



27th August 2024

To Members of Community Committee

You are hereby summoned to a MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE to be held on **Monday, 2nd September 2024 at 7.30pm, At Thanet House, 58 London Road, Stroud** to conduct the following business.

Helen Bojaniwska
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies
2. To receive declarations of interest or requests for dispensations
3. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 10th June 2024 previously circulated
4. To receive questions from members of the public
5. To receive Stroud District Council's Strategic Director of Communities' update regarding a Cultural Strategy for Stroud District
6. To receive the Deputy CEO's report
7. To receive an update from the Community Development Team
8. To select a representative for Stroud Festival Forum
9. To receive a budget monitoring report to the end of July 2024
10. To receive reports from grants awarded
11. To receive reports from SLA providers
12. To note the remaining funds available in the Grants Funds for 2024-2025
13. To discuss the grant applications received for the following funds;
 - a) Arts and Culture,
 - b) Community,
 - c) Small Grants

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (age, race, gender, sexual orientation, faith, marital status and disability); Crime and Disorder (Section 17); Health and Safety; and Human Rights.

Deputy CEO's report for Community Committee

02/09/2024

Staffing Update

Our Community Development Support Officer (CDSO) left us in July and we have now recruited a replacement. The new CDSO will be joining the team on Monday 9th September. We look forward to continuing the hard work of the team and accomplishing the projects allocated for the year. The new CDSO will have a slightly reduced working week, and therefore the work plan for the team has been adjusted accordingly. As outlined in Item 7, there will be a further update regarding this at your November meeting.

Our Communications and Engagement Officer is also moving on to pastures new in September. The Personnel Committee are working with the CEO and Deputy CEO to take this opportunity to make amendments to the current job description. Recruitment will begin in early September. We wish the Communications and Engagement Officer all the best in her new role.

SLA – Paganhill Community Group

The CEO is supporting staff and directors at PCG to ensure they can supply the documents and policies requested by the committee as part of the SLA requirements. A further update will be available in November.

Kate Montgomery, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Deputy Town Clerk)
27th August 2024

Community Development Officer Report

AUTHOR

Community Development Officer

CONSULTEES

Community Development Support Officer

FOR MEETING

Community Committee – 2nd September 2024

RECOMMENDATION

For information

REPORT

CDO Team Work Since Last Community Committee Meeting

1. CDSO departure and team capacity

- As councillors are aware, since the last Community Committee meeting, the CDSO has left the council for a new role elsewhere. Their work during their time with the council was exemplary and the team wish them well.
- This loss, in conjunction with the CDO working reduced summer hours, has lowered team capacity significantly. Although we will welcome our new CDSO on 9th September it is anticipated that key projects will need to be prioritised and others deferred or their timelines shifted. An updated work plan will be produced to reflect this to be presented at the November meeting.

2. Community Dentistry

- Unfortunately, the bid for funding the mobile dental clinics via the Stroud Hospital League of Friends was not successful. However, conversations are in progress with Cllr David Drew and MP Simon Opher to explore other potential funding avenues to address dental service gaps for vulnerable residents.

3. The Network of Stroud Hubs

- The CDO team has worked with NoSH to successfully finalise its governing document, which will lead to an application to be recognised as a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO). This step is essential for NoSH's future operation and growth.
- Alongside this, NoSH has completed their Visions and Values document, which will soon be shared with stakeholders to communicate their mission and objectives.
- As a next step the CDO is supporting NoSH in drawing up a training calendar to map out required training for volunteers and staff over a two-year period, with the aim of identifying costs and then locating potential funding to support this initiative.

3. Individual Hub Support

- **Middle of the Hill:** The CDO team supported MHCG by facilitating a meeting between representatives of the community group and representatives of Stroud District Council to discuss the upcoming regeneration, the way in which this is being communicated to residents and the impact that costs might have on leaseholders. CDO was unable to attend but Deputy CEO attended to advocate.
- **Trinity Rooms Community Group:** CDO delivered a training workshop to Trinity volunteers on the topic of community conversations, signposting, safeguarding and volunteer care. This was a pilot training and well received and can now be offered to other groups. Due to the closure of the Seaterly, CDO and Communications and Engagement Officer connected the musicians with Trinity representatives as an alternative location for their talents. This has worked very well and has been appreciated by both communities.
- **Top of Town Community Hub:** The CDO team continues to support this hub through attendance at committee meetings and during hub opening. A multistakeholder meeting was arranged which identified a need for better youth provision and a community fun day and youth consultation held on 31st August. The CDO also worked with our local PSCO to support delivery of Road Safety workshops running out of the hub and targeting children who frequently cross Bisley Old Road. This proved an excellent opportunity to start those youth conversations about their wants, needs and visions for the area. In addition the CDO, supported by the Slade Ward District Cllr Natalie Rothwell Warn, met with representatives from Property Services at Stroud District Council. This was to discuss the future of the Cadet Hut, and significant progress was made.
- **Uplands Community Hub:** The CDO team continues to work with the hub on the installation of an official noticeboard. This initiative will enhance the hub's presence in the community and increase public awareness of its activities and offerings.
- **Marah Trust:** The CDO team regularly visits Marah Trust to provide ongoing support. Their efforts include assisting Marah Trust in participating in the NoSH governance formalisation process, facilitating multi-agency meetings to ensure the safety of community members who frequent Marah Trust, and addressing Marah Trust's requests for staff and volunteer training, such as de-escalation training.

4. Chapel Street

- The CDO team conducted impact measurement surveys, showing that the Chapel Street initiative positively impacts attendees' health and wellbeing. The results of this work can be found in Appendix A.
- The community café had to close for two weeks over the summer period due to CDO and volunteer capacity but will return full time w/c 2nd September.
- The Chapel Street SITE art project went well and a poetry workshop which was part of the event has resulted in plans to carry out further workshops, including at the community café, with the aim of creating a chapbook of Chapel Street poems. As the themes of the poems are moths and butterflies, CDO is supporting the community to hold a moth trapping event.

- The permissions have been secured from Stroud District Council to paint the tunnel at Chapel Street and whilst it was not part of the Paint Festival discussions are being facilitated between the community and artists to have this happen over the autumn/winter period.

5. Stroud Seatory

- Although community consultation was carried out and adjustments made to the event to make it more welcoming to families, numbers in the early summer remained low. This was in a large part due to the poor weather and partly due to the niche nature of the event – though it was clearly highly valued by the musicians and those who did attend.
- Due to the loss of our CDSO, and the large amount of officer time staffing the event took, an initial decision was made to try and locate volunteers who could run the space – however due to the public nature of the space and the occasionally difficult interactions that can take place stewarding it (e.g. with street drinkers) this was later decided to be inappropriate.
- As a result the Seatory closed early this year. Positively, the musicians who were scheduled to play were put in touch with Trinity Rooms, and they have been playing at their Friday community café. This works well and could be considered as a more suitable alternative going forward, allowing as it does for an indoor space, with a larger offering to the community.

6. Participatory Budgeting Projects

- Due to the loss of our CDSO, and due to the time pressures Archway themselves were experiencing in the run up to the end of term, the initial workshop was deferred to the new September term.
- There are now staff members at Archway in place to hold the project, and with the new CDSO joining the team at STC shortly, carrying this project through to completion will remain one of the key priorities as we move into the Autumn/Winter.

7. Vouchers

- The CDO team, supported by STC colleagues, continues to collect and distribute vouchers to community groups and schools to allocate to community members in need.

8. Safeguarding and Case Work

- The CDO team continues to handle individual casework and safeguarding issues. We have arranged multistakeholder meetings with District representatives, Adult Safeguarding, Community Policing, and other organisations to ensure a coordinated approach for the best outcomes.

9. Paganhill Transform

- The CDO has taken on this work previously being led by the CDSO. This involves ensuring stakeholder representation across the area, facilitating collaboration, and sharing resources and information to benefit all involved parties. This initiative aims to tackle community issues collectively and share best practices for greater impact.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council may exercise the General Power of Competence in regard to expenditure and actions relating to this report.

FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications – N/A

Staffing implications – N/A

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The Council is legally bound by the public sector equality duty to prevent and eliminate discrimination, establish and promote equality and equal opportunities, and foster good relations between people with different protected characteristics

CO2 IMPLICATIONS

N/A

Chapel Street Community Cafe: Impact Measurement Report



Overview

The Chapel Street Community Cafe has been a focal point for community interaction and support since it was founded by STC in the winter of 2022, partly in response to the death of Emma Potter and partly due to the underserved nature of the community. The café has grown steadily, and attendance varies each week, with anywhere from 10 – 25 people coming. Food is provided on a pay as you can basis and a number of one off events and activities have taken place on the street since it started including a summer BBQ, a film showing as part of Stroud Film Festival, a poetry workshop, a lunch outing to the Trinity Rooms Community Hub, a SITE art installation to which café attendees contributed origami butterflies they had made and various healthcare and support service drop ins.

Whilst the café was started by STC it is now largely operated by community members, who collect surplus food from the Stroud Market, cook the food on the day, set up the space and befriend those who attend. It does still require professional oversight due to the complex nature of the needs that some community members present with and the current volunteers not desiring to formalise their structure.

This report summarises the findings of a recent survey conducted among 19 respondents, aimed at assessing the cafe's impact on community cohesion and wellbeing. This was carried out over the months of May and June 2024 and comprised paper copies as well as flipchart boards for people to place stickers or feedback on post-its.

Key Findings

High Levels of Satisfaction - 100% of respondents are either "Very satisfied" (53%) or "Satisfied" (47%) with the community cafe.

Sense of Belonging - Respondents rated the cafe's contribution to their sense of belonging highly, with an average score of 8.3 out of 10. This suggests that the cafe is playing a crucial role in fostering a sense of community among residents.

Increased Social Interaction - 79% of respondents reported an increase in social interaction since they started visiting the cafe, with 42% noting a significant increase. This highlights the cafe's effectiveness in bringing people together and reducing social isolation.

Positive Impact on Wellbeing - 84% of respondents reported an improvement in their overall mood since attending the cafe, with 47% feeling "Much better."

Engagement with Services - The cafe has facilitated engagement with essential services: 32% of respondents have accessed health services, and a similar percentage have accessed municipal services. Those who have utilised the services largely find them to be beneficial and for those who are not IT literate or otherwise isolated this represents a pathway to address issues they may not be able to raise otherwise.

Areas for Development

While the feedback has been largely positive, several respondents suggested a need for a wider range of activities at different times, particularly in the evenings and on weekends. This feedback indicates a demand for more diverse range of timings to accommodate various schedules and interests across the community.

Case Study:

As part of the impact measurement work the CD team also wrote up anonymised case studies to demonstrate in greater depth the importance of the work being carried out on the street. These qualitative measures, or stories, are increasingly being recognised as important as quantitative data measurement.

One such case study is that of A:

A has been visiting the community café since the beginning of the project and their mental and physical wellbeing has been variable throughout. In March 2024 a significant decline in their mental wellbeing was observed with troubling behaviours being observed including the carrying of a stick "for protection" and increasing agitation in their verbal expression. Their physical health and hygiene were also in decline.

As a result of this the CDO carried out an individual risk assessment, submitted an Adult Social Care safeguarding concern, and set up a multiagency meeting, with the permission of the individual involved. This multiagency group comprised representatives from Rethink, Marah Trust, Stroud District Council Housing and Neighbourhood Warden teams, Adult Social Care and Community policing. As a result of this joined up approach we were able to identify A's vulnerability to financial exploitation, put in place measures to support them with clearing and cleaning their home, ensure they had access to appropriate mental health care support and ensure that each agency was addressing their wellbeing in a joined up way. The community café and the CD team were able to provide a "trusted gateway" for Adult Social Care to meet with A, and a vital check in space. As a result A's wellbeing has taken a significant upturn and the immediate concerns addressed. A took part in a community poetry writing event recently and is keen to participate in further activities.

A has frequently expressed that the community café provides a vital space for them:

"I trust you and I know you are good. You are a bright light. I know I am safe here."

Conclusion and Recommendations

The Chapel Street Community Cafe has proven to be an essential asset for enhancing community cohesion and wellbeing. The high levels of satisfaction and positive impact on social interaction and mood underscore the cafe's value. However, there is an opportunity to further increase its impact by expanding the range of activities offered and varying the times they are held but the capacity to do this is currently limited by STC staffing considerations as well as the resources and desires of those community members who do currently volunteer their time. The CDO team is currently working with a small group of café attendees to develop a short program of art, poetry and nature focused activities which will be delivered at different times of the week to the cafe – after a successful pilot during the SITE festival in June.

