426

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 July 2023

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 August 2022	65,394
Disposals	(14,140)
At 31 July 2023	<u>51,254</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 July 2023	<u>51,254</u>
At 31 July 2022	<u>65,394</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

10. STOCKS

	2023 £	2022 £
Stocks	<u>350</u>	<u>350</u>

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	20,687	31,377
Other debtors	500	500
Prepayments	3,667	7,505
	<u>24,854</u>	<u>39,382</u>

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	2,470	6,389
Social security and other taxes	1,350	2,045
Other creditors	892	1,418
Accruals and deferred income	45,192	38,071
	<u>49,904</u>	<u>47,923</u>

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 July 2023

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.8.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.7.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	117,358	(97,765)	6,031	25,624
Restricted funds				
Restricted Fund	91,331	(7,681)	(6,031)	77,619
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>208,689</u>	<u>(105,446)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>103,243</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	135,662	(233,427)	(97,765)
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	171,695	(179,376)	(7,681)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>307,357</u>	<u>(412,803)</u>	<u>(105,446)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.8.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.7.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	140,273	(28,942)	6,027	117,358
Restricted funds				
Restricted Fund	177,419	(80,061)	(6,027)	91,331
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>317,692</u>	<u>(109,003)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>208,689</u>

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 July 2023

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	109,051	(137,993)	(28,942)
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	194,459	(274,520)	(80,061)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>303,510</u>	<u>(412,513)</u>	<u>(109,003)</u>

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 July 2023.

INDEPENDENT ARTS

England & Wales - Charity number 297474

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 02147908 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 297474

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2022
FOR
INDEPENDENT ARTS

Tudor John Limited
Nightingale House
46-48 East Street
Epsom
Surrey
KT17 1HQ

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Contents of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2022

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INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 July 2022

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Independent Arts is an Isle of Wight Charity, established in 1987, using the arts to improve wellbeing, quality of life and to reduce social isolation. We believe that art has a positive impact on mental health at all stages of life, and we deliver vital services across all ages, mindful of the range of needs:

- Often older people on the Isle of Wight are amongst the most vulnerable including those in care homes and those of the fringes of social care.
- One third of children on the Island live in poverty, significant numbers of children identified with special educational needs and there are a higher proportion of children failing to achieve basic literacy and numeracy standards in year 6 than on the 'mainland'.
- Mental health services are stretched, which can affect people of any age.
- Arts and wellbeing are interlinked, and we focus on bringing arts to those who might not otherwise be able to benefit from them.

To further the Charity's purposes for the public benefit, we carried out the following activities:

- We engaged highly skilled and trained arts practitioners to provide a wide range of creative activities aimed at improving wellbeing and reducing loneliness among the elderly, especially those living in care homes.
- We designed and delivered a range of inspirational creative activities for children and young people, together with their families or through partnership arrangements with IOW Council's Family services, schools, and the home school network. We targeted our support to areas of deprivation and to those most affected by health inequalities.
- We continued to adapt to the Covid pandemic in how we supported people affected by long periods of isolation, bereavement, and poor health, and in the way we worked as a team and in our approach to social distancing, and hygiene.
- We sought to support an increasing number of participants with mental health issues, especially young people - and we sought ways to improve our skills and knowledge in this area further, ensuring our staff also felt supported by the inclusion of peer support workers.
- We stepped up our resolve to work collaboratively across the community and to make arts for wellbeing activities accessible for all.

Public benefit

The Trustees have read the Commission's Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance and have had regard to this when running the Charity.

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 July 2022

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

During the year, the Independent Arts team worked hard to recover from the challenges and restrictions presented by the pandemic. Always conscious of the health, safety, and wellbeing of all involved, we were able to resume most of our face-to-face programmes. This includes:

- Fourteen different arts for wellbeing programmes were delivered throughout the year, including seven that were new for the year
- On average 545 participants were supported every week - in various community settings, in care homes and in the Creative Hub in Newport
- More than 40 professional arts practitioners were engaged to support the delivery of projects and workshops
- Dozens of existing and new volunteers were engaged to welcome, nurture and support participants and to help maintain excellent behind the scenes functionality
- Seven exhibitions of creative work were curated and produced, to celebrate the achievements and the creative health of the Island
- 17,745 hours of participation in creative health activities were undertaken

The main achievements of the Charity in the year were the clear focus on the four key areas identified as part of our Growth Plan: Capacity, Capability, Communication and Creativity.

1. Investing in Capacity

a) Recruiting additional part time staff

At the start of the year, knowing that we would want to open the Creative Hub in Newport 6 full days a week and that more than a dozen programmes would be run, including a year-long artist in residency with Isle of Wight Education Federation, we recruited three additional part time staff: a programme manager, a hub coordinator to strengthen our existing job share arrangement across 6 days a week and a weekend project assistant.

b) Restarting delivery in care homes

As a result of the Covid pandemic, our arts practitioner engagement in residential care homes was largely paused, apart from during periods where outdoor socially distanced activities could be organised. The Charity maintained supportive relationships throughout the pandemic, managing Covid testing and PPE protocols with our freelance arts practitioners.

- Additional funding support helped to reshape and reintroduce sessions, creating new business that is sustainable for long term growth.
- New practitioners were recruited to meet additional and varied sessions in demand such as digital inclusion.
- Train the trainer sessions in SoundBeam and photography to upskill practitioners to meet the needs of workshops post Covid.
- Regular marketing campaigns were developed to fit in with new Independent Arts approach to branding.
- Residents and carers from two care homes (Solent Grange and Hazel Lodge) were invited to come for an afternoon out to the Creative Hub for tea and entertainment.

Challenges have included:

The cost-of-living increase, increase in fuel costs impacting how far arts practitioners can and will travel for sessions. Trustees approved a 20% increase in arts practitioner pay in March 2022, with a corresponding phased increase in care home fees from April to July. Covid continues to impact on practitioners, visitors, and residents.

2. Investing in Capabilities

We focused on providing training for our team that supports them in their role and compliments project delivery. Staff have also been supported to attend relevant webinars and conferences as applicable to their area of work.

- Arts Award - 4 members of the team completed Bronze, Silver, or Discover Arts Award training, enabling us to embed this into our existing and future programme delivery aimed at children and young people. This has helped to diversify services and funding opportunities, whilst fulfilling our mission to deliver creative health outcomes across a wider age range.

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 July 2022

- Mental health - a number of the team were trained on Understanding Psychosis, Mental Health Peer Support Worker training (HEE), Connect 5 mental health training, Alzheimer's Society - Dementia Ambassador training, Mindstar Evaluation training. Training in creative health practice: post pandemic needs and dementia, International A.R.T.S. to Preserve Brain Health - From Despair to Desire - focussed on social prescribing.
- Operational support - Citizen's Advice 'Advice First Aid course' (4 team members), Dragon Fly domestic violence training (4 team members), Dementia Friends information sessions held regularly for volunteers and arts practitioners.

3. Investing in Communication

- Marketing and Mission communications - 5 members of the team completed 3-day bespoke workshop, resulting in better understanding of effective audience engagement and improved visibility across a range of channels.
- We engaged a local marketing expert to review our approach to branded communication, who produced guidance and supported the team to build confidence in getting the message sounding right and looking right.
- Our Community Fundraiser participated in major donor and regular donor breakfasts and Big Give Christmas Challenge workshops.
- We had a thorough overhaul of our Charity website, commissioned a local company to tailor it to ensure that our participants can quickly and easily find what we have to offer.
- We invested in storytelling and ensuring that local press was engaged to share interesting impact news about the Charity.
- We formed a marketing sub team within the Charity, who worked to identify and create a schedule of social media posts.
- As a result of active engagement throughout the pandemic, the Creative Hub was very proud to host an hour long visit by HRH the Earl of Wessex as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations on 24th May 2022. He observed seven distinct parts to our programme delivery and met 50 participants, volunteers, and staff. He enthusiastically participated in Singing for Breathing, Bunting making and a SingAbout finale.

4. Investing in Creativity

a) Partnership working

The development team, led by the Chief Executive, leveraged grant-funded programmes to increase partnerships to benefit the Newport Heritage High Street Action Zone and the UNESCO World Biosphere.

- Our team chaired the cultural consortium for the Historic England funded Renew Newport programme. Consortium members included Market Days, Platform One Music College, Quay Arts, IOW Heritage Centre, Ventnor Exchange, and Newport Minster.
- Throughout the period we retained links to Market Days Saturday market themes to inspire make and create crafty drop-in sessions. We were also actively engaged Shaping Newport partners to support delivery of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.
- Working with the Workshops for Wellbeing to use the Hub as delivery space for workshops for Applegate breast cancer support group, Age UK, and Age Friendly Forum members.
- Information sessions held with social prescribers from across the Island, Swan Advocacy group, Independent Living Centre, Footprint Trust, HAZ Guildhall consultation, End of Life care information sessions and Utilita.
- The Hub has been booked by outside agencies to hold events Medina Books - Out on an Island launch event. IW Dementia Strategy launch event including IW NHS, IW Council, CCG and third sector partners.
- The Creative Hub has become the registered address for The Island Collection Charity, our Chief Executive is Treasurer, and the Hub regularly hosts Trustees' meetings and strategic sessions.
- IW Federation of schools - Creative Biosphere and geography workshops took place in the Creative Hub and their end of year Foundation Show was hosted too.
- Digital Inclusion with WightFibre - supported the Digital Friendly Isle initiative and designed the logo.
- The Creative Hub was used for Children's Festival and IW Story Festival workshops and events.
- Mental Health Peer Support workers from Recovery team from St Mary's involved in Friday morning Mindful Moments sessions from June 2022 to help support people with more complex mental health needs access our services.

b) Youth mental health service delivery

- Three new programmes were designed and delivered with successful project funding from IOW Council, IOW NHS, and Lottery Awards for All: Reconnect, Picture Play, Chess Craft being held in the Creative Hub space - the latter two both on Saturdays.

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 July 2022

- Building links with CAMHS, IOW Youth Trust and Breakout Youth as well as local schools and higher education services to help build referral routes.

