



Annual Report 2022-23

www.wyldwoodarts.co.uk

April-June 22

In spring 2022 we phased out our remote working projects with the final issue of our pandemic response magazine The Meeting Post and began to really connect again in person with 2 new projects, a 3 year National Lottery Community Fund 'Reaching Communities' Project and a shorter term project 'The Meeting Place' offering taster arts sessions as a gentle way to re-engage with society post-restrictions.



The Meeting Place showcase, photos by Camilla Adams

July-Sept 22

Our National Lottery Community Fund 'Reaching Communities' work began in earnest with a pop-up community consultation and light touch arts & crafts activities at multiple summer events. [Read the Community Consultation report here](#)

Our first hands on Reaching Communities project took place with 'Cinderford Grows' a volunteer gardening group helping them to secure and clear an orchard site.



Orchard site preparation with Cinderford Grows, photos by Camilla Adams

A previously unspent Arts Council grant that we had been unable to fulfil during the pandemic restrictions was completed with a sharing of a scratch performance of *The Farmer & The Clown*, adapted from a wordless picture book of the same title by American author Marla Frazee. The performance was shared at Clearwell School, Lydbrook Memorial Hall and in St Briavels with a newly formed Ukrainian community of refugees.



The Farmer & The Clown performance at St. Briavels Assembly Rooms, photos by Camilla Adams.

We delivered 12 Creative Wellbeing sessions with carers and their families at Birds Pottery with funding from the Gloucestershire Carers Legacy and secured funding from Gloucestershire County Council to create *The Meeting Post Online*-a web based version of our magazine for care homes.



Creative Wellbeing sessions at Birds Pottery, photos by Kate Fellows

July-Sept 22

We kicked off the autumn with a return to our intergenerational roots, piloting a Forest School inspired project with Sydenham House care home and Blakeney primary School. The children and residents got to know each other in the outdoor with Forest School style exercises, crafts and conversations starters.



Intergenerational Forest School , photos by Camilla Adams

We connected with CANDI Youth space to deliver drama sessions for young people in Cinderford and hosted a cross sector consultation evening for our colleagues from a range of VCS organisations serving the local area.

The first weekend of December saw us working with Cinderford Grows to plant new fruit trees secured through a council grant at their orchard site. We have lots of plans in progress to continue working with the group and use the site as a community venue for future arts & culture projects.

Later in December we received news of a successful application to Arts Council England to widen access to Arts & Culture in the Forest of Dean through a Community Ensemble project and support for our new What's On website.



Tree planting with Cinderford Grows, photo by Sally Reader

Jan-March 23

In the final quarter of the year we continued our work with CANDI youth space, helped 'Eye Know Productions' community theatre group create props and set for their show 'Know a Thing or 7' from recycled materials, and supported 2 Warm Space initiatives with a Pudding Club at Sheppard House in Newent and a Coffee & Cake morning in Ruardean.

Behind the scenes we were busy building and launching a new What's On website for the Forest of Dean www.whatsonfod.co.uk, building and launching the Meeting Post Online website, developing our Community Ensemble project and working together as a team to refine our Mission, Vision & Values.



Audiences & Reach

In 2022/23 we worked with approximately 2500 across the Forest of Dean aged from 6 months -98 years.

Wyldwood had 4 core staff working an equivalent of 1.8 full time roles and a pool of 10 brilliant facilitators, associate producers and workshop assistants working alongside us to deliver our diverse range of projects.

Our community partnerships that are the key to the success of much of our work continued to grow and develop.

Finances & Forecast

2021/22. (An extraordinary financial year of 15 months as we extended it to align with the tax year.)

Income £158,467

Expenditure £137,745

Reserves £30,830

Cash @ Bank 31/3/22 £57,703.87

2022/23

Income £90,056

Expenditure £99,550 (inc £9494 from 21/22 reserves)

Reserves £21,336

cash @ bank 31/3/23 £88,072.99

2023/24 (predicted)

Income £162,771

Expenditure £157,730

Reserves £22,585 (predicted @ 31/3/24)

2023/24

In 2023/24 we'll launch the 'Community Ensemble' working with multiple groups, organisations and individuals across the Forest of Dean exploring the idea of 'Home' and support the Coleford Festival of Words in April 24.

Funding from The Barnwood Trust will enable us to appoint an Access Lead that will help us reach even more people in the district.

Our key project in 23/24 will be the FOD Fringe, an exciting Community Festival that will take place in March 2024.

Interested in getting involved? We're actively seeking trustees to join our board, send an email to lucy@wyldwoodarts.co.uk to express your interest.

Wyldwood Arts Charity No. 1189046

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