There is also an opportunity to increase the number of partner organisations that are present at the café to offer more, and more consistent, opportunities for residents to address their wider issues and concerns via a trusted community gateway.

Festival Forum

AUTHOR

Deputy CEO (Deputy Town Clerk)

CONSULTEES

N/A

FOR MEETING

Community Committee 2nd September 2024

RECOMMENDATION

To nominate a Town Councillor as a representative on the Stroud Festivals Forum

REPORT

Background

The Festival Forum was created in 2018 as a recommendation from the [Stroud Connects Cultural Strategy](#) commissioned by the town council in 2017. The strategy found that many organisations and festival organisers were working in silo with little to no networking with others in the same industry.

The town council held the first forum in 2018, and has met consistently since then to discuss timetabling of events, funding streams, volunteering opportunities and elements of resource sharing. The forum meets twice each year, usually in March and September.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council may exercise the General Power of Competence in regard to expenditure and actions relating to this report.

FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications

None

Staffing implications

Officers organise and attend the forum meetings currently, although there may be scope for the forum to self-administer in the future.

CRIME AND DISORDER

There are no crime and disorder issues.

EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no equalities or human rights issues.

CO2 AND BIODIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no CO2 or biodiversity issues.

KM

21/08/2024

Annual Budget - By Committee (Actual YTD Month 4)

Note: Community Committee budget report to end July 2024

		<u>2023/24</u>		<u>2024/25</u>				<u>2025/26</u>		
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
<u>Community</u>										
103	<u>ARTS & CULTURE</u>									
4028	MILLON HOURS PROJECT	0	4,052	5,000	846	0	0	0	0	0
4118	ARTS AND CULTURE GRANTS FUND	11,000	6,750	11,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
4125	LANSDOWN HALL AND GALLERY	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0	0
4127	ARTS & CULTURE STRATEGY	0	0	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
4224	Sub Rooms SLA	17,680	17,680	10,000	10,000	0	0	0	0	0
4998	TF FROM OTHER FUNDS	0	-4,240	-3,600	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	33,680	29,242	30,400	15,846	0	0	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(33,680)	(29,242)	(30,400)	(15,846)	0		0		
107	<u>COMMUNITY</u>									
4001	STAFF COSTS	0	51,195	87,437	22,599	0	0	0	0	0
4037	SITE MATERIALS	0	0	0	339	0	0	0	0	0
4060	SMALL GRANTS FUND	4,000	1,500	4,000	2,585	0	0	0	0	0
4063	WARD SPECIFIC PROJECTS	3,000	1,218	3,000	576	0	0	0	0	0
4067	FOOTPATH SURVEY	200	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0
4080	CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU SLA	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0	0
4081	YOUTH PROJECTS	0	0	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
4084	MARAH TRUST SLA	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0	0
4101	Community safety (incl CCTV)	3,000	18	3,000	3,380	0	0	0	0	0
4121	Allsorts SLA	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0	0	0	0
4122	Gardening support SLA	2,000	2,208	1,750	848	0	902	0	0	0
4124	PLAY RANGERS	15,120	15,120	16,179	4,045	0	12,134	0	0	0
4139	HOMESTART SLA	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0	0	0	0

Continued on next page

Annual Budget - By Committee (Actual YTD Month 4)

Note: Community Committee budget report to end July 2024

	<u>2023/24</u>		<u>2024/25</u>				<u>2025/26</u>		
	Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
4146 COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND	10,000	8,482	10,000	8,700	0	0	0	0	0
4160 Lilian Faithfull Care SLA	3,000	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4171 Emergency Community Fund	0	5,428	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4172 Comm Dev fund use by CDOfficer	500	616	2,000	2,934	0	0	0	0	0
4229 Paganhill Community Group	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
4230 Cost Of Living Support	5,000	1,520	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
4998 TF FROM OTHER FUNDS	0	0	-2,500	0	0	0	0	0	0
4999 TF TO OTHER FUNDS	0	8,518	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overhead Expenditure	64,820	117,823	159,066	62,007	0	13,036	0	0	0
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(64,820)	(117,823)	(159,066)	(62,007)	0		0		
Community - Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditure	98,500	147,065	189,466	77,853	0	13,036	0	0	0
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(98,500)	(147,065)	(189,466)	(77,853)	0		0		
Total Budget Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditure	98,500	147,065	189,466	77,853	0	13,036	0	0	0
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(98,500)	(147,065)	(189,466)	(77,853)	0		0		

Here We Are Funding Report

In November 2023 Here We Are put on an exhibition of photography by photographers who were all local to Stroud, taking photographs of Stroud to raise money for people living in Stroud who were struggling with the cost of living crisis. There was also a launch party with contributions from local musicians and talks from some of the photographers.

I was lucky enough to receive a grant of £1000 from the town council which enabled me to put on the exhibition and to run the associated workshops for children, adults and youth groups as well as commissioning bespoke musical pieces with local musicians to play at the opening night and the Stroud Shindig.

This funding contributed towards the cost of hire the George Room in the Subscription rooms, paying professional photographers to run workshops and getting the exhibition artworks framed professionally as well as contributions to the musicians.

I printed all the photographs myself and all photographers donated their images free of charge.

Benefits to Stroud.

I feel that the whole undertaking was a huge success. The opening night was really well attended and we had to turn people away from the George Room as we were over capacity at one point. Stroud Times came along and took some great photographs of the event, which really capture the feel of the night.

In terms of tangible benefits, the exhibition raised over £2000 in donations for the Foodbank (after costs were deducted) in only 5 days of being open. The workshop with the Third space was also a notable success. The young people were given a free workshop on developing their photographic practice (many of them were keen photographers) and were then given the opportunity to have their work displayed in the exhibition on a rolling display that was projected in the wall. This gave these young people (some of whom have quite profound challenges) a sense of pride at being included in the town's cultural output and all the young people from the group came to attend the exhibition and were really engaged in the collection as a whole, as well as seeing their own work on display.

The public workshops were less well attended (despite being free) which was disappointing, but although there were only three families involved in the children's workshop, they all engaged well with the workshop, enjoyed the activity and left the workshop knowing more about photography than they did going into it.

The adults public workshop had a similarly low turn out, but again, that meant that the attendees received a high level of focus from the tutors so will have had a really productive session.

On reflection, if I were to run workshops again, I would focus on reaching out to community groups and specific areas rather than 'drop in' sessions in public spaces to ensure that the numbers are high enough and also to ensure that the free sessions benefit those people who really NEED it. As I say, the workshop with Third Space was a big success and I would use that as a model for any similar events moving forwards.

The photographers involved enjoyed the opportunity to connect with each other and I know that several of them have collaborated with each other since the exhibition in one way or another so I feel that **Here We Are** acted as a hub for this group of people as well as a show case for everyone's work.

A lot of Stroud residents of all ages attended the exhibition and many people commented on how nice it was to see such a varied representation of the town and not just 'all the expected photographs' of Cotswold stone buildings and cows on the common (although there were some lovely shots of cows on the common too!) Lots of attendees sparked up conversations with each other trying to work out where certain photographs had been taken and I overheard discussions about what things had and hadn't changed in Stroud while people had lived here, so I feel that it worked well as a community cohesion activity.

The local musicians had the opportunity to reach new audiences at the Stroud Shindig and their bespoke audio-visual pieces were all well received at the opening night.

In conclusion I feel that the exhibition was a success. We raised a lot of money for the food banks, lots of people bought affordable prints celebrating the area and we were able to offer professional guidance to young people keen to develop their photographic skills.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Council for their generous donation and for helping to ensure that the exhibition and workshops all ran smoothly.

Sladebank Woods CIC
7 Summer Close, Stroud GL5 1PF
1 June 2024

To:
Helen Bojaniwska
Clerk, Stroud Town Council
Thanet House
London Road
Stroud GL5 2AD

Dear Helen
Grant Aid - Sladebank Woods, Digital Trail (QR Project)

First of all thank you very much to you and your staff and Councillors for funding the opportunity to develop a Digital Trail in our woodland.

Summary

We have now successfully completed our Project, and its official launch was at our Open Weekend 11th & 12th of May. We will put something out on Facebook from the weekend for you to share.

There is now an option for visitors of all ages and abilities to be able to access information about the woodland, in terms of accessibility, as well as the Uses, Folklore and Ecology of three of our most significant trees.

We have asked for and received some feedback which is summarised in the report. This process will be ongoing.

Outcomes

QR Codes

We have produced content for 5 'stations' linked to a QR Code:

- Welcome, including an accessibility map
- Ash
- Beech
- Hawthorn
- Timeline, plotting the ecological journey of this woodland

There is also a small QR code on the Radar lock of the accessible compost toilet.

Continued

Employment

We have provided some local employment for:

A well known local artist, Jaine Rose, produced over 50 watercolour illustrations for each of the stations apart from the Welcome page.

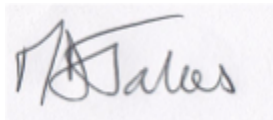
A local techno-anthropologist, Louise Romain, who in addition to designing the pages and building them into the App, is heavily involved in wider aspects of our woodland project.

Innovation

By developing this Project successfully at a manageable scale, we can share this innovative process with other small woodland owners through the Smallwoods Association. The Sunday of our Open Weekend is a Smallwoods Members event and we will be promoting this approach to them, in addition to this work being available to our Stroud network and beyond.

We would like once again to thank you for your support and look forward to working together in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Jakes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Martin Jakes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise Romain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Louise Romain

Sladebank Woods - QR Codes Digital Trail

Project leads:

Martin Jakes and Louise Romain

Project description:

With this project, we wanted to create an interactive woodland experience to engage, inform and involve woodland visitors in the discovery of key features of the woods; the flora and the fauna, the geological and ecological history of the land, and get immersed into the seasons and cycles of Sladebank Woods.

We chose the medium of producing QR codes as a relatively simple and familiar technology that people can access through their smartphone. We were curious about merging the digital and physical realities, and wanted to experiment with adding a layer of wonder and curiosity.

Project outcomes:

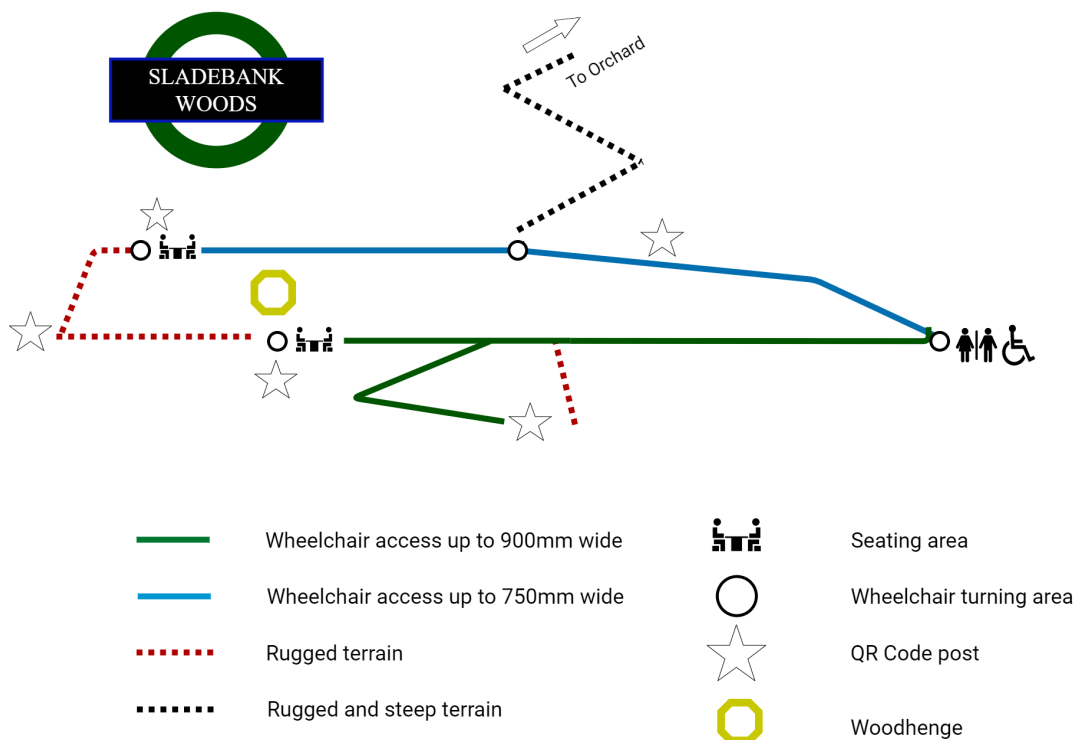
We have produced content for five stations, each with a QR Code post:

1. Welcome station

The Welcome station is a single page that briefly explains the trail, gives instructions to access it and mentions our facilities. It includes an accessibility map (see below) that details the different pathways and infrastructure.