Challenges and learning:

Building referral routes takes time - we learnt that parental referral was counterproductive. We then consulted with young people to help market and advertise sessions more appropriately. Working with some acutely unwell people who find communication a challenge has been tough as we are led by participants, however we have persevered to help them feel like they can have a voice.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial review

A review of the Charity's financial position at the end of the year concluded that the year's finances had been more challenging than the previous year, and that with the timing of the year end at 31st July, the Trustees were minded to consider the financial performance of the Charity over two years more broadly. The Trustees note the expansion of the Charity's operations during the year to six full days a week. The pandemic resulted in the need to defer expenditure in 2021, whilst face to face programmes were paused and restarting had to be planned carefully due to the vulnerability of participants, leading to a surplus in the year ended 31st July 2021.

We anticipated increased expenditure and the need to draw down on the surplus as we recovered from the pandemic. This need was exacerbated by the economic environment driving higher running costs and accelerating demand for the Charity's services by more vulnerable adults and children.

The Charity had income of £303,510 (2021: £376,927) and expenditure of £412,513 (2021: £300,139) giving rise to a deficit of £109,003 (2021: £76,788 surplus)

Reserves policy

The Trustees carefully considered and adjusted the Reserves Policy necessary to balance risk with the growing need for the Charity's activities. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the Charity should be in line with 3 months anticipated expenditure.

Going concern

Trustees have considered the impact that the Covid pandemic since March 2020 has had on the Charity's finances.

The most considerable impact was on our work with care homes in 2021 and during 2022 the team have worked tirelessly to ensure this area of activity has been restored. The Charity was provided with grant support from the Isle of Wight Council in 2021 which helped the Charity significantly.

During the course of the year, the Charity maintained considerable focus on a diverse fundraising strategy.

- The Chief Executive led in-house and freelance bid writing resources to a wide range of Trusts and Foundations
- The Community Fundraiser established new relationships and nurtured existing ones, to secure sufficient unrestricted funding from local supporters
- The Workshops for Wellbeing Manager secured pre-Pandemic levels of sales to care homes
- Partnership working meant that we had multiyear funding for projects carrying through to the following year
- A successful application submitted in the second half of the year secured Arts Council England funding for a new Island-centric science and arts programme to commence September 2022
- Restricted Reserves were held to sustain flagship programme SingAbout throughout the following year
- All grant applications aim to ensure full cost recovery

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 July 2022

FUTURE PLANS

At the end of year review, Trustees together with the chief executive and staff, agreed to six organisational goals for the coming year, these being:

- To diversify income and services offered - to sustainably meet the wellbeing needs of all ages and types of need
- To maximize the potential the high street presence the Creative Hub affords
- To work more collaboratively with other organisations, for common purpose
- To increase the visibility & profile for the Charity island-wide, so that we aren't 'a hidden gem'
- To continue to support the Island's most vulnerable, those living in residential care homes, with creative workshops for well-being
- Adapt well to working in a post-Covid world

Plans to mark the 35th anniversary of Independent Arts through the coming year are underway.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. By the Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 7th July 1987 directors are required to be Guarantor Members of the company and are appointed, or if previously co-opted, are confirmed at the annual general meeting.

Directors (who are also trustees) are recruited by personal contract, advertisement or after their approaching the company. Their role is voluntary and unpaid. New directors are introduced to the company at directors' meetings and previous documentary information having been provided. They have the skills that are relevant to the charity's work alongside a keen interest in the mission. To prepare them for their role, they receive a bespoke trustee induction session prepared by the executive team and are directed to the resources from the Charity Commission about what is involved in being a trustee.

The company undertakes annual skills audits and individual appraisals with the chair of trustees. During the year, three trustees announced their intention to step down following many years of support, so this led to a planned recruitment drive managed by the chair of trustees, vice chair and one of the resigning trustees, with the appointment of three new trustees in Spring 2022, including the election of Jacquie Heany as the elected chair of trustees at the AGM in June 2022.

Risk Management

Trustees operate a comprehensive risk register which is reviewed quarterly, to consider the risks and mitigating actions that presented due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the increase in liabilities resulting from acquiring a commercial tenancy and recruiting additional staff.

Safeguarding

We have a strong commitment to safeguarding our clients and those engaged in our work.

Our Chief Executive, Lisa Gagliani acts as the designated safeguarding lead and Jacquie Heany is our lead trustee for safeguarding. We have a safeguarding Policy and Procedure which is reviewed each year. All staff are safeguarding trained, and all staff, practitioners, Trustees, and volunteers are DBS checked. No safeguarding complaints were received against any representative of Independent Arts and no safeguarding reports were made to the Charity Commission in 21/22 reporting year.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

02147908 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

297474

Registered office

48/49 High Street

Newport

Isle of Wight

PO30 1SE

Trustees

G Barnettson (appointed as a Trustee 27.1.22 and as a director 28.2.23)

J Heany (appointed as Trustee 27.1.22 and Director 31.3.22, elected chair of Trustees 20.7.22)

J Jones

D C Lindsay

B J Marriott

D J McMullen (resigned as trustee 20.7.22 and Director 28.2.23)

J Pook (appointed Trustee 21.1.22 and Director 31.3.22, elected Treasurer 20.7.22)

B M A S Rouse (resigned as a Trustee and Director 31.3.22)

G R Ruck

W R Varley (Chair until 20.7.22, resigned as a trustee 20.7.22 and as a director 28.2.23)

Company Secretary

L E Gagliani MBE

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

**Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 July 2022**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner

Tudor John Limited
Nightingale House
46-48 East Street
Epsom
Surrey
KT17 1HQ

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 16/03/2023..... and signed on its behalf by:



.....
J Heany – Chair of Trustees

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Independent Arts (Registered number: 02147908)**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Independent Arts ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 July 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.



Hazel Day BSc (Hons) FCA DChA
ICAEW
Tudor John Limited
Nightingale House
46-48 East Street
Epsom
Surrey
KT17 1HQ

Date: 17th March 2023

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 July 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS					
Donations and legacies		108,638	194,459	303,097	376,923
Investment income	2	<u>413</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>413</u>	<u>4</u>
Total		<u>109,051</u>	<u>194,459</u>	<u>303,510</u>	<u>376,927</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable Activities		<u>137,993</u>	<u>274,520</u>	<u>412,513</u>	<u>300,139</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(28,942)	(80,061)	(109,003)	76,788
Transfers between funds	12	<u>6,027</u>	<u>(6,027)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		(22,915)	(86,088)	(109,003)	76,788
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward	12	<u>140,273</u>	<u>177,419</u>	<u>317,692</u>	<u>240,904</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>117,358</u>	<u>91,331</u>	<u>208,689</u>	<u>317,692</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

**Balance Sheet
As at 31 July 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	1,426	-	1,426	1,516
Investments	8	<u>65,394</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65,394</u>	<u>-</u>
		66,820	-	66,820	1,516
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	9	350	-	350	350
Debtors	10	39,382	-	39,382	5,154
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>58,729</u>	<u>91,331</u>	<u>150,060</u>	<u>392,298</u>
		98,461	91,331	189,792	397,802
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(47,923)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(47,923)</u>	<u>(81,626)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>50,538</u>	<u>91,331</u>	<u>141,869</u>	<u>316,176</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>117,358</u>	<u>91,331</u>	<u>208,689</u>	<u>317,692</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>117,358</u>	<u>91,331</u>	<u>208,689</u>	<u>317,692</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	12			117,358	140,273
Restricted funds	12			<u>91,331</u>	<u>177,419</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	12			<u>208,689</u>	<u>317,692</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 July 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

INDEPENDENT ARTS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02147908)

Balance Sheet - continued

31 July 2022

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 16/03/2023..... and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Heany', written over a horizontal line.

.....
J Heany – Chair of Trustees

The notes form part of these financial statements

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

INCOME

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

EXPENDITURE

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery - 20% on reducing balance

STOCKS

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

TAXATION

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 July 2022

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>413</u>	<u>4</u>

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022	2021
	£	£
Depreciation – tangible fixed assets	<u>356</u>	<u>378</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 July 2022 nor for the year ended 31 July 2021.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 July 2022 nor for the year ended 31 July 2021.

5. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
Chief Executive	1	1
Managers	4	2
Other Staff	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>
	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000 in either 2022 or 2021.

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS			
Donations and legacies	85,999	290,924	376,923
Investment income	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	<u>86,003</u>	<u>290,924</u>	<u>376,927</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Charitable Activities	<u>36,697</u>	<u>263,442</u>	<u>300,139</u>

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 July 2022

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
NET INCOME	49,306	27,482	76,788
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	90,967	149,937	240,904
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>140,273</u>	<u>177,419</u>	<u>317,692</u>

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £
COST	
At 1 August 2021	19,066
Additions	<u>266</u>
At 31 July 2022	<u>19,332</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 August 2021	17,550
Charge for year	<u>356</u>
At 31 July 2022	<u>17,906</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 July 2022	<u>1,426</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>1,516</u>

8. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
Additions	<u>65,394</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 July 2022	<u>65,394</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>-</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK (2021 Nil)

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 July 2022

9. STOCKS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Stocks	<u>350</u>	<u>350</u>

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	31,377	1,050
Other debtors	500	-
Prepayments	<u>7,505</u>	<u>4,104</u>
	<u>39,382</u>	<u>5,154</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	6,389	13,915
Social security and other taxes	2,045	2,785
Other creditors	1,418	-
Accruals and deferred income	<u>38,071</u>	<u>64,926</u>
	<u>47,923</u>	<u>81,626</u>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.8.21	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.7.22
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	140,273	(28,942)	6,027	117,358
Restricted funds				
Restricted Fund	177,419	(80,061)	(6,027)	91,331
	<u>317,692</u>	<u>(109,003)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>208,689</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>317,692</u>	<u>(109,003)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>208,689</u>

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 July 2022

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	109,051	(137,993)	(28,942)
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	194,459	(274,520)	(80,061)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>303,510</u>	<u>(412,513)</u>	<u>(109,003)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.8.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.7.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	90,967	49,306	140,273
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	149,937	27,482	177,419
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>240,904</u>	<u>76,788</u>	<u>317,692</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	86,003	(36,697)	49,306
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	290,924	(263,442)	27,482
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>376,927</u>	<u>(300,139)</u>	<u>76,788</u>

INDEPENDENT ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 July 2022

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

During the previous year the charity acquired a six-year tenancy on 48 High Street, Newport which was refurbished with the generous grants from a few funders. To maximise the potential increase in charitable activity at the new premises, the charity appointed additional staff on fixed term contracts to expand to six-day operations and resolved to plan for an early surrender of the office premises at 30 Quay Street, which has two years remaining on its tenancy to September 2024. Meanwhile the office vacated during lockdown, has not been used by staff themselves, but is used for storage purposes.