You can see the welcome page here:

<https://sladebankwoods.github.io/digitalwoodlandtrail/>



2. Ash

This station features one of the oldest trees in Sladebank Woods and a species highly at risk across the country: a thriving ash tree. You can see the ash page here:

<https://sladebankwoods.github.io/digitalwoodlandtrail/ash>

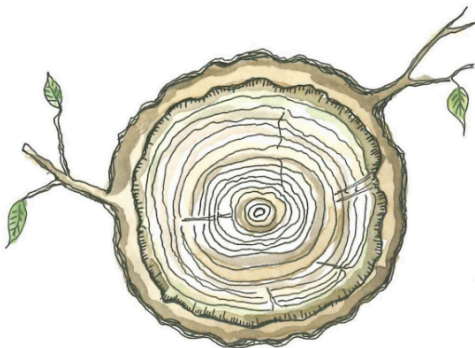
Uses

SPRING

Can you guess how old the magnificent Ash tree is?

Work out the approximate age of the tree by measuring the diameter at chest height (each centimeter is about one year).

Dieback threatens all Ash trees so who knows how many more rings this tree will put on. We are taking care of the longevity of this tree by pruning its dead wood.



3. Beech

We chose to feature this beech tree both because of its location, right near the lower end of the path and benches, and because a Dryad's Saddle mushroom has established residency in its trunk. You can see the beech page here:

<https://sladebankwoods.github.io/digitalwoodlandtrail/beechn>

Ecology

AUTUMN

Beech trees provide gnarled and knotted habitats for many deadwood specialists, such as hole-nesting birds and wood-boring insects. The dense layer of leaves and 'mast' (seeds and husks), provides food for fungi, small birds and mammals.

Can you guess which mushroom is pictured here? It grows on this tree every year! Find the answer on the final slide.



4. Hawthorn

We originally started with the hawthorn as this tree is usually familiar for its cultural relevance. You can see the hawthorn page here:

<https://sladebankwoods.github.io/digitalwoodlandtrail/hawthorn>

Folklore

SUMMER

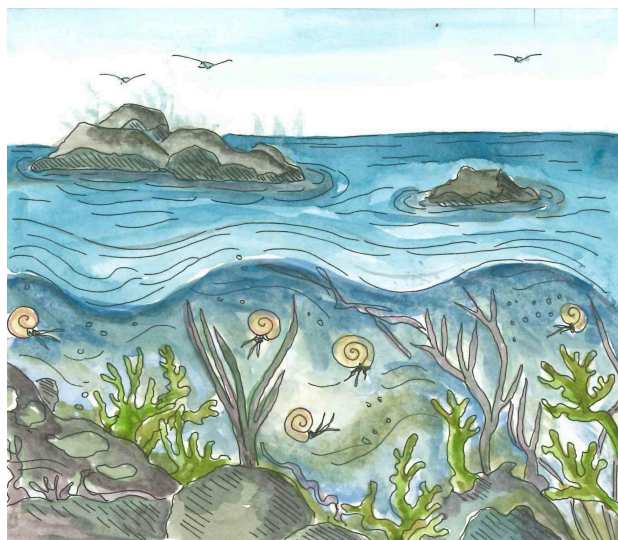
In Celtic culture,

Hawthorn is associated with the heart, love and protection. Brandy for broken hearts is made by infusing hawthorn blossom picked on the first of May into a brandy of your choice.



5. Timeline

We are nearing completion of this fifth station. Here we wanted to explore something a bit different and immerse our visitors into a sense of ‘deep time’. There are fossil records all across the land, reminding us of a very different landscape, and the meadow itself has seen various transformations over the last 100 years, from cow pasture, to dumping ground, to a thriving biodiverse meadow today.



Employment

This project and the funding from the Stroud Town Council provided local employment for a well known local artist, Jaine Rose, who produced over 50 watercolour illustrations for each of the stations (apart from the Welcome page). Some of the artwork is reproduced above, and here are a few other examples:



The funding was also used to support a local techno-anthropologist, Louise Romain, who designed the pages and built them into the App (Github). She is otherwise heavily involved in wider aspects of our woodland project.

Innovation

By developing this Project successfully at a manageable scale, we can share this innovative process with other small woodland owners through the Smallwoods Association. On Sunday May 12th, during our Open Weekend, we hosted a Smallwoods Members event and promoted this approach to them, in addition to this work being available to our Stroud network and beyond.

Jacky Martel, who used to head up Allsorts, has already taken a copy of the accessibility map to use on one of her other disability projects.

Community Feedback

After setting up our first QR station (hawthorn), we started collecting feedback. A local resident and regular woodland visitor reflected that she perceived the QR codes as

being quite intrusive, so we decided to adapt the QR code design to smaller and more green so that it would softer to the eyes and merge with the woods.

A local artist posted about the project on her instagram so we decided to create an [online form](#) for woodland visitors to leave their thoughts. We carefully considered all feedback we received and implemented changes when suited.

Challenges

The design, build and implementation of the QR Project has gone smoothly, thanks to the expertise of Louise, the talent of Jaine, and Martin's project management. The main challenge has been that the simple stakes and QR codes have been regularly pulled out of the ground by passing users. We hope that over time they will become more of an established feature and less exciting to remove. They are designed to easy and low cost to replace. Following the community feedback, we might trial it as a temporary activity, setting up the posts at times of higher visitor numbers such as school holidays.

Sustainability

As we go forward, there will be updating and upgrading to do, especially as we collect more feedback over time. If demand is sufficient, we can also add additional stations. Any of this should be able to be funded through the general CIC funds generated through our other activities. However without the Town Council funding we would not have been able to get started.

Thank you.



THE DOOR - END OF FUNDING REPORT

FUNDING RECEIVED FROM STROUD TOWN COUNCIL TO SUPPORT THE LIFECYCLE OF 10 MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The funding received from Stroud Town Council was aimed at fully supporting the lifecycle of ten mentoring relationships, significantly altering the trajectories of the young people involved. Given the ongoing impact of the pandemic, the demand for our mentoring services surged, highlighting the necessity of our work. Over the past year, we have seen a 150% increase in requests for support, emphasizing the critical need for mentoring to address the mental health challenges and social anxieties faced by young people.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTCOMES

We are pleased to report that we have successfully recruited and trained the 10 new volunteer mentors, we set out to onboard with the funding by the grant received. Each volunteer completed a six-week intensive mentoring training course. The training was conducted by our highly skilled staff, ensuring that all volunteers were equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge, and confidence to effectively support a young person.

Each of the new mentors have been carefully matched with mentees based on interests, needs, and compatibility. The matching process was meticulous, ensuring that each pair had the potential for a positive and productive relationship.

All mentoring relationships were monitored at three-month intervals. Regular and ongoing supervision is now being provided to mentors to address any challenges and provide ongoing support. This is continuing to maintain the quality and effectiveness of the mentoring relationships.

IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE

Improved Mental Health - Through consistent mentoring, young people have reported improvements in their mental health. Many participants noted a reduction in anxiety and depressive symptoms, attributing this to the support and guidance of their mentors.

Increased School Attendance - Several mentees showed an increase in school attendance and their ability to engage with their community. Mentors played a crucial role in encouraging and motivating young people to engage with their education.

Enhanced Social Skills - Young people involved in the mentoring programme displayed improved social skills and confidence. The mentoring provided a safe space for them to express themselves and develop healthier social interactions.



Positive Behavioural Changes - Notable behavioural improvements were observed in mentees, including better coping strategies, increased resilience, and a more positive outlook on life. These changes have contributed to an overall improvement in their quality of life.

CASE STUDIES

Case Study 1: Mentee: Emily, 14

Issues: Severe social anxiety and school refusal.

Outcome: Through her mentoring relationship, Emily gradually overcame her social anxiety, returning to school with improved attendance and participation in class activities.

Case Study 2: Mentee: Jake, 16

Issues: Depression and self-harm.

Outcome: With the support of his mentor, Jake developed healthier coping mechanisms and significantly reduced self-harming behaviours.

The funding provided has had a significant positive impact on the lives of young people involved in our mentoring programme. In addition to the 10 new mentors recruited, trained and deployed with the funding received we have in total increased our mentoring cohort by 48 in the last 12 months all of which have been successfully matched with young people and we are continuing to recruit more mentors throughout 2024. There is a clear need for this service and the outcomes attained demonstrate the effectiveness and necessity of our services. The improvements in mental health, school attendance, social skills, and overall behaviour of our mentees underscore the value of continued investment in mentoring programmes.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Stroud Town Council for their support. Your contribution has been instrumental in changing the lives of young people, helping them navigate these challenging times with hope and resilience. We look forward to continuing this vital work and expanding our reach to support even more young people in the future.

Thank you.

Victoria Robson

Chief Executive Officer

The Door

Community Support Fund Report

- The RYSE (Radical Youth Space for Educations) -

Overview

The Community Support Funding really help us cement the Friends of the RYSE sessions as a consistent and powerful grounding for our community work. The benefits were felt by both those attending and the youth leaders hosting the sessions as reflected in their quotes below. The full fund was spent as originally planned but with a slightly different breakdown, see table below, and finally a big thank you to the STC folks for this support!

Evaluation of the Community Dinner and Discussion Events

As our longest running intergenerational space the Friends of the RYSE dinners are a great anchor for us in the community and have created many of the key relationships that allow our work to flourish. While we were running them before the Fund, the support allowed us to deepen their work and especially to support the Trinity Rooms through hiring the hall and kitchen. Alongside this the PA System and RYSE Hoodies/Apron (pic 1) have really helped our young leaders stand in their power to facilitate potentially tricky discussions such as: 'People's Justice', 'Leap into Death' and 'Revolutionary Love' (pic 2).

We continued to run them on the 3rd Monday of each month and have regularly had groups of up to 40 people attend (pic 3) with each 2hr session starting with 30 minutes of 'long table' eating (pic 4) before breaking into discussions on a specific topic. We've been able to use a lot more materials since the Fund and want to shout-out the Gloucestershire Resource Centre for their amazing work and incredibly cheap materials. Alongside these practical materials such as pens, paper, whiteboards, etc. – we used some of the funding to print RYSE Zines and Stickers (pic 5) which people could take home from the sessions.

Alongside the relationship building that these rare intergenerational spaces create, the sessions have led to an increased number of regular donations to The RYSE, offers of additional support such as venue/equipment use and hosting young folk who have travelled to Stroud to engage with The RYSE. This has really reinforced our work and definitely feel like relationships that will last into the future. We plan to continue running the sessions and are working hard to bring in new folks, especially across class divides, to diversify the discussions and create space for the kinds of loving intersectional challenges that will bring us all truly closer together (pic 6).

Positive Impact Quotes

"The RYSE dinners provide a welcoming, intergenerational space for shared food and learning - I always come away inspired at the way the team hold radical complex conversations in such a friendly and accessible way." – Lucie Brown, Stroud Parent

"If I think about the last session I went to "Leap into Death" I was really struck by the power of listening to each other / of the intergenerational sharing and the willingness to face into difficult subjects. It has stayed with me - listening to young people sharing their experiences of others dying and it is helping me normalise death as part of life. Thanks for all you all do in bringing there dialogues together." – Fiona Ellis, Trinity Rooms Volunteer

"I went to the first RYSE dinner and was in tears at the deep wisdom, clear analysis and long-term plan of these soulful and committed young people. They continue to inspire us and challenge us,

whilst calling us back home into community "and feed us at the same time!") – Gail Bradbrook, Environmental Campaigner

“It was a privilege to sit in a circle of ‘olders’ while the young people sat in an inner circle to voice what they wanted from us. It was a simply and beautifully facilitated process. Heartfelt and care-full. Enlightening and provocative. I left feeling humbled and inspired. Thank you.” – Martin Jakes, Sladebank Woods Coordinator

“RYSE are an inspirational group, who challenge the status quo and ask aloud the questions we may be thinking. I love how these young people tackle some of the hardest topics of our time with love, care and integrity.” – Natalie Rothwell-Warn, District Councillor

“The Friends of the RYSE dinners are the highlight of my month because they make me feel part of an intergenerational community where I can learn from the Olders experience but also challenge them to keep transforming” – Nora, RYSE Youth Organiser

Financial Breakdown

Item	Description	Cost
Thomann PA System	Great battery powered PA system with a wireless mic	379
1 st Hoodie Order	First order of 10 hoodies for the RYSE team	190
2 nd Hoodie (+ Apron) Order	2 nd Order of 3 Hoodies + an Apron for our cooking team	83.5
Trintiy Rooms Bulk Booking	The Trinity Rooms gave us 10 sessions for the price of 12 which was great!	790
Edu Materials	Zines, massive paper, pens, post-its, print-outs, etc. – tried hard to have things for folks to take home which went down really well	306.5
Scrap Store Membership	Annual membership – this saved us so much money!	28
	Total =	1777

Photos

Pic 1 – Some of the RYSE gang in our hoodies!



Pic 2 – our Meg and Eli facilitating the Revolutionary Love session



Pic 3 – Our session on Eldership with concentric listening circles.



Pic 6 – Celebrating all together at the end of a session!



Allsorts Report for Stroud Town Council 2023/2024

Vision: For children and young people with additional needs to have a **choice** of meaningful and accessible opportunities and for their whole families to feel supported and included.

Mission:

- To continuously strive for high quality activities, open and available for a diverse range of families in a range of locations.
- To keep learning and developing so that our offer grows with families and their needs over time.

Purpose: We exist to reduce isolation felt by families who have children with additional needs by forming a community and enabling experiences.

2023-2024

Allsorts supported over 500 families who have children and young people with additional needs between April 2023 and March 2024. 97 of these families lived in Stroud Town. We also supported their parents/carers, grandparents and siblings, meaning approximately 388 people from Stroud Town attended activities and received information and had access to emotional support from Allsorts in 2023/24.

Achievements

We've celebrated achievements in different areas during the grant period, including:

- Supporting the largest number of families within a year since Allsorts began (500+)
- Recording 8,354 attendances at Allsorts activities
- Piloting a successful outreach program, increasing the number of families we reach in rural communities. 6 new locations in Gloucestershire with over 300 family attendances recorded (including disabled children and siblings).
- Launching a 'Teen Takeaway' and more social opportunities for disabled teenagers responding to specific requests from this demographic for more provision.
- Increasing delivery, recognition and revenue with our trading arm, YuGo
- Completing a pilot traineeship programme working with three disabled young people. One now had a job at a mainstream leisure centre and another is volunteering at a mainstream nursery. We took all 3 up to a visit to the Houses of Parliament where they were given a tour and certificate presentation by our Stroud M.P., Siobhan Bailey.
- Prioritising team development by investing in training opportunities, nurturing individuals, and enhancing delivery of services to the highest possible level.
- Creating a comprehensive and ambitious strategic plan with the aim of future proofing the organisation so we're there for families who need us for years to come.

Challenges

There is no doubt that getting funding has been – and continues to be – challenging. We have found that individual donations and community fundraising has suffered because of the cost-of-living crisis. With a rise in the number of registered charities, we have also found that grant funders are overwhelmed and not able to give us the amount of support they have in previous years. As a result, we have been forced to increase our annual membership fee. The majority of families were in support of this and we have continued to offer and provide regular reminders of our fee waivers and reductions.

YuGo

Our trading arm, YuGo, has been building momentum and now employs 4 full-time equivalent staff members, turning over £143,000 profit last financial year. A dividend of £20,000 was presented to Allsorts which we anticipate rising to £50,000 per annum by 2029.

As well as generating a profit for Allsorts, YuGo addresses a clear need within our county: to reduce inactivity rates and the lack of accessible exercise opportunities. At YuGo we find solutions to engage people of all abilities to enjoy healthy living.

Between January and December 2023, YuGo worked with 100 individual participants with an age range of 9 – 92 and 40 organisations, providing 900 hours of personal training and 364 hours of group activities.

www.yugo.org.uk

Our finances 23/24:

Income	£464,660.10
Expenditure	£468,475.76
End position	£3,81.66

Results from our Member Survey 2023

- 98% would recommend Allsorts
- 95% think we provide fun, creative and engaging activities
- 96% say we help them try new things
- 97% feel more connected
- 97% feel more resilient
- 96% feel listened to by us
- 99% feel their child is safe and supported
- 99% think Allsorts helps improve physical and mental wellbeing of their family
- 89% have experienced something positive due to Allsorts in the last year (71% in 2022)

Of course, there were some comments and feedback which we needed to address. When asked if there were any activities they were unable to access, just under half of respondents said yes, compared to about a third in 2022 – an increase of 38%. The main difference here was that in 2022 children/young people's health and needs were the top barriers to accessing activities. This year location and venue are the top barriers to accessing activities followed by them being unable to secure a place. This is likely due to the higher number of members outside of Stroud district where our activities are concentrated. Our new strategy specifically encompasses these challenges, with the aim of extending outreach services,

finding a new, specialist venue to call home (in Stroud) and to increase/adapt activities for those with more complex needs.

Activities and Provision

Families

- Toddler Group (weekly, term time)
- Grandparent group (monthly)
- Gaming club, fortnightly
- Stay and Play Toy Library sessions, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays weekly, term time.
- Exclusive use Toy Library sessions, once monthly
- Siblings support, monthly
- Cheltenham Stay and Play after school sessions on most Thursdays, term time.

Lots of trips out during half terms and summer holidays to various places including Cotswold Farm Park, Boatmobility, Stroud Bowl, Westonbirt Arboretum and many more!

Young Adult and Teens

- Young Adult takeaway (monthly)
- Young Adult x2 social meet and x1 trip out per month
- Teen takeaway (monthly)

Sport, Health and Fitness Clubs

- Football Club
- Multi-Sports Club
- Sensory Dance Club
- Swimming Club
- Trampoline Club
- Boccia Club



allsorts

For families who have children
with additional needs

All about
Allsorts



Charlotte - Allsorts member

A great charity providing wonderful activities and support for children with disabilities and their families.

96%

of members feel listened to by us

99%

of members think Allsorts helps improve the physical and mental wellbeing of their family

99%

of members feel their child is safe and supported

one of the only places we can go where we can totally be ourselves

Allsorts has been an absolute lifeline to our family when we were at crisis point

96%

of members say we help them try new things

Welcome

As we enter our 15th year of supporting families with disabled children, I want to say 'thank you' to everyone who has been on our journey so far.

We were so thrilled to have been named 'Charity of the Year' and overall winner of the SoGlos Lifestyle Awards 2024. A fantastic recognition of our work.

We have been busy planning our new strategy and now have a strong vision of where we would like Allsorts to be in 5 years' time. You can see a summary of our strategic priorities later in this newsletter and we will of course share more detail as plans progress. A huge part of our vision is finding a new home for some activities and our offices. The Brunel Mall in Stroud has been a great home for nearly 6 years, but sadly we have now outgrown the space. It might take 5 years to find new premises, but we are determined to do so, to provide more opportunities to our members.



Whilst we work on this project, we will continue doing what we do best – providing everyday fun, accessible activities and support for families. We also plan to work within some new areas of the county, extending our reach and breaking down some of those barriers we know many families face.

I want to say a big thank you to 'Team Allsorts' for working so hard and to our trustees who find the perfect balance of support and advice to us all. Lastly, thanks to our wonderful members who inspire us every day with their determination to see their children have fun and thrive.

Jane Jones, Chief Executive



Allsorts: 2023–2024 in numbers

This year...



419

family
memberships



7,833

attendances
at an Allsorts
activity



1,058

individuals
attended an
Allsorts activity

Sport



2,726

attendances
at an AllSports
activity



625

attendances at a
swimming session



466

attendances at
Football Club

Families



3,898

attendances at a family activity



89

Toy Library sessions delivered



28

mobile Stay and Play sessions delivered
In 4 new locations across Gloucestershire

Young People



31

family trips to fun places across the year



62

teens and young adults accessing social groups



15

trips out having fun!

Harry makes a splash with great swimming achievement

At Allsorts we believe that learning to swim is an essential life skill. Since June 2023, we've engaged with over 70 family members through over 580 swimming sessions at National Star College. One participant who has benefitted from one-on-one lessons is 14-year-old Allsorts member and Belmont School pupil, Harry Chilman. Since joining Allsorts, Harry's confidence and ability in the swimming pool have really developed.

"When he first started swimming, he hated it", explained Harry's Mum, Sadie. "Harry would be kicking and screaming, he would not put a foot in the water. He loves being in the water now. On holidays he's in the sea, it's nice to see Harry enjoy water, instead of being frightened."

The individualised Allsorts lessons have helped Harry thrive in the water. "We hadn't tried mainstream lessons; I was wary of how many children participate. It wasn't the environment for him. He needed one-on-one support with teachers, because he was afraid of the water."



Through perseverance and hard work, Harry's swimming has improved greatly, with the 14-year-old forming "amazing relationships with Allsorts' staff". "Harry and swimming coach Dan always talk about football; he lets Dan know how bad Chelsea are! It's taken swimming coach Lily just six months for Harry to swim unaided. He would never put his face in the pool before, and she's helped him overcome that."

Harry has Kabuki syndrome – a condition that affects one in 32,000. "We were told when he was born, that he possibly wouldn't see, talk or walk, but he's defying it all. Rugby, football, swimming – anything sporty, he loves it. It's important Harry has that life skill. If he's anywhere and there's water around, if he was to fall in, he's got the skill that he can swim."

Alongside lessons, Allsorts offer Family Swim Sessions, where the whole family can enjoy the water. Sessions are held in the fully accessible swimming pool at National Star College, with hoisting available for those who need it.

Wahoo, YuGo turns 2!



Our trading arm, YuGo, has turned 2 years old! We wanted to mark this occasion by celebrating our achievements so far.

YuGo was born from the idea of using the expertise of our sports team to raise funds for Allsorts. We knew there was a demand for accessible exercise in the community and we had the knowledge and ambition to try and meet it.

YuGo now employs 4 full-time equivalent staff members, delivers 63 weekly activities and turned over £143,000 profit last financial year. A donation of £20,000 was presented to Allsorts in April 2024.

How does YuGo do it?

YuGo's mission is simple: to reduce inactivity rates and the lack of accessible exercise opportunities. They find solutions to engage people of all abilities to enjoy healthy living, now and into the future.

YuGo strive to make exercise engaging and achievable, delivering personal training sessions, group activities such as Nordic Walking and Yoga, as well as school sports events ranging from Athletics to Tag Rugby.

The Impact

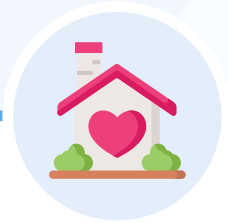
During 2023, YuGo worked with 100 individual participants with an age range of 9 – 92 and 40 organisations, providing 900 hours of personal training and 364 hours of group activities.

“I'd definitely recommend these events to other schools for the future. Everybody has got together and we've all had a nice time.”

“It's been really good, it's nice to see the children coming together from lots of different schools and playing each other, with plenty of sportsmanship being shown.



Allsorts Strategic Priorities 2024-2029



Find a new home

to make a significant and long-lasting impact on the lives of disabled children and young people in Gloucestershire.

- Conduct thorough consultations to define key features of a new venue.
- Acquire professional expertise to evaluate purchasing or leasing options for property or land.
- Develop a comprehensive fundraising strategy to secure necessary funds in both short and long terms.

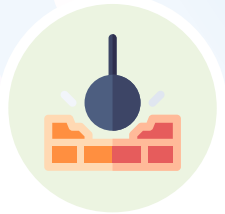


Increase opportunities

for families to connect, so they feel less isolated and more resilient

- Expand the Families team to enhance support for members
- Extend our outreach work across the county
- Innovate approaches to facilitate family interactions

Our strategic priorities show the areas of work we will be focusing on over the next 5 years.