The Reserves Policy was reviewed and in the light of the increased liabilities, the Continuity Fund was increased to £32,175 (2021: £29,373) and the Winding Up Fund was increased to £97,964 (2021: £92,122). We also held £12,000 designated as an Impact Fund - this is to enable the charity to design and deliver projects that meet local demand and other innovations, prior to requesting and receiving grant funds. This can also be used at the board's discretion to continue funding projects deemed successful in their outcomes, when their external funding ends prior to further funding, to stop gaps in delivery.

Given the uncertainties of income ahead due to the pandemic, trustees decided to close the two separate reserves accounts and to open a Flagstone account in August 2021 into which £65,000 was transferred into 4 separate savings accounts for six to eighteen months. The remainder of the reserves is held in the main CAF bank account to accommodate short term fluctuations in income if needed.

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

The Charity received a grant during the year of £1,000 from Southampton Isle of Wight and South of England Steam Packet Company trading as Red Funnel, G Barnettson is a Director of that company.

The Charity received a grant during the year of £1,099 from Wight Aid, B Marriott is a Trustee of that grant-making charity.

2021 – There were no related party disclosures.

INDEPENDENT ARTS

England & Wales - Charity number 297474

Accounts



Changing lives through arts



2021

Annual Report

independentarts.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 297474
Company No. 02147908

Contact us:

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Newport
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PO30 1SE

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Email: info@independentarts.org.uk

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Trustees

J Jones
B J Marriott
Dr D J McMullen
B M A S Rouse
G R Ruck
W R Varley
D Lindsay
G Barnettson - joined 27th January 2022
J Heany - joined 27th January 2022
J Pook - joined 27th January 2022

Company Secretary

L E Gagliani

Independent Examiner

Elizabeth Dack FCA FCCA Senior
Statutory Auditor Harrison Black
Limited Pyle House
136/137 Pyle Street Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1JW

Opposite: Creative Café, textile prints

Front cover: Picture Play, a new family
learning programme this year



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31st July 2021**



Welcome

Welcome to the latest annual report from Independent Arts, a charity that has been using the arts to improve people's wellbeing, quality of life and to reduce social isolation on the Isle of Wight since 1987.

This report covers the charity's financial year August 2020 to July 2021, giving insight into our work and impact as well as our finances during that time.

Adjusting to the shifting restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic during the year, we kept our focus on how best to reach people at a time when we were all more isolated than before, and we were ready to reintroduce in-person activities in the community and in care homes, in a safe environment as soon as permitted.

We are enormously grateful that funders and supporters have shown understanding and flexibility, enabling Independent Arts to adapt projects and activities to suit the changing times.

Opening our Creative Hub in Newport High Street has been a major highlight. This versatile space serves as our offices and as a venue for some of the charity's creative sessions, as well as being an exhibitions, meetings and events space.

Though much of the charity's income comes from grant funding, it's been heartening to see people on the Isle of Wight supporting Independent Arts through local fundraising. I was delighted to be among those taking part in 70 Mile May, raising funds for the charity by walking the equivalent of the Island's coastline during the month of May and I signed up to be part of the charity's team at The Wight Proms where Independent Arts was the associated charity (this took place in August, postponed from 2020).

Our Chief Executive, Lisa Gagliani MBE, has continued to lead the charity expertly. As trustees we continued our monthly monitoring meetings with her throughout the year. I am grateful to her, my fellow trustees, the staff team, volunteers, funders, individual donors and everyone in the community who supports Independent Arts, enabling us to continue making a positive difference to people's lives on the Isle of Wight through arts.

*Wendy Varley, Chair of Trustees,
Independent Arts*

Introduction

This has been a transformational year for Independent Arts, as I hope you'll see from the report and accounts shared in this document. The striking thing for me personally (and perhaps I shouldn't admit to this!) is that the transformation of the charity in scale and scope for the people we helped, took place in a year of such uncertainty and distress, as the Covid-19 pandemic dragged us through a full year of change and disruption.

I am enormously proud to lead Independent Arts. During this year the support of our team, our volunteers, our trustees and our arts practitioners has been magnificent. Together we have creatively supported hundreds of island residents, young and old, lonely and anxious, isolated and anguished – who together, have learnt new skills, stretched existing ones and produced the most amazingly beautiful and provocative pieces of art, which in turn tell stories.

The icing on the cake came in two ways. The first was the agile and supportive role our trustees played in bringing our ambitious new Creative Hub to existence. The second was the growth and ambition in our team, both our own staff and our partnerships, which has helped us break out of our 'own bubble' to become a true player in the Isle of Wight civic and cultural society, with a role to fulfil in the social change that the Island desperately needs and deserves.

As we write this report, we are working with some amazingly talented artists of all genres, to deliver life-changing experiences, to islanders both very young and very old. This is not something that has just happened overnight. It's the result of huge amounts of thought, care and preparation. For this, and for their trust in my somewhat adventurous style of leadership, I thank my colleagues, trustees and friends.



Lisa Gagliani MBE
Chief Executive





SingAbout. Photo: Julian Winslow

Changing lives through arts: Our impact

Independent Arts is an Isle of Wight charity, established in 1987, using the arts to improve wellbeing, quality of life and to reduce social isolation. We believe that art is for all stages of life, and we deliver vital services across all ages, mindful of the range of needs:

- Often older people on the Isle of Wight are amongst the most vulnerable, including those in care homes and those on the fringes of social care.
- A higher than average number of children on the Island live in poverty (34%).
- Mental health services are stretched, which can affect people of any age.
- Arts and wellbeing are interlinked, and we focus on bringing arts to those who might not otherwise be able to benefit from them.

Arts for life, arts for all:

Creating connections:

People from all walks of life are experiencing loneliness and isolation. We use the power of the arts to bring them together in a supportive and collaborative environment.

Arts for health and independence:

Participation in the Arts is an effective way to support people on the fringes of the health and social care system, supporting rehabilitation and reducing hospital admissions.

Empowering individuals:

We believe in the potential of people often overlooked or seen as disadvantaged.

What people say about us

"I'm feeling so much better already. It's like the weight is lifting from my chest and I'm finding a voice again."

Singing for Breathing participant

"You've actually changed my life. I didn't realise how sad I was until coming and singing with you made me so happy."

SingAbout participant

"After your course I was able to get back into working with children and young people's mental health. I'm currently a senior mental health practitioner, full time, in mental health schools support team."

Katrina (Portfolio)

"Coming to Anxiety Café is a lifeline for me."

Anxiety Café participant

"Amazing. Well done for bringing art to the High Street, this is exactly what Newport needs and so proud to see an Island charity leading the way. Great to see the kids getting stuck in too!"

@stevieunknown on Instagram



'Seascape' by Columbus House residents, Time & Tide

Our community

This report covers the period from 1st August 2020 until 31st July 2021 – the whole period impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. In our 2020 Report, we highlighted the adaptations made to existing programmes and acknowledged the vital importance of these to ensure that the most vulnerable were supported. We also highlighted recent successes in securing grants to engage in regeneration, cultural development and to deliver a new programme to support the mental health of young people.

The pandemic was never going to be “finished” when the second lockdown restrictions were lifted in early December 2020, when the Isle of Wight became a rare Tier 1 destination, only to be plunged into Tier 4 by the end of the same month.

Throughout the year, we reached our community through a blend of telephone, post, digitally enabled and outdoor activities, alongside socially distanced indoor programmes from our new Creative Hub in Newport.

It became the norm to be agile, adaptable, and collaborative. This new normal has in many ways benefitted our charity and the way we interact with our community. Our participants have responded and grown and so has our breadth of partners who include other third sector organisations with whom we share a mission to support the most vulnerable, and those who champion arts and culture, not just for pleasure – but as a genuine antidote to the alarming rise in cases of poor mental health.

The Isle of Wight, through geographic separateness, has recognised weaknesses, but also poses an interesting opportunity for future investment in services and experimentation in policy. We have a high proportion of the working population engaged in seasonal hospitality or social care; our health service on the Island suffers from years of inadequate investment. There is a very high proportion of our population living alone over the age of 65, one of the highest rates of people living with dementia, and one-third of all children on the Island living in poverty.

A perfect storm indeed.

The island's situation

“Generational gaps had never been so apparent, with those most vulnerable being ordered to stay at home and isolate from all, including their families.”

Healthwatch Isle of Wight, Covid-19 One Year On, June 2021

“Feeling lonely was the factor most strongly associated with reporting high anxiety – people who ‘often or always’ felt lonely were almost five times more likely to report high anxiety than those who ‘never’ feel lonely.”

Coronavirus and anxiety, Great Britain: 3 April 2020 to 10 May 2020, Office for National Statistics

The Isle of Wight is one of the places in southern England where employment recovery from Covid-19 is likely to be hardest.

Build Back Fairer: The Covid-19 Marmot Review, map p48. The Health Foundation; The Institute of Health Equity

58% of young people said it was true (23%) or sometimes true (35%) that they had felt terribly alone and isolated. 86% of respondents, who were engaged in education, felt that the outbreak of Covid-19 had made their education either much worse or a bit worse.

Isle of Wight Youth Trust Covid Survey 2.0, 2021

“Loneliness can have a hugely damaging impact on our mental and physical health. Chronic loneliness is hard to get out of and it will take time and support for people to recover and rebuild their social connections up again.”