Break down barriers

to accessing activities with expert knowledge and specialist resources

- Improve accessibility in community spaces using our expertise and equipment.
- Focus on activities with the highest demand and capitalise on skills within the team, reducing waiting lists and enhancing quality.
- Invest in resources and training to deliver tailored activities for individuals with complex needs.



Remain agile

so we can respond to the changing needs of the families we work with

- Recruit fundraisers and marketeers to facilitate organisational growth.
- Nurture individual strengths within the team and invest in training to elevate our skills to the highest standards.
- Lead the way in establishing responsible and sustainable practices to ensure long-term support for families.

Allsorts has ‘instrumental’ impact on Ben’s social life

Socialising with friends is what young people value most but don’t always have easy access to. So, it’s no wonder our Young Adults Club is one of Allsorts’ most popular sessions. The group of 16-25-year-olds meet at the Activity Hub and head out on exciting trips around the county. From fishing to boccia, trips on steam trains or to wildlife parks, there’s so much to get involved with.

Ben Lloyd, now 23, joined Allsorts over 14 years ago and has been a regular member of the Young Adults group.

“Allsorts has been crucial to Ben and our life as a family,” explained Ben’s mum, Catherine. “It’s given him a huge sense of independence. He’s learnt to attend the trips on his own, getting there on public transport and he really enjoys himself. He has a very active

social life and that is due, mainly, to Allsorts. Kids with similar challenges and vulnerabilities to Ben work as a team and negotiate life together.”

Ben says: “It helps me keep calm and if I get stressed, I can ask Sasha and she can help me with the loom bands”.

Young Adults Club provides a platform for friendships to form between young people with additional needs, whilst supporting the growth of social skills. Ben is also a long-standing player in the Allsorts football team, a sociable, yet competitive, environment from which he has gained many peers. Ben’s experiences with Allsorts, has given him a strong desire to volunteer and has begun helping at certain sessions.



Thank you to these grant funders who have supported us during 2023 and 2024:

Alchemy Foundation
Baily Thomas Charitable Fund
Barbara Ward Children's Foundation
Barnwood Trust
Cheltenham District Council
Cirencester Town Council
Cotswold Primrose Trust
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
David Thomas Charitable Trust
Edward Gostling
Free Hopsital Trust Fund
Global Make Some Noise
Gloucestershire Funders
Gloucestershire Community Foundation
Gloucestershire Disability Fund
Happy Days Children's Charity
Jack Lane Charitable Trust
Langtree Trust
Masonic Charitable Foundation
P F Charitable Trust

People's Project
Percy Bilton Charity
Peter Hargreaves Foundation
Renishaw
Souter Charitable Trust
Sport England
Stonehouse Town Council
Stroud District Council Community and Wellbeing
Stroud Town Council
The Sumner Wilson Charitable Trust
Tesco
The Coop
The Openwork Foundation
Wotton Under Edge Town Council



How can you help Allsorts

If you'd like to support us through fundraising why not take part in one of our fundraising events or arrange your own community event. You could set up a volunteer support group in your community and organise fundraising events like cake sales and afternoon tea parties on our behalf.

If you are a business, why not consider making us your official Charity of the Year and set your team the task of fundraising a specific amount on our behalf during the year?

To discuss fundraising further contact Rachael Fletcher on 01453 750474 or email rachael.fletcher@allsortsglos.org.uk.



Thank you - you do an amazing job! I honestly don't know how we would have coped without you! Allsorts is like one big family!

97%

of members feel more connected

95%

of members think we provide fun, creative and engaging activities

89%

of members have experienced something positive due to Allsorts in the last year

Get in touch

Visit us at allsortsglos.org.uk

Email us at info@allsortsglos.org.uk

Call us on 01453 750474

 @allsortsglos  Allsorts Gloucestershire

Write to us at: Allsorts, Third Floor, Brunel Mall, London Road, Stroud, GL5 2BP



Allsorts is a registered charity in England number 1153484

With thanks to Wheatley Printers for printing the newsletter





2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**HOME
START**

**Stroud and
Gloucester**

Tribute to Elizabeth Ewart-James 1947- 2024

Twenty five years ago Liz was inspired by 2 Bed and Breakfast guests who were sporting T shirts with a logo that looked like Ban the Bomb. When she had established that they were not off to a march and the logo was one for Home-Start, she became a lady on a mission. She had been a social worker for children for many years and was acutely aware of the need for a different form of intervention for families going through tough times; Home-Start sounded exactly right. She gathered up a steering committee, applied for Lottery Funding and Home-Start Stroud was off.



Throughout those years Liz worked tirelessly to promote Home-Start, spending the last 13 years as Chairman. It was a good match. She was a children's champion whether it was speaking up for children in court as their Guardian ad Litem, defending the rights of foster children in her social work role, pushing the cause of Home-Start families or gathering professionals to the 'First Thousand Days' conference she organised to spread the word and improve care in the early years.

Liz was endlessly positive, brave and optimistic. The thought of taking on the running of the 2 day Westonbirt Fair was somewhat terrifying to many of the trustees as was incorporating Gloucester in our remit but with Liz's enthusiasm we did both and did them well. She never saw obstacles and courageously stood up to those in authority when she sensed injustice. She had a remarkable ability to chat to anyone and get them on board whether as trustee, funder or friend. It was most fitting that she was awarded Trustee of the year by the parent body earlier this year.

Her swift decline and death were so very tragic but she leaves a lasting legacy behind as our staff and volunteers continue to help the many families who struggle to give their children a good start to life.



She leaves a lasting legacy behind as our staff and volunteers continue to help the many families who struggle to give their children a good start to life.



Harriet Walker - Chair



Now that we have reached our 25th birthday I am delighted to say that we still have a brilliant team of dedicated staff, trustees and volunteers ready to take us forward to the next 25 years. This would not have been possible without the vision and determination of *Liz Ewart-James* who has been so instrumental in getting us to where we are. This culminated in her well-deserved award of “Trustee of the Year” from Home-Start UK earlier this year.

Having been a volunteer since 2001, I have seen Home-Start Stroud and Gloucester grow into the incredibly respected and valued scheme that it now is, both by families and professionals alike. I still volunteer with a family and became a trustee in 2016 and my passion for what we do has not waned over the years. I know however that our success comes from the incredible hard work of everyone within the Home-Start team working together, all with the same aim of supporting families who are finding things tough. We know that our support helps the children we work with to have the best possible start in life and this can make a huge difference to their future outcomes.

We have sadly had to say goodbye to a few members of staff this year but we are pleased to welcome new highly skilled and enthusiastic members of staff who I know will feel at home quickly. Huge thanks to the whole team - the staff, the trustees and of course the invaluable volunteers. Without you, we would not be the successful organisation that we are.

Celebrating
— 25 YEARS —



Ri Ferrier-Scheme Director

It really is a privilege to be the director of Home Start Stroud and Gloucester! Every day I witness the dedication of every staff member, volunteer and trustee to make a difference in the lives of families and it is humbling. Every year brings its challenges and this one was no different. I am proud of the work that we all achieve together in face of these challenges. We continue to see a rise in the level of mental health needs of families who we support and are continually trying to meet this demand so that parents have every opportunity to give their children the best start in life.





"It's been a real privilege having Home-Start in the areas I have and still cover. It has given families something really special, a lovely healthy relationship, someone to help with children, to face challenges with, someone who understands, who is kind and who is well supported by this organisation. I have noticed such growth, self-esteem and a real improvement in their relationship with their baby and other children."
Health Visitor

About us

Established in 1999, Home-Start Stroud and Gloucester provides vital support to over 600 vulnerable families every year in the Stroud and Gloucester Districts through a range of different services including weekly home visiting by trained volunteers, ante and post-natal groups, a perinatal mental health peer support programme and a Dad Matters project to specifically support dads to have the best relationships possible with their children.

Our mission is to improve the lives of families with children under the age of 5 who are facing multiple challenges, including poverty, social isolation, disabilities, and poor mental health. We believe passionately in early intervention and a strengths-based approach to supporting families to overcome any challenges they face and for parents to be supported to be the best parents they can be.

We offer holistic support to families for as long as is necessary, ensuring that we have time to build up trust with them in order to walk alongside them, supporting them to make the positive changes necessary to deal with the challenges that they face and to create the best start in life for their children.

Our work supports parents to grow in confidence and self-esteem, strengthens their relationships with their children, improves their mental health and wellbeing and widens their links with the local community.



2023/2024 - What we have achieved



Number of Referrals

In 2023/2024 we received referrals for 501 unique families (40% Stroud and 57% Gloucester based).

Families were referred to the following services:

- 189 Home Visiting
- 158 Bump Start
- 270 Best Start
- 215 MiMs
- 97 Dad Matters

TOTAL 929 service referrals

29.6% were self referrals and 70.4% were professional referrals.

Families Supported

In 2023/24 we supported 508 unique families through the following services:

- 98 Home Visiting
- 120 Bump-Start
- 143 Best-Start
- 110 Mothers in Mind
- 88 Arkell Family Drop In Group

Family Situations

Lone Parents	23.8%
Young Parents	23.6%
Mental Health Issues	85.8%
Mental Health Services	31.3%
Disabilities	17.7%
Domestic Abuse	16.9%

Home Visiting Impact

70.5% of the home-visiting families saw an improvement in scores, with the biggest impact being on confidence and self-esteem (31% improvement), mental health (28.1% improvement) and feelings of isolation (26% improvement).



Home-Visiting

"You have seen me and my family in the best and worst of states and never judged."

"Thank you for making us such a happy family."

"Knowing very few people locally, I believe Home-Start were key to saving my sanity!"

The Home Visiting Team have had a busy time seeing a **17%** rise in referrals into their support, with a reduced team. It is testament of the dedication given by our small team and of our most valuable volunteers that Home-Start continues to be a reliable source of support for families. Not only do we see our impact through statistical analysis, we also hear this from feedback from our parents, referrers and children.

Since our last annual report, we have recruited an additional **31** volunteers having run 2 face to face training courses and introduced a hybrid mix of online and face to face training.

Over the year, we have provided our volunteers with a varied selection of additional training workshops:

Additional Needs from Allsorts, Suicide Awareness Training from Sunflowers Suicide Charity, Universal Credit and Benefits Awareness, Sexual Disclosure Awareness Training from GRASSAC, Telephone Befriending, Home Safety with Gloucestershire Fire and Safety Team, Mandatory Safeguarding Training.

We have also offered online training modules: Perinatal Mental Health Parent-Infant Relationships, Developing Brains, Stress and Resilience, Healthy Eating Modules Fundamentals of a Healthy Diet, Babies and Introducing Solids, Children and Early Years., Safer Sleep for Babies The Lullaby Trust, an awareness of SIDS, Sleep Positions, Environments, Temperatures, The Effects of smoking and e cigarettes, Breastfeeding, Immunisation, Alcohol and Drugs, Baby Check App Sleep Advice for Children over 1 – Introducing the Sleep Charity, the Importance of Sleep and Sleep Physiology, Sleep Issues and how to identify them, Good sleep practices and strategies. Finance Modules to support families with Finances, Budgets, Credit and Debt, Accessing Guidance and Support, Building Financial Resilience.

Each and every family we support is visited by a Home Visiting Coordinator on a regular basis once a volunteer is placed with them. Our volunteers have supervision with their Coordinator every 6 weeks or earlier if needed. This allows us to ensure our support to families and volunteers is focused and continues to be working towards goals set by the family.

Because
childhood
can't wait



Our Groups

"It has given me confidence to know how to take care of my baby and let them guide me based on their needs. It has made me and my husband feel stronger as a team." Bump-Start Parent

"The information sessions were so helpful for the early months of parenthood. After the course I felt so much more informed on key topics such as weaning, teething and sleep techniques! I have been able to apply the advice in practice. I found when I became a parent there was so much assumed knowledge which I was concerned that I actually didn't have! This course provided me with and helped to guide me to the essential information every new parent should have!" Best-Start Parent

"It has made me realise the self-care isn't selfish. Being mentally well & healthy makes us so much more grounded & caring mothers." Mothers in Mind Mum

With over 600 group referrals this year, we've had many families who need and want support via groups to help to relieve some of the main challenges around parenting: loneliness and isolation, parent's wellbeing and mental health and parents' confidence and self-esteem. Overall, the numbers of professionals submitting referrals to us has declined to approximately 62% and the number of self-referrals has increased. This can be challenging if complex families do not fully disclose their circumstances to us.

There has been a noticeable increase this year in the number of families seeking support from us who have high level needs and challenges around their family circumstances, due to issues with long waiting lists for statutory services. Unfortunately, we are finding that we are more regularly declining inappropriate referrals. Common themes for support include feeding support, traumatic births, extra hand-holding for parents in the immediate post-partum period and those not meeting threshold for perinatal mental health services.

The groups team have been affected by staffing changes this year, with Tracey Edwards, MIMs co-ordinator, moving to work for the NHS and her successor, Natasha Johansen, joining us in March 2024. We lost Amy Wright as our second Bump-Start co-ordinator in December 2023, as she returned to midwifery, and also Isla Rawson, our additional MIMs co-ordinator, ended her role within the Mothers in Mind project to consolidate her role as Family Co-ordinator in January 2024. We thus had to reduce our offering from three to two MIMs groups in early 2024 as a result. We have been very lucky to have a previously supported mum who attended our MIMs group, train with us to become a peer support volunteer at our current MIMs group. This is the fifth person to complete the cycle from being supported, to helping to run the group.

Our partnership and collaborative work continues to be strong this year, with strong connections forged with Gloucestershire Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership, GARAS, P3, health visiting and midwifery, plus other Home-Start schemes. We started delivering our Bump-Start groups at Stroud Maternity Hospital from September 2023 and this has been very successful, with attendance increasing and parents particularly enjoying the opportunity to view the birthing suite.



Groups Impact

Number of groups delivered:

9 Bump-Start groups, 14 Best-Start and 9 Mothers in Mind
Locations of groups: Quedgeley, Kingsway, Stonehouse, Stroud,
Cashes Green/Randwick, Tredworth, Dursley.

Who attended:

Bump-Start - 74 mums, 44 dads and 74 unborn babies at groups.
46 mums, 10 dads and 46 unborn babies also received additional support
during pregnancy or soon after baby's birth
Best-Start - 143 mums, 27 dads, 146 babies
Mothers in Mind - 110 mums and their children

	Parental Wellbeing	Parental Skills	Children's Wellbeing	Family Management
Bump-Start improvement	48.2%	94.9%	71.5%	53.0%
Best-Start improvement	66.7%	53.6%	44.7%	61.1%

Mothers in Mind Group Average WEMWBS Improvement 13.5%

Arkell Family Fun Drop In Group

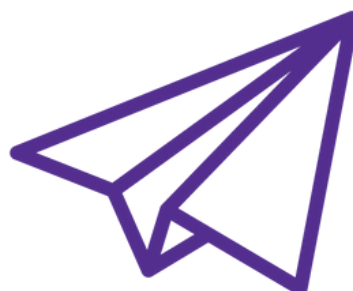
- 84% of families felt the impact on wellbeing was excellent
- 93% of families reported reduced stress
- 92% of families reported improved self esteem
- 100% of families reported a positive impact on their child

Parents need groups like this if they have limited income to help provide their children with the best start.

This group has made a huge difference to my granddaughters life, as well as my own.

I just love everyone here. The staff are so passionate and caring and are just fabulous with the children!

For parents
when they
need us most



Dad Matters Gloucestershire



"The stay'n'play groups have been invaluable in connecting with other dads who understand what I'm going through." Cheltenham Dad

"Dad Matters Gloucestershire has made me a better father and a happier person." Stroud Dad

"I struggled with balancing work and family life until I found Dad Matters Gloucestershire. The supportive community helped me become more confident in my role as a father." Gloucester Dad

Over the past year, Dad Matters Gloucestershire has continued its commitment to supporting fathers in Gloucestershire, offering valuable resources, groups, and support. The organisation recognises the crucial role that fathers play in their children's lives and aims to provide them with the tools and support they need to thrive as parents. As we move into the next year, Dad Matters Gloucestershire remains dedicated to expanding our reach and enhancing our services. Our goals include increasing the number of Stay 'n' Play groups, expanding our online resources, and forming new partnerships with local organisations to provide even more comprehensive support for fathers in Gloucestershire. We are grateful for the continued support from our community, volunteers, and sponsors, and we look forward to another successful year of empowering fathers to be the best parents they can be.

Nick Darrock-Fuller - Dad Matters Coordinator

Stay 'n' Play Groups

This year, we provided over 50 Stay 'n' Play groups, creating peer support opportunities for dads to connect, share experiences, and build a supportive community.

Hospital Support

We attended Gloucestershire Royal Hospital (GRH) once a week, supporting over 600 dads and dads-to-be. This initiative offered a safe space for fathers to receive support and guidance, reinforcing the importance of paternal involvement from the very beginning.

Professional Training

Recognising the importance of educating professionals about engaging fathers, we delivered training to over 150 professionals across the county, emphasizing the critical role fathers play and how best to support them.

Specialized Support

We supported two fathers whose partners were admitted to a mother and baby unit with severe mental health conditions (postpartum psychosis). This specialized support helped these fathers adjust to life with a partner and baby who were receiving care in a different county.

Universal Group Support

Our Universal Group Support program has been immensely successful, with 98% of attendees reporting improved confidence in their role as fathers and 87% noting an improvement in their mental health.

Volunteer Expansion

We significantly increased our volunteer base from 1 to 7. These dedicated volunteers have been and will continue to be instrumental in providing one-to-one support, facilitating groups, and assisting with marketing efforts.





Financial Spotlight

It is always rather daunting at the start of the year to see the mountain we need to climb to reach the funds we need to run the scheme. This year was no different. Thankfully we have some multiple year funding which is a huge help to us as it allows us to plan ahead. We have some wonderful funders who give us regular and generous amounts but must constantly look for new sources of finance.

It is good that the NHS has finally seen the value of the work we are doing in the field of Perinatal Mental Health and have given some solid support. Town and parish councils have been really responsive to our requests for help in assisting families in their areas and we are so grateful to the many individuals and groups who make donations to the scheme. Even small amounts all add up. We are trying to develop our fundraising side with more events which also act as a good PR exercise but it is tough competing with the myriad of good causes out there all doing the same.

Income

Statutory Grant funding £60,560

Non-Statutory Grants £285,103

Other Income and donations £48,845

Total £394,508

Expenditure

Staff Salary Costs £318,655

Volunteer Expenses £7,541

Rent and Insurance £25,778

Professional Fee £9,554

General Costs £ 38,745

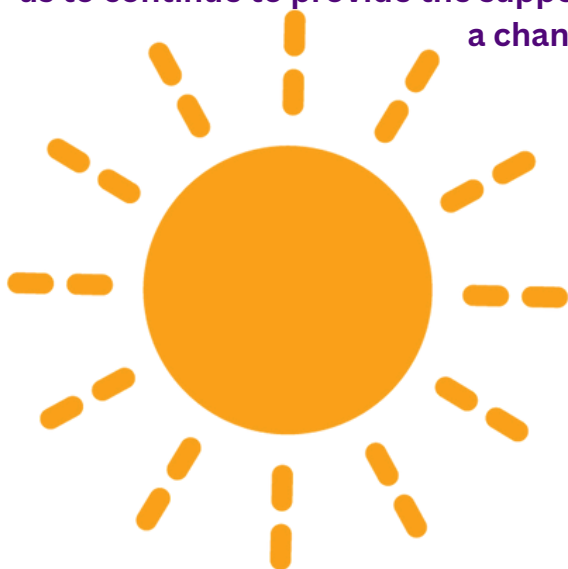
Total £400,273

Heather Cunild - Treasurer



We would like to give a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all of our volunteers. Without giving the gift of their time to support families, we could not make such a difference to so many families lives who need it the most. Our volunteers provide support to families in their own homes as well as through peer support groups, and are invaluable in so many ways.

We would also like to say **THANK YOU** to all our trustees and team of staff for their hard work and commitment. And we especially **THANK** all of our funders who continue to believe in us and help us to continue to provide the support we do for families. Their commitment empowers us to make a change for the better, so **THANK YOU**.





Peter Lang Children's Trust

The Henry Smith Charity
founded in 1628

the **Tudor**trust



Quedgeley
Town Council



David Thomas Trust



Lennox Hannay
Charitable Trust



Pears
Foundation



St James's Place





Play Gloucestershire: Stroud Report Card

Monitoring Period: April—June 2024



Play Gloucestershire is the local charity that helps children and families to Get Out and Play! Our mission is to transform children’s lives using the power of outdoor play. We believe that outdoor play is an essential part of a happy and healthy childhood, and benefits children, families, schools and communities.

Our Play Rangers provide active and creative play in urban and rural communities in the Cheltenham, Cotswolds, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Stroud and Tewkesbury districts. Activities are both school and community based, providing adventure, friendship and fun for hundreds of young people each year. School aged children and their families are the beneficiaries of our work. We particularly support children from disadvantaged and rurally isolated communities, and those living in challenging circumstances.

Play Gloucestershire’s Play Rangers have been kindly funded by Stroud Town Council.

How much did we do?

- We have provided **23 afterschool play sessions at both Archway Gardens and Mason Road.**
- Totalling **46 hours of community play across the two sites.**
- With **386 play visits across the two sites.**

How well did we do it?

“I love when you bring watermelon!” - Teen at Mason Road.

“Oh wow! You’ve brought things to make lemon water like we asked!” - Child aged 8.

“I love making orbee balloons with you.” - Girl at Archway Gardens.

Have we made a difference to children and young people?

- Making use of a local green space for play and recreation. Giving them the freedom and sense of safety to play openly not only by activities on the field but exploring the trees and surrounding areas.
- Play in community setting allows for different members of the community to engage with each other, for example dog walkers and other children’s adults chatting with children at play.
- Increased resilience through outdoor active play with a varied age group from the local community who may not normally play together.
- Creative and imaginative play with loose parts that can be loud, large and lively as required or calm quiet spaces that they don’t usually have access to.
- We promote active and healthy lifestyles with a range of activities and snacks. This combination improves mental and physical health, providing a sense of increased wellbeing.
- Positive Social Return Investment (SRI) of community play sessions, changing the way sites are used, increasing recreation and activity. Providing opportunities for families to come together, socialise and become more involved with their local community, events, etc.
- Providing emotional support through life’s ups and downs - school transitions, exam pressure, relationship issues. Listening with empathy & offering support or signposting if needed.

Log Sheet Extract — Cleaning Up

The children at Archway Gardens have really been enjoying the new play equipment which was built after the Summer holidays in 2023. We have seen the children use it for many imagination games such as an ice cream shop, a jail and a house. The climbing block has been used as a base for playing Manhunt and for the kids to sit on top of to hang out.

One day we arrived to find there was unfortunately a lot of graffiti on the different pieces of equipment, some of the children and adults expressed that they were upset and annoyed horrible things had been drawn and written on them. One of our Play Rangers tried to scrub the graffiti with hand sanitizer and wipes which helped to lift it a little. One of the children saw this and began to help which then inspired others to get involved. An older boy noticed there was a racial slur written on the spinning bowl and he decided he would take care of it so the smaller children wouldn't have to see it.

As Play Rangers we were so proud to see the children helping to try to improve their play space not just for themselves but for the enjoyment of others too and understand that the equipment should be treated with respect.



Report Card: Stroud April—June 2024

Log Sheet Extract — Secret Base

We saw two boys from our session heading up into the trees in the park which is not an uncommon thing for Mason Road. Our Play Rangers always keep an eye on this in case anything happens, we will also check in periodically to make sure they are being safe.

One of the boys emerged from the alleyway carrying a few planks of wood, dragging them across the field. The other boy saw he was struggling so ran across to help. As Play Rangers we always try to be curious and not judgemental but we also need to make sure that there are no nails in the wood and ask where they got them from. The boys told our Play Ranger that someone in the alley had dumped it out free for collection, they were using the scrap bits to make a den, in fact, they had been working on it all week.

They took our Play Ranger to see the den where they were able to check out all the scrap parts used for sharp bits and nails which there were none. They also helped to make sure their roof was stable and so it wouldn't fall on them. The boys were so proud of their den they had built which is a great achievement and use of their skills. Teamwork, problem solving and more.