Robin Hewings, Programme Director of the Campaign to End Loneliness

“Majority of UK adults (71%) think that loneliness is going to be a serious issue beyond Covid-19”

Campaign to End Loneliness, Loneliness beyond Covid-19, July 2021

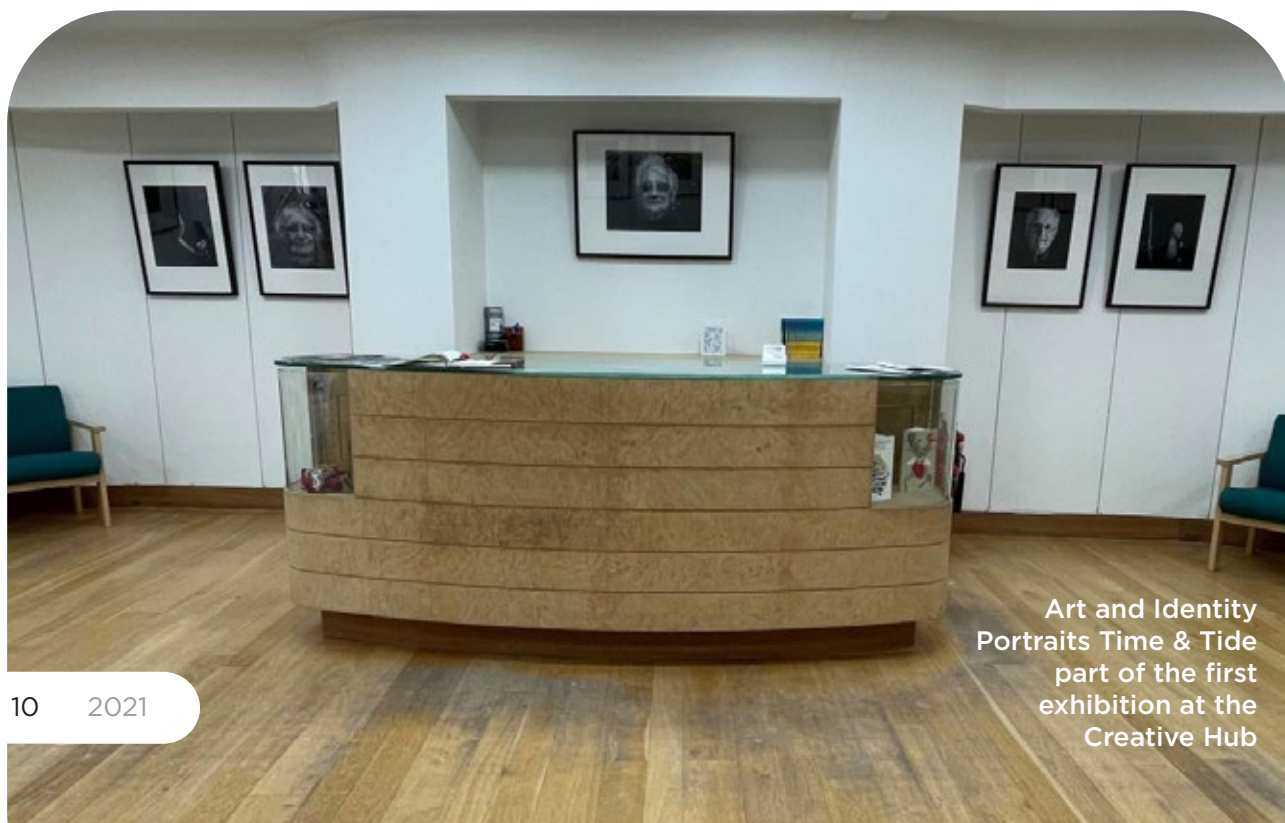
Our ambition

Independent Arts began the 2020/21 year with cautious optimism. We were cautious because we knew that in this environment it would be hard to plan for the year ahead with any certainty. At the same time, we were buoyed by the levels of support we had seen from our local community and funders and were confident that we were working well as a team to manage the changing circumstances in which we have found ourselves.

We set ourselves the following challenges:

1. **To Plan** for and respond to the easing of pandemic restrictions, so that when it's safe to resume face-to-face delivery of community and care home creative sessions, we are ready. Delivering this will mean taking into account new ways of working while social distancing measures are still in place, albeit, we hope, in a more flexible manner that allows us to restart work with more vulnerable and isolated people.
2. **To Start** or continue delivery of funded projects that have had to be halted during the pandemic. While many activities have been taking place remotely, we hope to be going back to more in-person activities in the community in 2020/21.
3. **To Diversify** Independent Arts' income. We received funding to develop an income diversification strategy in Jan-March 2020. As a result, the trustees have agreed to investments in community fundraising and to improve the visibility of our charity that will be initiated in 2020/21.
4. **To Establish** a long-term Creative Hub for the charity in Newport town centre to accommodate our offices, workshops, exhibitions and to provide a community arts space.

Independent Arts firmly believes that the arts should be a part of the recovery process as we emerge from a pandemic that has changed our community. We are committed to playing our part by working with partners and showcasing how the arts can create a more connected, healthy and thriving Island.



Art and Identity
Portraits Time & Tide
part of the first
exhibition at the
Creative Hub

A year at a glance

Q1: August, September, October 2020:

- Blended delivery with digital and socially distanced live workshops in the community and outdoor events at care homes, much one to one contact retained by telephone. More partnership working, more appreciation of digital inequality island wide. Care homes supported with creative boxes and garden gigs, keeping morale up.
- Digital interns from Keele University complete their work with us on digital communications and tackling health inequalities – helping us to see the need for our work among the very young as well as the elderly. 200 paid hours funded by Santander.
- Plans for new Creative Hub taking shape.
- Branching Out – a programme to support the frailest to gain confidence in venturing out, starts. Funded by IOW Council.



Creative Café, Pastels Still Life workshop

Q2: November, December 2020, January 2021:

- 513 participants supported in three months via workshops and activities.
- Work with schools virtually to complete the Lottery funded School Ties programme draws to a close.
- We start our first Crowd Funder campaign with Aviva, which is successful and greatly aids our creature comforts for the new Creative Hub.
- Works completed at 48/49 High Street, we open the doors cautiously to the public just before Christmas and we decide against an official launch for the time being. All necessary Covid health and safety measures in place.
- Mindfulness walks take off, postal packs continue to delight, welfare calls continue.
- New Christmas Shop online launches.
- Lockdown 3 starts 26/12.
- Staff wellbeing is a huge consideration; funder The Tudor Trust supports with a £2,000 wellbeing fund which is a huge boost to morale.
- Vision, values and communications strategy work undertaken to ensure we maximise the opportunity for greater visibility.
- The Arts Council awards us £30,000 to tackle loneliness among older people, so work on the Digging Deep programme commences Jan-June, reaching hundreds of people and expanding our impact significantly. Local history themed. (see page 22.)
- Staff continue to engage with a wide variety of community partners including NHS/CCG, social housing providers, foodbanks, Living Well team.

- 48 workshops per month Workshops for Wellbeing delivered to care homes using video featuring poetry readings.
- InTouch2 programme piloted over 12 weeks to connect care home residents with iPads to enable them to communicate with friends and family in a supported way.
- 240 creative packs delivered to schools.
- Pigeon Post delivers 186 messages between schools and care homes.
- 101 visits to children's online exhibition.
- Looking Out From Lockdown, funded by Daisy Rich Trust, launches with dozens of individuals of all ages uploading their lockdown art to the site.
- Veterans Outreach sessions attract regular participants via live Zoom workshops.

Q3: February, March, April 2021:

- Mindfulness walks and welfare calls continue in and around Newport.
- Small groups of direct delivery start – Creative Café, Anxiety Café, DanceMakers – some of them outdoors, all socially distanced.
- SingAbout and Singing for Breathing continue on Zoom.
- The Hub team work from our new 3-person office, whilst most staff continue to work from home.
- Small group work continues and a new programme for families starts, funded by the IOW council, called Picture Play, which creates magnificent artwork for our Creative Hub window.
- We are awarded a two-year grant by Historic England, for Renew Newport which includes chairing the cultural consortium to deliver a variety of exciting place-based arts activities.

Q4: May, June July 2021:

- 2,250 participants recorded across various programmes, face-to-face, in the final quarter of the year. 200 continue to participate remotely via creative packs, YouTube and Zoom. 515 residents in care homes enjoy Workshops for Wellbeing.
- All staff and volunteers trained in Covid-safe protocols in readiness for easing of lockdown restrictions.
- 70 Mile May, our first community fundraising challenge, sees supporters including trustees, walking the equivalent of the Isle of Wight coastal path during the month. £1,600 raised.
- New scale-up plan launched to the team based on scaling up Capacity, Capability, Communication and Creativity.
- Recruitment for extra hub coordinator, programme manager and arts officer to enable 6-day per week opening of our Creative Hub.
- Team begins planning for a new schools' art programme called Creative Biosphere of the Island to be delivered in 2021/22.
- Looking Out From Lockdown tours the island through the summer with a 30-piece show of artwork – starting in Ryde, moving onto Ventnor, Cowes, Freshwater and completing at our Creative Hub attended by Susie Sheldon Lord Lieutenant. Funded kindly by WightAid. (See page 20.)
- We hear that we've been successful in our NHS Mental Health bid, to deliver a new programme aimed at 13-30 year olds, Reconnect, to start delivery in October 2021.



70 Mile May, supporters walked all over the Isle of Wight for us

Why arts?

“The remedy for feelings of Isolation and loneliness that too many suffer can lie in the shared experiences that creativity and culture have always provided for our communities.”

Sir Nicholas Serota, Chair of Arts Council England 2021

“... the majority of respondents (82%) perceive their arts engagement to be linked with feelings of social connectedness at least some of the time.”

Arts engagement support social connectedness in adulthood: findings from the HEarts Survey. BMC Public Health (2021) Perkins, R., Mason-Bertrand, A. Tymoszek, U. et al

“The health sector needs to increase its trust in arts and health programmes. Trust comes from a solid, evidence-based theory of change, rigorous evaluation and proof of efficacy and cost-effectiveness.”

Arts Enterprise for Social Purpose

“Participants who attended a higher number of activities were more likely to report increased satisfaction with life.”