Log Sheet Extract — Showing A Fresh Start

There are times, as Play Rangers, we have to manage challenging situations and behaviours. We were subjected to an unpleasant incident where two children decided to urinate on our van. As we were cleaning it off, a member of the group went to inform the caregiver of one of the boys that had done it, the mum came to the site and made him apologise. On our return to play we made the decision that the van wouldn't be driven onto site, and we felt it was important that the Play Rangers had the opportunity to address it with all the children.

Arriving on site there were cheers, "The Play Rangers are back!" This was a lovely greeting and showed just how much the children had missed our presence. There were a lot of questions about why we didn't have the van and without the kit in it what we were going to do. We used this time to play and chat, making sure everyone knew that the actions that week were totally unacceptable, and we would be keen to draw a line in the sand and make sure we all get to experience fun and play again. In reflection, this no kit session, relying on just the relationship between the children and their Play Rangers, allowed us to start again, and set the bar for how as a group we wanted to go on. The session was extremely playful throughout, utilising the new park, sharing playground games with each other and adapting rules so everyone could join in.



Grants Summary 2nd September 2024

Art & Culture Fund - 4118/103

Organisation	Project	Date Paid	Amount	Fund Total	Remaining	Notes
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals			£0.00	£11,000.00	£11,000.00	-

Small Grants - 4060/107

Organisation	Project	Date Paid	Amount	Fund Total	Remaining	Notes
Periscope	Otherwise Occupied	19/06/2024	£335.00	-	-	-
Totals			£335.00	£4,000.00	£3,665.00	-

Community Support Fund - 4146 /107

Organisation	Project	Date Paid	Amount	Fund Total	Remaining	Notes
Hawkwood	May Day Festival	10/05/2024	£500.00	-	-	-
Craftology	Night Angels	19/06/2024	£250.00	-	£250.00	-
Stroud Against Racism	Black History Month Events	12/07/2024	£1,250.00	-	-	-
Stroud Pride	Pride Picnic	19/06/2024	£1,300.00	-	-	-
The Hygiene Bank	Distribution Increase	19/06/2024	£1,000.00	-	-	-
Top of Town Community Hub	Summer 2024 Event	19/06/2024	£1,000.00	-	-	-
Trinity Rooms	Christmas Meal	16/06/2024	£900.00	-	-	-
Totals			£6,200.00	£10,000.00	£3,800.00	-

Fund Totals	Amount	Fund Total	Remaining
Art & Culture Fund - 4118/103	£0.00	£11,000.00	£11,000.00
Small Grants - 4060/107	£335.00	£4,000.00	£3,665.00
Community Support Fund - 4146 /107	£6,200.00	£10,000.00	£3,800.00
EMR (23-24 Underspend)	£0.00	£1,018.00	£1,018.00
Totals	£6,535.00	£26,018.00	£18,465.00

Stroud Town Council – Grant Application Form

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Name of organisation	Hidden Notes
Main purpose/activities of your organisation	Producing Hidden Notes Festival Recording and releasing music under the Hidden Notes label
How is your organisation constituted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Registered Charity <input type="checkbox"/> Charitable Incorporated Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Community/Voluntary Group <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit limited company <input type="checkbox"/> Community Interest Company <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Grant fund applied to	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Community Support fund <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture fund <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon Reduction fund
Overall purpose of grant	<p><u>Summary</u> This grant is to support a period of organisational development for Hidden Notes that will ensure the festival is financially sustainable and viable well into the future.</p> <p>This organisational development will involve: Presenting the sound installation 'Sonic Woodland: Glade' at Hawkwood to test new programming approaches; A SWOT analysis of the current position; Researching the strategies of sister festivals; and Strategic and business planning.</p> <p><u>Background</u> Hidden Notes is an annual festival of contemporary classical, new folk and electronic music put together by the team behind Good on Paper (Stroud's free arts and culture listings magazine).</p> <p>Four editions in, Hidden Notes has succeeded in becoming a fixture in the alternative music calendar. However, the team feels it may have achieved all it can on its current income model of ticket sales and a little sponsorship, relying as it does on an inevitably high amount of unpaid labour from its directors, who currently squeeze the festival around day jobs.</p> <p>Recognising that this model poses a risk to the festival's viability and a ceiling to artistic ambition, Hidden Notes wants to capitalise on the trust and goodwill built up with artists, audiences and stakeholders to make a step change towards a new, sustainable model for the festival. This organisational development project will enable Hidden Notes to make that change.</p>

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	<p><u>Detail</u></p> <p>This organisational development will follow these stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present the sound installation 'Sonic Woodland: Glade' at Hawkwood to test new programming approaches. <p>Opening over the Hidden Notes weekend, this free-to-attend immersive sound installation will continue to run for 8 weeks, during which there will be a one-week residency for the artists, Joe Acheson (Stroud) and Tim Southorn, and a ticketed live event with cellist Rebecca Knight.</p> <p>This project will allow Hidden Notes to test a number of things: whether there is an appetite for their work beyond the festival weekend; if they can find a new audience through free installations; whether they can enhance their work with artists through residencies and produced projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysing the current position <p>Hidden Notes will gather feedback from four delegate attendees of Hidden Notes; conduct an audience survey with four follow-up interviews for in-depth insights; interview key stakeholders and the Hidden Notes team; review the financial position over subsequent festivals; and consolidate all the findings in a single SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Researching the strategies of sister festivals and connecting with professional networks <p>Hidden Notes will undertake formal research trips for the first time, attending four festivals (two in the UK, and two in Europe), selected for their innovative programmes and professional networks. Provisionally Le Guess Who? (Utrecht); Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Profound Sound (Folkestone) and Borealis (Bergen). The attendee will report back on artistic, organisational and visitor experience insights, and professional connections from each trip.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic and business planning <p>Hidden Notes will work with Stroud-based Development Director, Richard Kingdom (ACE, Farnham Maltings) to review new and existing opportunities, and explore different funding models. They will also work with new music curator Laura Ducceschi (Brighton Festival, ACCA) to raise their artistic ambitions. By the end of the project, Hidden Notes will have signed off a strategic vision and business plan, including</p>
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	fundraising strategy, to cover the next 3-5years of Hidden Notes.		
Amount applied for	£2340		
How do you intend to spend the grant if successful? (e.g. equipment, materials, staff expenses, training, room hire etc.)	Purpose	Total spend	Spend from this grant
	Development Director	£5200	
	Hidden Notes team	£4800	£540
	Curatorial Consultant	£640	
	Sonic Woodland Installation, Residency and Live Event	£5050	£1800
	Marketing	£800	
	Research Trips	£7200	
	Research Costs (eg meeting expenses, honorariums for Hidden Notes delegates etc)	£1140	
Miscellaneous Overheads and Contingency (5%)	£1114		
How will the balance be funded?	The majority of the balance will be funded through an Arts Council England project grant (which this grant would help unlock). There is additional earned income from the live performance (£960), a contribution from Hidden Notes itself (£200), and a range of in-kind support from the project partners, particularly Hawkwood (£1800) and D&B Audio (£300). The contribution from Stroud Town Council of £2340 would represent 10% of the cash budget (ie excluding in-kind contributions).		
Give details of other applications for funding for this project. <i>*If you have not yet received a decision on other applications, please give the date when the decision is expected</i>	Source	Amount applied for	Amount awarded*
	Arts Council England	£19904	17/09/24
If the grant is for an event when will it take place?		21/9/24 to 18/11/24	

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How will your project meet the criteria for this grant fund?

(See guidance notes)

- demonstrates excellence in ambition, creativity, and delivery.

Hidden Notes is a highly regarded festival of contemporary music, recognised for its excellence in ambition, creativity, and delivery:

...almost certainly [the southwest's] most adventurous festival. - Nearfield Magazine

I genuinely haven't seen a festival line-up in such an exceptionally long time that has interested me as much as this edition of Hidden Notes... Hidden Notes have come up with a triumph of programming of some of the best composers in these genres today, and they just happen to be women. This will surely set the quality standard for years to come. - Vick Bain, the F List

It was the atmosphere most classical music programmers would dream of. - Freya Parr, BBC Music Magazine

- helps promote the reputation and values of Stroud as a place of creativity and innovation.

Hidden Notes is rooted in Stroud but enjoys an international reputation, promoting the town as a place of creativity and innovation. Festival line-ups profile local artists with national reputations (Loss > Gain, Daniel Inzani, Sarah Nicolls, Will Stokes) while bringing leading national and international artists to Stroud for the first time (Jonny Greenwood, Manu Dealgo, Midori Takada).

With audiences that come from Poland, Spain, Germany, Japan and America, you'll be mingling in a crowd of international, like-minded music lovers. - Composer Magazine

Wanted to thank you for the fantastic experience of your great Hidden Notes. No wonder the artists love to play in Stroud. - Laurent Pitsi, Belgium

- develops a stronger and more sustainable creative economy

The team behind Hidden Notes already make a very strong contribution to the creative economy of Stroud through their free listings magazine, Good on Paper and the associated Good on Paper Party. They have expanded this impact through Hidden Notes which has a significant economic impact as a result of pulling in visitors over the festival weekend (the actual monetary value will be assessed as part of this project).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• provides evidence for the quality of the proposed project, including innovation or development in cultural/artistic practice. <p>Hidden Notes is recognised for its support of high quality, innovative artistic practice.</p> <p><i>An eclectic, mind expanding, very interesting, superbly curated festival! - Breaking More Waves</i></p> <p>The installation in this project is no exception. Sonic Woodland: Glade was originally commissioned by Kew Gardens for its Wakehurst site. A cello cannon played from the trees, each cello part triggered using an algorithm designed to reflect the activity of the mycorrhizal activity beneath the soil. The piece was so successful that it was invited back to Wakehurst two years running. Hidden Notes is excited to be bringing the installation to Stroud for the first time with the intention of developing a model for bringing more work like this (ie free-to-attend, immerse sound works) to Stroud in the future. This run will also include a one-off live event with the piece's cellist, Rebecca Knight (London Sinfonia) performing with and within the installation. This has not been done previously.</p> <p>Moreover, Hidden Notes will be testing a move towards producing artists' work by supporting the installation's artists, Joe Acheson and Tim Southorn, with a residency to develop a lighting component for the installation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• is likely to have beneficial effects that extend beyond the period of the project itself. <p>The most significant longer-term benefit of this project is to Hidden Notes itself. If successful, this project will enable the organisation to move towards a more sustainable model that will ensure the festival continues to delight audiences for many years to come.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the group and/or project is financially sustainable and viable. <p>Over four editions of Hidden Notes, the festival team have been able to make incremental steps towards paying themselves for some of their time. While this demonstrates that the festival is financially viable, its dependence on unpaid labour poses a risk to its sustainability in the longer term. This project aims to put them on a surer footing, building the capacity to look further forward and deliver more ambitious projects for the town.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourages community engagement, and wellbeing for Stroud residents <p>An exciting aspect of staging the installation at Hawkwood is that it will reach a new, broader audience for Hidden Notes. The installation has been chosen because it is visually unintrusive and musically familiar - drawing on classical string canons - such that there are fewer barriers for uninitiated visitors, encouraging Stroud residents who are visiting Hawkwood’s grounds, to experience the piece on their own terms. While they will have the clear option of engaging more deeply through the live event, the primary interest here is to explore that initial engagement with an audience that may be new to sonic works of this nature. The intention is that they ultimately find it a peaceful and uplifting experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shows evidence of partnership working. shows evidence of a well-managed group. <p>This project supports a new partnership with Hawkwood and both parties are excited to be working with each other for the first time. The strength of Hawkwood’s in-kind support has also enabled Hidden Notes to include the residency as part of the installation’s run.</p> <p>More broadly, the strategic and business planning will be focused on finding more opportunities for Hidden Notes to work in partnership to deliver its work in the future.</p> <p>The regular delivery of the monthly Good on Paper magazine, its annual party, and four iterations of the Hidden Notes festival - all achieved around full-time jobs - demonstrates a highly capable level of management.</p>
<p>How will your project help to reduce CO₂ emissions? (See guidance notes)</p>	<p>Hidden Notes takes its environmental responsibilities seriously, from encouraging staff to cycle to its office, to supporting local suppliers in the delivery of the festival.</p> <p>In this project, the same policies will be applied, the most significant potential impact being the research trips to other festival for which travel will be undertaken by train wherever possible.</p>
<p>CHECKLIST I confirm that:</p>	
<p>I have read the grant terms and conditions</p>	<p>Yes/No/ N/A Yes</p>
<p>I have attached a copy of our latest accounts, including a breakdown of salary costs</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>I have attached a copy of our governing document/constitution</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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I have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy (only required for projects working with children, young people or vulnerable adults)	N/A