Impact of Creative & Cultural Activity during the pandemic on loneliness, isolation & wellbeing. Imogen Blood & Associates and Thinking Practice for Arts Council England, 2021.



Picture Play, painting workshop

“There is emerging evidence that social prescribing can lead to a range of positive health and wellbeing outcomes for people, such as improved quality of life and emotional wellbeing ... 59% of GPs think social prescribing can help reduce their workload.”

National Academy for Social Prescribing

“Art helps us access and express parts of ourselves that are often unavailable to other forms of human interaction. It flies below the radar, delivering nourishment for our soul and returning with stories from the unconscious. A world without art is an inhuman world. Making and consuming art lifts our spirits and keeps us sane. Art, like science and religion, helps us make meaning from our lives, and to make meaning is to make us feel better.”

Grayson Perry, Artist

Our achievements: Creating a Place

The Creative Hub

Support from the Tudor Trust has led to the most exciting development of all: our new Creative Hub. This is a wholly new venture, a new location (a few hundred yards along the High Street from our previous pop-up gallery) and offers bigger premises. It enables us to meet & greet, run workshops and is a fully functioning gallery.

We negotiated a very competitive lease for six years with a three-year break clause. The site had been a Monsoon/Accessorise fashion shop and had not been refurbished for 20 years. Trustees signed the lease in October 2020 and a procurement process took place to secure the services of a local firm, who turned changing rooms into office space, converted the toilet to disabled access, built a kitchen for refreshments, completely rewired and replaced 48 light fittings and painted throughout. We also started recruitment and were pleased to welcome Amy Normanton and Kerry Weston as job-share hub coordinators in November.

The works were completed in time for us to open our doors to the public mid-December, just before we were thrust back into lockdown – we reopened in April 2021 with socially distanced small group work. Since 19th July 2021, we gradually re-started all our face-to-face activities.

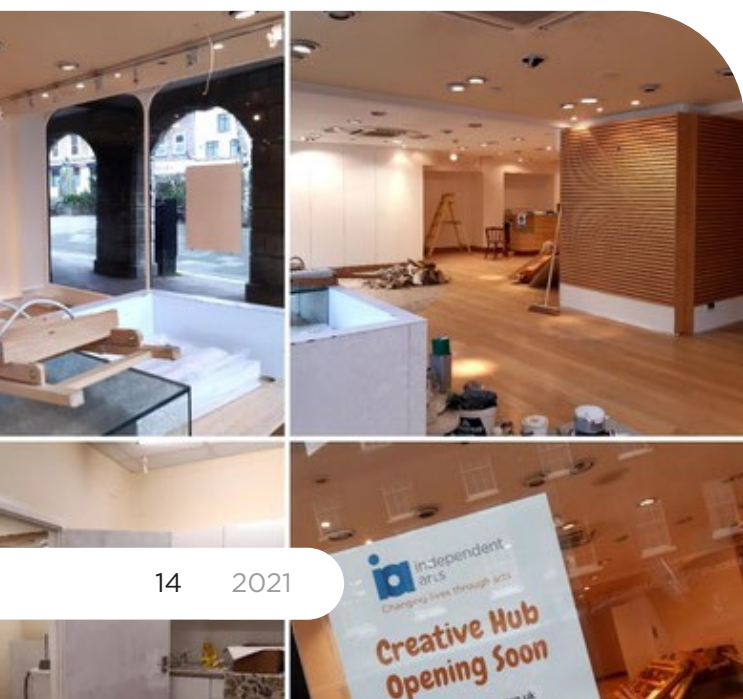
Impact

The Creative Hub, even when it was closed through lockdown, helped to raise the profile of Independent Arts. Our hub coordinators focused on social media communications and our social prescriber/community connector Elaine kept up conversations via Zoom.

We vacated our office at Suite 3, 30 Quay Street during lockdown and have relocated our office for hybrid working to the Creative Hub, which has also become our registered address.

There has been such a buzz in the community and the sector support organisations since we moved to the Creative Hub. Our relationships with the Age Friendly Isle partners have expanded and we have been asked to lead the Cultural Consortium for the High Street Heritage Action Zone for Newport, thanks to funding from Historic England. In June we were awarded our first contract from IOW NHS to deliver low level mental health support to young people (13-16yrs, 16-19yrs and 19-25yrs) at the Creative Hub and we have since been awarded a contract from Isle of Wight Council to deliver a violence reduction intervention aimed at teenagers outside of school hours.

Since 19th July, we have been able to offer a Covid-safe zone for community singing, Anxiety Café and Creative Café. We have been commissioned by Isle of Wight Council to deliver a new programme aimed at disadvantaged families called Picture Play, which has been delivered to home schooled young children and their families. Taking place on Saturday mornings, it provides a vibrant activity in clear view of the High Street and has created some colourful displays.



Left: Major refurbishment at the Creative Hub, late 2020

Right: Opening soon L-R Hannah Griffiths, Lisa Gagliani, Ralph Ridler



Looking Out From Lockdown celebration event. Photo by Julian Winslow

Case study – Participant L

Since the Creative Hub opened at the end of April it has become a place that people feel comfortable dropping into for creative activities but also for conversation and signposting. Participant L has been attending Creative Café sessions for seven years and was referred to our Community Connector service just before the first national lockdown as she needed help with compulsive hoarding. L was given support throughout lockdowns in the form of regular befriending calls and invitations to participate in our projects in a socially distanced way.

L is now much more active in the community. She attends weekly Creative Café sessions, SingAbout sessions and has been to several pop-up sessions we have run with outside creatives and local historians. She has built friendships with new participants and volunteers who have joined the projects post-lockdown.

Participant L

"I have been coming along to Independent Arts activities for a number of years and it was wonderful to watch the new Creative Hub coming to life during the last lockdown. I live alone and just seeing the team moving furniture or putting up shelves as I walked past on my way to the shop or on my daily walk was really inspiring and it helped me look forward to a time when we could meet again. I delivered some of the craft activities that I did during lockdown as part of Creative Café and was so proud to see them displayed in the window for everyone to see and stop and look at. I would stop and have a chat with the staff in the Hub when I passed. I felt really lucky to be given a sneak preview just before it opened! The Hub feels like my second home and I am able to come to more activities now everything is close by to me in the town centre."



Our achievements:

Programmes and participants

Before the pandemic, Independent Arts was running face to face community arts programmes, benefitting health, wellbeing and forging connections.

Thanks to the hard work of our team and practitioners, our community groups such as DanceMakers, Creative Café, SingAbout and Singing for Breathing moved online during the pandemic, via Zoom and our YouTube channel, with tech support for anyone struggling. This also meant we could continue to engage freelance arts practitioners, who created online content and led hundreds of workshops.

"The team from Independent Arts were great in lockdown, they rang me and offered to do my shopping and help with prescriptions and keep me safe."

– Tina at SingAbout

SingAbout

Our popular singing for wellbeing groups in several towns across the Isle of Wight attracted 480 registered participants, providing over 20 hours of free musical activities to older people every week, before Covid-19. During the pandemic, SingAbout migrated to Zoom with some success, but was reinstated in Newport, Lake, Ryde, East Cowes and Freshwater as soon as restrictions allowed. In the year to come we plan to reinstate further sessions where there is demand.

Singing for Breathing

Our Singing for Breathing group supports individuals with COPD, asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, lung cancer, cystic fibrosis and pneumonia. It has also proved helpful for people whose breathing has been affected by Covid-19. This was delivered via Zoom and continues to be offered part face-to-face from our Creative Hub and via Zoom for those who need to remain at home.

Anxiety Café

Our focus for all sessions was maintaining connections and conversation for 56 participants. We delivered a mix of weekly zoom, outdoor, and indoor face to face socially distanced sessions through the year.

DanceMakers

DanceMakers is a gentle, creative dance programme for the 65+ age group, suitable for all abilities, which can help to improve balance, coordination, muscle strength, memory and confidence. The sessions are led by experienced dance practitioners and supported by volunteers.

Prior to the pandemic, DanceMakers took place weekly at four towns across the Isle of Wight, providing 30 hours of participatory activities to 130 older people each month. It has been reinstated in Freshwater, Newport and Sandown as restrictions eased.

Creative Café

Creative Café is a weekly group in Newport, providing a range of arts activities led by experienced practitioners. The aim of Creative Café is to improve health and wellbeing via access to creative activities including iPads, digital photography, music, movement, sewing and textiles, and visual art and craft.



DanceSense

DanceSense is our specialist dance programme for people with neurological conditions. We work closely with the NHS's Neurological Department and our specialist practitioner is trained by Dance for Parkinson's. Partial three-year funding was secured from a private trust with a particular interest in this area.

DanceSense caters for twenty adults per week, providing them with free weekly dance sessions, led by an experienced practitioner and supported by trained volunteers. Participants may self-refer or be referred through the hospital's neurological staff or via GPs.



Top left: Various activities, something for everyone

Top right: 8 Miles, Art Ecology field workshop. Photo by Julian Winslow

Bottom: Singing For Breathing. Photo by Julian Winslow

Our achievements:

Family learning - Picture Play

Picture Play

This is an exciting new programme created to appeal to families and delivered in our new Creative Hub on Saturday mornings. Launched in May 2021, it was initially funded via an Early Years grant from Isle of Wight Council.

The aim was to work with 'families in need' to engage younger and older children with a carefully thought-out arts curriculum sustained over 12 weeks; to include talks by local experts, storytelling, working digitally with iPads for older children and a chance to try many arts techniques and basically have fun getting messy!

By working together as a group, the families and their arts practitioners achieved some remarkable visual effects, which in turn were finessed and presented professionally to display in our windows at the Creative Hub. We have been thrilled at the public response to these stunning works.

The first 12-week cohort discovered and were inspired by artists including

- Henri Rousseau, the 19th Century French painter who created beautiful images of exotic jungles and jungle creatures. Rousseau never travelled out of France himself and was completely self-taught.
- African American artists Ted Ellis and Faith Ringgold - quilt making.
- Sculptural investigation inspired by the The Musicians of Bremen.



Top right: Picture Play, puppet making

Top left: Picture Play, jungle diorama

Bottom: Picture Play, window display inspired by learning about artist Henri Rousseau



What we learnt from working with families

- We can improve how we design tasks so that they are wholly inclusive for all age groups and abilities.
- We can better arrange our group to encourage and enable verbal participation and contribution.
- We can build on offering more skills that parents can use outside of the project too.

Surprises

- We were surprised by the group's willingness to continue with and finish activities at home.
- We were surprised by the children's ingenuity (inventing their own folds and designs for Origami creatures).
- We were surprised by parents setting up visits and activities outside the project for their children (dinosaur beach walk and a second visit from conservationist Tracy Dove) meeting a key funder outcome for self-determination and co-production.

Observed impact within the group

- Early gains in confidence and participation for both parents and children, these are hard won for both. The group size being small and intimate has helped enable this, but so too the willingness of the group to explore the range of (frequently new to them) creative mediums they have taken home to experiment and have fun with.
- Early signs of self-determination for this group – organising activities beyond the project and stemming from learning and activity within the project.
- Occasional sibling conflicts are being gently diffused, encouraging collaboration and working together.



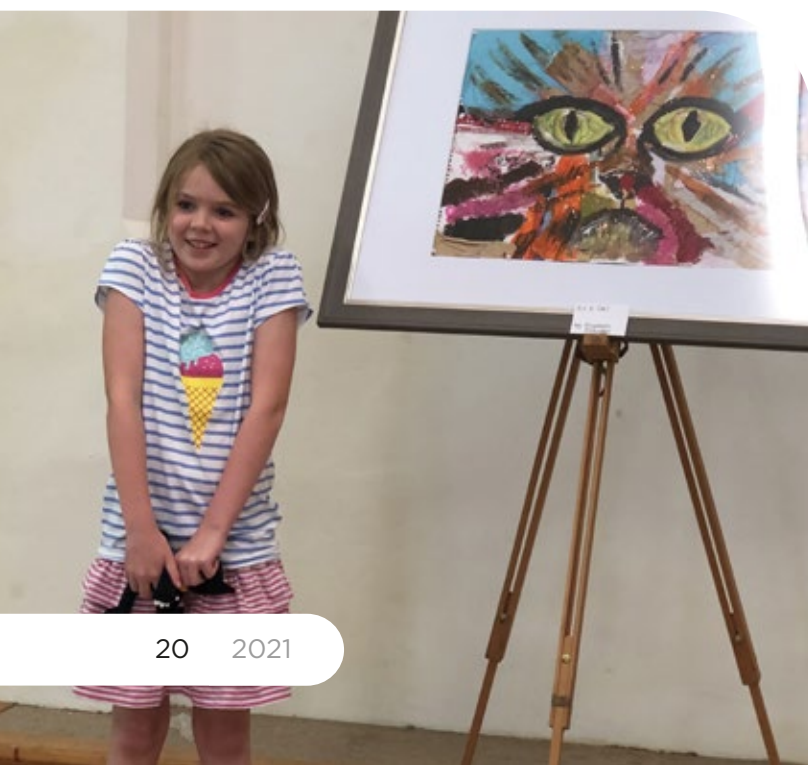
Our achievements: Looking Out From Lockdown

Early in 2021 we were introduced to HM Lord-Lieutenant Susie Sheldon JP, who had convened a group to discuss how arts might help people on the Isle of Wight, plunged from Tier 1 pre-Christmas to total lockdown again at the start of January. During 2020, at the start of the pandemic, we had created an online gallery called the Festival of Islesolation, as a pivoted grant funded programme, thanks to the Arts Council. The group's idea was to create a portal for island residents to upload their many and varied creative 'projects', which could form a collective memento of the resilience of the people and provide inspiration to all. It was not a huge leap therefore, for Independent Arts to create additional space on the site for a new online community gallery, which we called Looking Out from Lockdown.

Thanks to funding support from the Daisy Rich Trust, to pay for the necessary technical development, the project was able to start within a month, and soon hundreds of submissions were pouring into the site. Everything from gardening, to baking, pottery, photography and of course, painting and even poetry – and some amazing videos – were uploaded as the site took off.

Young and old alike sent entries in, and soon the Looking Out from Lockdown project was greatly admired. The emerging challenge as vaccines were rolled out was to create opportunities to venture out. We did this by asking the original group led by Susie Sheldon, to pick some of their favourites from all the various categories, that they'd most like to see 'live'. Then, thanks to special funding support from WightAid, a touring live show of 30 artworks was curated, and carefully chosen partner venues agreed to host the exhibition through June/July, culminating in a grand finale at our Creative Hub in Newport in September. All chosen artists and their families were invited and presented with certificates of achievement.

The tour venues were Monkton Arts in Ryde, The Baptist Church in Ventnor as part of Ventnor Fringe, Freshwater Coffee House, Medina Publishing in Cowes and the Creative Hub in Newport.



20 2021



HM Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight
Susie Sheldon presents certificates of
achievement to participating artists

Photos: Looking Out From Lockdown, touring exhibition (various sites)



Our achievements: Keeping people connected

Living independently/Tackling loneliness

As the country emerged from the first lockdown, the Isle of Wight Council awarded funding towards a project we created called [Branching Out](#), which whilst short-lived (due to November and January lockdowns) did enable some much-needed contact with participants, who through telephone calls, had been identified as especially anxious about re-emerging into any kind of social activity because of the risks of Covid. We planned for these to be small groups, delivered out of doors with gentle exercise and creative themes around nature. We were grateful for the use of the Riverside Centre for the delivery of this project, until it was commandeered as the Covid Vaccine Centre in Newport.

By then, the Arts Council England had asked us if we would like to design a programme aimed at tackling loneliness, so we considered the needs of the Branching Out participants and developed another new programme called [Digging Deep](#), a social history themed postal pack and magazine style project, which built on ideas formed through a 2018 Arts Council funded programme called [Time & Tide](#).

We used arts and culture to connect people to their community and local heritage and culture. We opted to run three areas of activity for Digging Deep: Creative Chronicles, The Heritage Packs and The Local History Boxes.

Creative Chronicle

A three-edition magazine featuring articles on local heritage, ideas for creative activities to do at home, local history walks, puzzles and games and art history. These kinds of articles had proved popular in previous projects, and we felt it was a wide platform to appeal to the broad number of beneficiaries. Readers were encouraged to get involved by submitting articles, suggestions and images for future editions.

- 200 physical copies of each magazine were produced and distributed by hand or by post.
- We sent 120 hard copies to existing participants of Independent Arts projects who we'd had limited connection with during lockdown.
- 50 hard copies were sent out to new participants who we reached through social media, drop-in sessions in our Creative Hub and via local supper services such as Age UK IW.
- 30 hard copies were distributed with the Heritage Packs.
- 118 copies were sent digitally, including by email, website download, spoken word copy QR code (through Sight for Wight) and via our social media.

The Creative Chronicle proved popular with participants – passing copies on to friends and neighbours – and those delivered digitally were then forwarded to friends and social groups. Participants noted that passing copies on not only gave people a chance to interact with others again, but gave a chance to talk about articles and take part in activities together.

Digging Deep, Creative Chronicle cover



“I feel the word ‘thank you’ just doesn’t express my gratitude enough. Not only have you given so much to me, but you were also there if I needed someone, and you supported me. The future looks brighter and a lot more fun.”

– Saffron



DanceMakers, outdoor workshop socially distanced



Digging Deep, heritage packs

The Heritage Packs

These were delivered to residents of local supported accommodation schemes and participants that we had been made aware of during lockdown, who had been particularly affected by long term isolation. The boxes covered areas of Anglo-Saxon history on the Isle of Wight. Working with local artist Trudie Wilson, Isle of Wight Council’s museums and heritage team and our in-house programmes team, three boxes were produced. Each box contained a DVD with educational content and accompanying booklet, with suggested art projects based on the topics and some basic art materials. A project support assistant then followed up with a phone call to each participant to help them create their piece, chat through the history or offer other support to interact with the project.



Staff team picture L-R Kerry Tindall, Joanne Rigby, Hannah Griffiths, Elaine Sheldrake, Nicola Ward



The Local History Boxes

These were designed to be delivered to residents of East Cowes, Cowes and Ryde. Like the Heritage Boxes, each delivery included a booklet of local stories which had been developed by our programmes team, local heritage centres, IW Library service and a local artist and historian Jess Ong. The Local History box gave people a taster of some of the lesser-known history of the area they lived in and encouraged them to discover more and then create an artistic response. Nine boxes were distributed, and the findings will be displayed on the online platform 'The Earth Museum' as well as in Newport Library.

Scheme managers were reporting that levels of loneliness and isolation were high, with residents citing a loss in confidence causing their worlds to shrink. People who were once fit and active had seen a decline in physical health due to lockdown, as they were no longer getting out and about. This led to a loss of independence, increased reliance on others and decline in mental health too. We continue to work on reengaging these people with our projects – both Digging Deep and other projects in the area – to help rebuild lost strength and confidence.

Digging Deep also brought our team back together and after a year of working remotely, we have been able to bring in additional freelance team members to deliver the work. This helped us look to the future and begin to move towards an emergence from lockdown.

Longer term impact

It was reported by scheme managers that those involved in the Heritage Packs and Local History Boxes have been going out more and interacting more than other residents. We hope this means that these individuals will build improved confidence and wellbeing more quickly than some of their peers.

We also know that some readers of the Chronicle planned day trips to visit some of the sites mentioned in articles. Chronicle readers have also become more likely to book back into face-to-face workshops once they were available.

We were able to reengage with several residents who we had worked with on Time & Tide. It was great to see that they continued to work on creative projects with the community.

One of the sheltered accommodation schemes we worked with had only recently opened. The scheme has brought people from across the Island to new homes. The scheme manager reported that the activities had helped people find their feet in a new town and helped them make new friends and connect with their new neighbours. We hope this will help build long term connections.

Who we are

We employ a small core team of ten staff (two full-time; eight part-time).

Arts practitioners are engaged on a freelance basis to deliver our wide range of Workshops for Wellbeing in care homes, and to deliver our community projects. During the pandemic we have engaged practitioners to deliver a wide range of online arts sessions while face-to-face sessions have been halted.

The strategic development of the organisation is led by the directors, under the guidance of the Chief Executive, Lisa Gagliani MBE. The Chief Executive also provides the necessary advice and information to ensure the board can fulfil its governance responsibilities.

The Chief Executive has overall responsibility for the financial wellbeing of the charity and presents management and financial reports at quarterly meetings of the directors, which are minuted.

10 highly committed staff

37 arts practitioners delivering programmes throughout the Isle of Wight:

Independent Arts works with talented freelance creative practitioners who are all specialists in their respective fields. All our practitioners are DBS checked and covered by Independent Arts' insurance, and are trained to work with a range of clients, including those in care homes.

2 Inspiring Patrons:

Edana Minghella
Carol Martys

20+ trusts, foundations and other donors supporting our work, including:

Aviva
Andrew Preskey
Arts Council England
Co-op Foundation
Daisie Rich Trust
English Heritage
Garfield Weston Foundation
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation
Isle of Wight Council
Julia & Hans Rausing Trust
National Foundation for Youth Music
Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council
South West Rail Community Fund
The Asda Foundation
The Derrill Allatt Foundation
The Henry Smith Charity
The Lottery Community Fund
The People's Health Trust
The Tudor Trust
The Wight Proms
WightAid

We thank them for their support.

31 versatile volunteers

10 trustees

See page 2



Directors are aware of the risks involved in the charity's work with vulnerable people. We hold the following policies which are reviewed annually or in line with national legislative changes, including:

- Data Protection & GDPR
- Disciplinary Procedure
- Disclosure and Barring
- Equal Opportunities
- Financial Procedures
- Grievance Procedure
- Health and Safety
- Risk Assessment
- Safeguarding Children
- Staff and Office Handbook
- Volunteering
- Vulnerable Adult Protection
- Dementia Friends: all volunteers and practitioners are encouraged to attend our in-house workshops, given the high number of people with dementia on the island.

Safeguarding

We have a strong commitment to safeguarding our clients and all those engaged in our work.

Our chief executive Lisa Gagliani acts as designated safeguarding lead and Jacquie Heany is our lead trustee for safeguarding.

We have a Safeguarding Policy and Procedure which is reviewed each year. All staff are safeguarding trained, all staff, practitioners and volunteers are DBS checked. No safeguarding incidents were reporting in the 20/21 reporting year.

We are members of...

- The Mindful Employers Scheme
- The National Alliance of Musicians in Healthcare and NAPA
- NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations)

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st July 2021

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st July 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and Activities

Independent Arts is an Isle of Wight charity, established in 1987, using the arts to improve wellbeing, quality of life and to reduce social isolation. We believe that art is for all stages of life, and we deliver vital services across all ages, mindful of the range of needs:

- Often older people on the Isle of Wight are amongst the most vulnerable, including those in care homes and those on the fringes of social care.
- One third of children on the Island live in poverty.
- Mental health services are stretched, which can affect people of any age.
- Arts and wellbeing are interlinked, and we focus on bringing arts to those who might not otherwise be able to benefit from them.

To further the Charity's purposes for the public benefit, we carried out the following activities:

- We engaged highly skilled and trained arts practitioners to provide a wide range of creative activities aimed at improving wellbeing and reducing loneliness among the elderly, especially those living in care homes.
- We delivered creative boxes and digital activities through schools and other community centres for use by children and young people, including young carers and those most disadvantaged through growing up in poverty.
- We recognised the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the mental health of our island community, adapting our services to suit the interests of a wider range of people of all ages to include digital content such as videos, conference calls and participation in online arts projects.
- We worked in collaboration with community partners to make arts for wellbeing activities fully accessible to all.

Public Benefit

The trustees have read the Commission's Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance and have had regard to this when running the charity.

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st July 2021

Achievements and Performance

Charitable Activities

The main achievements of the Independent Arts in the year were:

- Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic we provided an online art gallery, which showcased visual arts, commissioned artists and engaged 171 community artists.
- We later introduced a system for anyone on the Isle of Wight to openly submit any creative project they felt proud of, as part of a Looking Out from Lockdown initiative. This wide-ranging project subsequently toured around the island, enabling hundreds of people to appreciate their achievements.
- We created, produced and delivered hundreds of creative boxes with adventurous activities including all the source materials, to be enjoyed by hundreds of children and older people through schools and care homes.
- We commissioned hundreds of YouTube videos by our talented pool of arts practitioners, to be enjoyed by residents of all ages.
- We ran weekly Zoom workshops for singing, dancing and mindfulness to replace our island wide community-based workshops.
- We secured a tenancy for a high street property, in need of much repair and refurbishment, which was ready to provide an office, workshop and gallery by December 2020.
- We managed a highly dedicated staff team ensuring a focus on wellbeing; we recruited extra staff to fulfil our project activities and we maintained opportunities for artists and retained most of our volunteers.

Financial Review

Financial Position

A review of the charity's financial position at the end of the year: In the financial year ended 31 July 2021, the Charity had an income of £376,927 (2020: £238,406) and an expenditure of £300,139 (2020: £238,124), giving rise to a surplus of £76,788 (2020: -£282).

There are no funds held by the charity that are materially in deficit.

Reserves Policy

Trustees have, during this year, set up a comprehensive risk register which considers the risks and mitigating actions that presented due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the increase in liabilities resulting from acquiring a commercial tenancy and recruiting additional staff.

The trustees have carefully considered and adjusted the Reserves Policy necessary to accommodate these alongside the growing need for the charity's activities.

Going Concern

Trustees have considered the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic since March 2020 has had on the charity's finances.

The most considerable impact has been on our Workshops for Wellbeing income which is our charitable activity delivered in care home settings. For the year to July 2021, we were well prepared for this loss of income and worked with funding partners to ensure critical work could take place remotely and be funded accordingly. Activities included the provision of 'creative boxes' to care home activity coordinators and residents.

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st July 2021

The charity was also provided with grant support from the Isle of Wight Council, which helped the charity significantly. This was in part as a result of the newly leased premises on Newport High Street having to close during the lockdown and being able to access support as part of the Local Restrictions Support Grant scheme. Independent Arts was also fortunate to receive further support from the Additional Restrictions Grant.

Whilst some of our planned charitable projects had to be cancelled or postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions, the vulnerability of our participants and to protect our staff, practitioners and volunteers, no grants were returned to funders because of Covid-19 prevented delivery. Trustees are grateful to funders and staff who worked creatively to reimagine services, to offer blended delivery methods, and who allowed the charity to direct funds towards the most urgent needs of our charity and the community.

In Autumn 2020, all eligible staff were consulted on flexi furlough arrangements and one member of staff was furloughed through much of the year. As a result, the charity was enabled to access appropriate support when needed to cover all staff costs.

During the whole pandemic, trustees reverted to online meetings at increased frequency, monthly instead of quarterly, to provide agile decision making and support to the executive team.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. By the Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 7 July 1987 directors are required to be Guarantor Members of the company and are appointed, or if previously co-opted, are confirmed at annual general meetings.

Directors (who are also the charity's trustees) are recruited by personal contact, advertisement or after their approaching the company. Their role is voluntary and unpaid. New directors are introduced to the company at directors' meetings with previous documentary information having been provided. They have skills that are relevant to the charity's work. To prepare them for their role, they receive a trustee information pack and are directed to resources from the Charity Commission about what is involved in being a charity trustee. In 2020 a skills audit resulted in the recruitment of two new trustees. A bespoke induction programme was prepared to introduce them to the charity.

During the summer of 2021, all trustees had individual appraisals with the chair of trustees and from this it was agreed that some additional skills would be beneficial. Recruitment of some additional trustees is in place at the time of writing this report, with the expectation that this will be completed by January 2022.

Future plans

As restrictions began to ease from May 2021 onwards, the charity considered how it could expand its delivery and maximise the benefit of having a high street presence in the county town of Newport.

We also want to build on the strong connections established with a wide range of partners during the pandemic and to set ourselves a mission to be the go-to arts-for-wellbeing Island charity post pandemic, with an emphasis on mental health for all ages.

We want to play a big part in the cultural education of the next generation of Islanders, having enjoyed our incredible work on the School Ties project (Lottery funded) and Picture Play (Isle of Wight Council funded).

A Growth Plan was developed based on four main components:

Capacity

to increase necessary resources, both staff and volunteers, and to ensure we have the right number and calibre of arts practitioners to meet the requirements of more diverse participants of all ages across the Island.

Capability

to invest in skills development in areas including digital marketing, branding, impact monitoring and storytelling.

Communication

to work on our purpose and impact messaging, to develop consistent communications both in narrative style, tone and design. To ensure we communicate about our charity's impact broadly, in addition to communicating to our community to advertise our services. To find new ways of working, remotely and on site, to improve team communication skills.

Creativity

To be agile and innovative, keeping engaged with the Island-wide needs and opportunities; to continue to work collaboratively and in partnership with other arts, heritage, cultural and biosphere organisations through The Island Collection and other forums.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 27th January 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



W R Varley - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Independent Arts ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st July 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of Senior Statutory Auditor which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.



Elizabeth Dack FCA FCCA
Senior Statutory Auditor
Harrison Black Limited
Pyle House
136/137 Pyle Street
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1JW

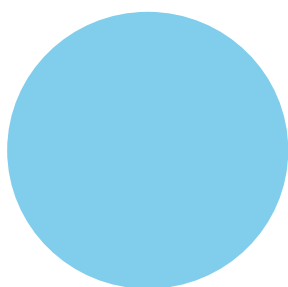
27th January 2022

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31st July 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Income and Endowments					
From Donations and legacies		85,999	290,924	376,923	238,303
Investment income	2	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>103</u>
Total		86,003	290,924	376,927	238,406
Expenditure on Charitable Activities					
Charitable Activity		<u>36,697</u>	<u>263,442</u>	<u>300,139</u>	<u>238,124</u>
Net Income		49,306	27,482	76,788	282
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>90,967</u>	<u>149,937</u>	<u>240,904</u>	<u>240,622</u>
Total Funds Carried Forward		<u>140,273</u>	<u>177,419</u>	<u>317,692</u>	<u>240,904</u>

Balance Sheet 31st July 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	7	1,502	14	1,516	1,894
Current Assets					
Stocks	8	350	-	350	350
Debtors	9	5,154	-	5,154	24,722
Cash at bank and in hand		151,021	241,277	392,298	368,698
		156,525	241,277	397,802	393,770
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(17,754)	(63,872)	(81,626)	(154,760)
Net Current Assets		138,771	177,405	316,176	239,010
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		140,273	177,419	317,692	240,904
Net Assets		140,273	177,419	317,692	240,904
Funds	11				
Unrestricted funds				140,273	90,967
Restricted funds				<u>177,419</u>	<u>149,937</u>
Total Funds				<u>317,692</u>	<u>240,904</u>



Balance Sheet 31st July 2021

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st July 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st July 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 27th January 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:



W R Varley - Trustee

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st July 2021**1. Accounting Policies****Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. Investment Income

	2021	2020
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>4</u>	<u>103</u>

3. Net Income/(Expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021	2020
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>378</u>	<u>474</u>

4. Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st July 2021 nor for the year ended 31st July 2020.

Trustees' Expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st July 2021 nor for the year ended 31st July 2020.

5. Staff Costs

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
Chief Executive	1	1
Managers	2	2
Other Staff	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000 in either 2021 or 2020.

6. Comparatives For The Statement Of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
Income and Endowments From			
Donations and legacies	56,109	182,194	238,303
Investment income	<u>103</u>	-	<u>103</u>
Total	56,212	182,194	238,406
 Expenditure On Charitable Activities			
Charitable Activity	<u>64,097</u>	<u>174,027</u>	<u>238,124</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(7,885)	8,167	282
 Reconciliation Of Funds			
Total funds brought forward	<u>98,852</u>	<u>141,770</u>	<u>240,622</u>
 Total Funds Carried Forward	<u>90,967</u>	<u>149,937</u>	<u>240,904</u>

7. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Plant and machinery £
Cost	
At 1st August 2020 and 31st July 2021	<u>19,066</u>
Depreciation	
At 1st August 2020	<u>17,172</u>
Charge for year	<u>378</u>
At 31st July 2021	<u>17,550</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31st July 2021	<u>1,516</u>
At 31st July 2020	<u>1,894</u>

8. Stocks

	2021 £	2020 £
Stocks	<u>350</u>	<u>350</u>

9. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	1,050	21,129
Prepayments	<u>4,104</u>	<u>3,593</u>
	<u>5,154</u>	<u>24,722</u>

10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	13,915	943
Social security and other taxes	2,785	1,542
Accruals and deferred income	<u>64,926</u>	<u>152,275</u>
	<u>81,626</u>	<u>154,760</u>

11. Movement in Funds

	At 1.8.20	Net Movement In funds	At 31.7.21
	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds			
General fund	90,967	49,306	140,273
Restricted	<u>149,937</u>	<u>27,482</u>	<u>177,419</u>
Restricted funds			
Total Funds	<u>240,904</u>	<u>76,788</u>	<u>317,692</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	86,003	(36,697)	49,306
Restricted funds			
Restricted	290,924	(263,442)	27,482
Total Funds	<u>376,927</u>	<u>(300,139)</u>	<u>76,788</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.8.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.7.20 £
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	98,852	(7,885)	90,967
Restricted Funds			
Restricted	<u>141,770</u>	<u>8,167</u>	<u>149,937</u>
Total Funds	<u>240,622</u>	<u>282</u>	<u>240,904</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	56,212	(64,097)	(7,885)
Restricted Funds			
Restricted	<u>182,194</u>	<u>(174,027)</u>	<u>8,167</u>
Total Funds	<u>238,406</u>	<u>(238,124)</u>	<u>282</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.8.19 £	Net Movement £	At 31.7.21 £
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	98,852	41,421	140,273
Restricted Funds			
Restricted	<u>141,770</u>	<u>35,649</u>	<u>177,419</u>
Total Funds	<u>240,622</u>	<u>77,070</u>	<u>317,692</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	142,215	(100,794)	41,421
Restricted Funds			
Restricted	<u>473,118</u>	<u>(437,469)</u>	<u>35,649</u>
Total Funds	<u>615,333</u>	<u>(538,263)</u>	<u>77,070</u>

12. Related Party Disclosures

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st July 2021.

13. Nature and Purpose of Funds

During the course of the year the charity acquired a six-year tenancy on 48 High Street, Newport which was refurbished with the generous grants from a few funders. To maximise the potential increase in charitable activity at the new premises, the charity appointed additional staff on fixed term contracts to expand to six-day operations and resolved to plan for an early surrender of the office premises at 30 Quay Street which has four years remaining on its tenancy. Meanwhile, the office vacated during lockdown, has not been used by staff themselves, but is used for storage purposes.

The Reserves Policy was reviewed and in the light of the increased liabilities, the Continuity Fund was increased to £29,373 (2020: £25,082) and the Winding Up Fund was increased to £92,122 (2020: £26,003). We also held £10,000 designated as an Impact Fund – this is to enable the charity to design and deliver projects that meet local demand and other innovations, prior to requesting and receiving grant funds. This can also be used at the board's discretion to continue funding projects deemed successful in their outcomes, when their external funding ends prior to further funding, to avoid stop gaps in delivery.

Given the uncertainties of income ahead due the pandemic, trustees decided to close the two separate reserves accounts and to open a Flagstone account in August 2021 into which £65,000 was transferred into 4 separate savings accounts for six to eighteen months. The remainder of the reserves is held in the main CAF bank account to accommodate short term fluctuations in income if needed.

14. Post Balance Sheet Events

With the charity's year end on 31st July 2021, the charity was able to see the lifting of some Covid-19 restrictions.

Trustees requested and were provided with organisational plans which included testing, social distancing and cleaning protocols planned to ensure the safety and well-being of staff, volunteers and participants in all delivery settings. Activities included:

Paid-for twice weekly cleaning has been implemented which will have an impact on overhead costs.

All staff have been provided with their own laptops rather than sharing keyboards and screens when hot desking.

Staff continue to work from home whenever possible, with a small core staff of three usually present at our Creative Hub, which has become our operational headquarters.

As more social interaction becomes possible and indeed sought after, trustees and leadership are focussed on:

- Increasing investment in staff training to improve capacity and capability and a renewed focus on marketing to a range of audiences, to ensure the charity improve its position in the current year.
- A plan to re-start activities in care homes, which can support more self-generated charitable income from workshops.
- Ensuring the Creative Hub on Newport High Street is central to our growth plans. Being in a prominent high street position; this has had three major impacts:
- Increase to six-day a week operational delivery - this has meant an increase of staff to manage the services Monday through Saturday. Additional part time staff were recruited in September 2021.
- An increase in partnership working with grant-funded projects to deliver as part of the Heritage High Street Action Zone for Newport and the Creative Biosphere Island-wide.
- Deferred income amounting to almost £64,000 for delivery Autumn/Winter 2021 received, most notably new services aimed at improving mental wellbeing among young people, funded by the NHS.

A Poem for Lockdown

by Ben Murray-Holmes

(submitted as part of Looking Out from Lockdown)

To (future) Covid-19

I'm sorry things didn't work out between us. We had a good run but a relationship shouldn't be built on fear and there were days in which you made me fear for my life. It wasn't healthy for me, so I had to let you go.

I did everything all my friends told me to do. I avoided contact with you, put a mask on so you wouldn't recognise me in the streets. I washed my hands so much 'cause you made me feel SO dirty.

But I got help. Saw a Doctor and got something to help me get over you. It wasn't easy but I was patient and now I can get back to my life. I know it's silly, writing to you after you've gone. You're still out there somewhere and that sends a shiver down my spine sometimes I feel better with the knowledge I now know. I don't need to be afraid anymore. I can fight you, if you ever return, I will.

It's been months now since my parents last said your name. It's so good to see them again and now, when I see my friends, I am able to touch and hug them, I won't stop.

Once day, when I pass an old sign with a 2 metre sticker worn away on it, I'll think of you but believe me, when that happens, I'll be free again. I'll be ME again.

Yours

presently

but not for long!

**Our impact was achieved this year,
thanks to the talents of the following people:**

Amy Normanton
Andrew Butcher
Angelina Grimshaw
Caroline Thorn
Dave Godby
David Healy
Davina Smith
Em Johnson
Fani Bahchevanska
Glenn Koppany
Janice Thorn
Jason Watts
JC Grimshaw
Jess Ong
John Shirley
Julian Winslow
Kathy Grimshaw
Lauren Fry
Mandy Bangerter
Mark Lloyd
Mary Eynon
Michelle Hainsworth
Polly Zanardi
Sandy Kealty
Sara Barfoot
Sol Grimshaw
Steve French
Steve Parker
Tilly Grimshaw
Tony Nicol

Trudie Wilson
Verity Bird
Vicky Wilson
Zarah Groves
Hannah Griffiths
Kerry Tindall
Nick Ward
Joanne Rigby
Kerry Weston
Ralph Ridler
Lisa Gagliani
Vicky Scovell
Sue Clark
Paul Flynn
Wendy Varley
Jodie Jones
Ben Rouse
David McMullen
Brian Marriott
Geoff Ruck
David Lindsay
Kathleen Boyland
Brenda Butt
Sally Hyde
Juliet Ketteridge
Kay Russell
Ann Simpson
Maire Jervis
Anne Osborn
Annie O'Bree

Sue Goodall
Susan Wedderkop
Helen Beavis
Linda Brewer
Norma Pearce
Josephine Cox
David Smith
Dawn Tearle
Mark Cowdrey
Luiza Vaughan
Brenda Sampson
Marie Delise Holmberg
Sharon Warren
Sharon Tate
Harriet Massey
Richard Ensor
Elle Shelton
Kieran Thompson
Lisa Anthony
Jean Cotton
Diane Bertie
Emma Ridett
Ann Thompson
Heather Meddemmen
Sallie Ryan
Jasmine Taylor
Marnie Janaway
Kate Ball





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