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Name of organisation	Stroud Book Festival
Main purpose/activities of your organisation	Each November, Stroud Book Festival presents a creative programme of high-quality, entertaining and thought-provoking events to engage audiences in our vibrant local community and beyond. We programme a diverse range of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, creative writing workshops and two days of events for primary schools that includes live streaming for any schools unable to attend in person. We produce events that cover important subjects including the climate crisis, social care, history, politics and the importance of creativity for everyone. We work with local vendors, venues, and businesses in Stroud to support the economic growth of Stroud and the surrounding areas. Past events include internationally renowned, award-winning authors such as our patron, Ian McEwan, Kate Mosse, Michael Morpurgo, Mary Portas, Rachel Joyce, Tom Kerridge, Joe Coelho, Clive Myrie, Julia Donaldson, and many more.
How is your organisation constituted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Registered Charity <input type="checkbox"/> Charitable Incorporated Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Community/Voluntary Group <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit limited company <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Interest Company <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Grant fund applied to	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Community Support fund <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture fund <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon Reduction fund
Overall purpose of grant	<p>The grant objective is to curate an ambitious, creative festival that fosters community engagement, celebrates the written word and builds long-term impact through our festival events, additional school events, workshops and partnerships. Specific goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A partnership with local charity Allsorts, that works to ensure there is an opportunity for children and young people with additional needs to enjoy the festival. We will create a free relaxed storytelling event and offer free tickets to all our events to participants of Allsorts programmes. • We will again work with the local NHS social prescribing team to continue our social prescribing efforts. After excellent feedback in past years, we will offer free tickets to those struggling with physical or mental illnesses, who are isolated or who may not think a Festival event would be for them. • We have an ambitious goal to expand our digital offering post festival by recording and possibly streaming the events produced at Lansdown Hall. • We also plan to offer writing workshops to local writers and offer an opportunity for local unpublished writers to share their work. <p><i>This aligns with our plans to ensure the Festival is accessible to as many people as possible, especially those who are socially isolated, lack the funds to attend or would otherwise not consider doing so.</i></p>

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Amount applied for	£1,500		
How do you intend to spend the grant if successful? (e.g. equipment, materials, staff expenses, training, room hire etc.)	Purpose	Total spend	Spend from this grant
	Gloucestershire Writers Workshops & Event	£3,100	£250
	Audio Visual Costs to Record at Lansdown Hall	£2,500	£1,000
	Festival Coordination Time Allocated to Project	£830	£250
How will the balance be funded?	<p>The Festival has a well-balanced fundraising plan, and we apply for funding from a variety of sources, including private foundations, public grant giving bodies, local businesses, and individuals. We also work to maximise our ticket sales. We will work to ensure we can make up the balance of the costs noted above through our other funding streams.</p> <p>In general, should there be lower than expected revenue in 2024, we would potentially reduce the filming element in Lansdown Hall. The work with Allsorts and local unpublished writers will not be moved or scaled back.</p>		
Give details of other applications for funding for this project. <i>*If you have not yet received a decision on other applications, please give the date when the decision is expected</i>	Source	Amount applied for	Amount awarded*
	Arts Council England	£3,100	£3,100
	The Barnwood Trust	£1,000	Expected September 2024
If the grant is for an event when will it take place?		6 – 10 November 2024	
How will your project meet the criteria for this grant fund? (See guidance notes)	<p>Stroud Book Festival develops an ambitious portfolio of events and works hard to connect people of all ages in our community with outstanding practicing writers and storytellers, to inspire both reading and creativity. The Festival has demonstrated excellence in ambition, creativity, and delivery and promotes Stroud's reputation for creativity and innovation.</p> <p>By offering workshops led by established authors and professionals that focus on skills development, particularly in areas like creative writing, digital storytelling, and self-publishing, the festival helps develop a stronger and more sustainable creative economy and provides innovation in cultural practice.</p> <p>Our work to include community projects such as our partnership with Allsorts, our collaboration with local schools and venues, to create inclusive, accessible events demonstrates</p>		

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	<p>evidence of community support and involvement and encourages community engagement and wellbeing for Stroud residents.</p> <p>Now in our 9th year, we deliver a full 5-day festival of more than 40 events in venues across Stroud. We have a well-controlled budget, detailed production schedules and work closely with our venues to ensure the festival is professionally run and managed.</p> <p>With more than 4,500 tickets sold, the festival brings footfall and revenue to local businesses and venues. The Festival has an important place in the town events calendar and draws on the culture and creativity of the area every year. We are confident our past festival shows clear evidence of a well-managed group.</p> <p>We are also working to expand the work of the festival to include school visits at other times of the year as well as workshops for unpublished writers throughout the year. The Laurie Lee Prize for Writing launches each year in the spring, with the prize giving held at the festival in November. This work supports our goal to have a strong, long-term plan for the festival.</p> <p>Creativity sits at the heart of what we do: we offer residents of Stroud and the surrounding area the chance to experience world class poetry and literature, and we offer local authors and performers space to share their own work. We are pleased that our ticket sales have been strong each year, and we are very proud of the many strategic partnerships we have forged with local community groups, businesses and charities based in Stroud. We are focusing this year on sharing resources and programming events in partnership with Stroud Arts Festival, Stroud Valleys Project, Stroud High School, and Allsorts.</p> <p>We work to make sure that Stroud Book Festival is a sustainable, welcoming, creative festival that brings people together, enhancing Stroud's cultural landscape while ensuring the festival's sustainability and community impact.</p>
<p>How will your project help to reduce CO₂ emissions? <i>(See guidance notes)</i></p>	<p>We are committed to integrating sustainability into the festival's operations and programming, encouraging our venues to work with us to achieve Stroud Town Council's goal to become carbon neutral by 2030, and offer events focusing on environmental themes.</p> <p>It is the policy of the festival to encourage walking, cycling and public transport, especially during the 5-day festival. We strive to avoid single-use plastic, and we encourage the use of local</p>

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	<p>vendors at the festival. We offer vegan and vegetarian options when providing meals in our Green Rooms.</p> <p>Stroud Book Festival has been committed to addressing issues surrounding the climate crisis since its inception Our annual programme always reflects this, and we have played host to authors such as Gail Bradbrook, Jonathan Porritt, Jay Griffiths, Will McCallum (Co Executive Director of Greenpeace) and Rob Hopkins, founder of the Transition Towns movement. We have strong links with Transition Stroud and Stroud Valleys Project.</p>
CHECKLIST I confirm that:	Yes/No/ N/A
I have read the grant terms and conditions	✓
I have attached a copy of our latest accounts, including a breakdown of salary costs	✓
I have attached a copy of our governing document/constitution	✓
I have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy (only required for projects working with children, young people or vulnerable adults)	

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Name of organisation	Stroud Love Music Hate Racism
Main purpose/activities of your organisation	<p>Stroud Love Music Hate Racism uses the energy and vibrancy of music events to promote unity and celebrate multi-culturalism and diversity through education and events.</p> <p>Stroud Love Music Hate Racism has a track record of organising and hosting music events in Stroud . These events have taken place over the last 8 years in the Old Town Hall, Star Anise and Studio 18.</p> <p>Key members of Stroud Love Music Hate Racism</p> <p>Jagdish Patel - Main orgainser of Stroud Love Music Hate Racism. He is a former chair of the Stroud Fringe Festival (2009) Director of the Stroud Solar 2000 street festival (1996), co-organiser of Ramfete (2023) , former presenter on Stroud FM community radio, DJ on Stroud Love Radio and currently music promoter and DJ at Stroud Global Beats.</p> <p>Jayne Avery is a well known local wellbeing practitioner specialising in pilates and yoga. She has helped organise, and volunteered at all the Stroud Love Music Hate Racism events.</p> <p>Remi Patel has helped organise young people to take part and perform at Stroud Love Music Hate Racism events.</p>
How is your organisation constituted?	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Registered Charity <input type="checkbox"/> Charitable Incorporated Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Community/Voluntary Group <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit limited company <input type="checkbox"/> Community Interest Company <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)</p> <p>Stroud Love Music Hate Racism is a not for profit Unincorporated Association</p>
Grant fund applied to	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Community Support fund <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture fund <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon Reduction fund</p>
Overall purpose of grant	To pay for additional PA equipment, a sound engineer for the day and travel /subsistence

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	<p>expenses of performers for the event 'Music without Borders'</p> <p>'Music without Borders- A celebration of Multi-cultural influences in Stroud - a one-day event designed to harness the unifying power of music and dance.</p> <p>Our goal is to attract a broad audience of all ages and backgrounds from across the Stroud district and beyond, creating an inclusive space for everyone to come together and celebrate the positive impact of multi-culturalism.</p> <p>The objectives of the event</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To bring the Stroud community together to promote a message of community understanding, solidarity, peace, and friendship within Stroud.2. To promote community cohesion, integration and connection by bringing together people from different ages, backgrounds and cultures at this community music and art event. Music and arts provide a special opportunity to connect, make friends, exchange stories and provides an opportunity to better understand one another in these tumultuous times, recently marred by racist inspired riots.3. Provide a platform for multi-cultural , anti-racist and refugee support organisations to disseminate information and create an opportunity for deeper one to one dialogue concerning racist activity and support for refugees and asylum seekers. <p>Event Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Date: Sunday, 8th Sept 2024● Venue: Goods Shed Courtyard● Stroud Schedule: 12 noon to 8 pm● Activities: Amplified music and dance. World street food stalls, community organisations.● Entry Fee: By donation - ranging from £5 - £15● Health, Safety, and Security: The Goods Shed is a licensed venue run by the Stroud Valleys Artspace. Rigorous arrangements
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	<p>will be in place to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all attendees with minimum disturbance to local residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity: Between 200 - 499 people 		
Amount applied for	£500		
How do you intend to spend the grant if successful? (e.g. equipment, materials, staff expenses, training, room hire etc.)	Purpose	Total spend	Spend from this grant
	1.Hire of PA Mixer 2.Hire of Sound Engineer 3.Subsistence expenses for performers Venue Performers Stewards Marketing Administration	£150 £250 £100 Inkind Inkind Inkind Inkind Inkind	150 250 100 0 0 0 0 0
How will the balance be funded?	In kind		
Give details of other applications for funding for this project. <i>*If you have not yet received a decision on other applications, please give the date when the decision is expected</i>	Source	Amount applied for	Amount awarded*
	None		
If the grant is for an event when will it take place?		8 th Sept 2024	
How will your project meet the criteria for this grant fund? (See guidance notes)	The event seeks to bring the community together. Our goal is to attract a broad audience of all ages and backgrounds from across the Stroud area creating an inclusive space for everyone to come together to		

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	<p>experience and celebrate the positive impact of Multiculturalism and its influence on music on our community.</p> <p>Our event seeks to involve young people to understand and appreciate multiculturalism</p> <p>We hope to build on this first event to develop a bigger multicultural music and arts celebration in 2025</p> <p>All proceeds from this year will go towards covering costs. Any surplus will be used to host future Stroud Love Music Hate Racism non profit events.</p>
<p>How will your project help to reduce CO₂ emissions? (See guidance notes)</p>	<p>All event attendees are encouraged to use public transport, walk or cycle to the event.</p>
<p>CHECKLIST I confirm that:</p>	
<p>I have read the grant terms and conditions</p>	<p>Yes/No/ N/A Yes</p>
<p>I have attached a copy of our latest accounts, including a breakdown of salary costs</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>I have attached a copy of our governing document/constitution</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>I have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy (only required for projects working with children, young people or vulnerable adults)</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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Name of organisation	Stroud Commonwealth Ltd		
Main purpose/activities of your organisation	Our main purpose is enabling community development, The Exchange provides a shared workspace, meeting rooms and hot desks for a wide range of community organisations including Teens in Crisis, Stroud Valleys Project, Transition Stroud, Gloucestershire Counselling Service, Stroud Beresford Group and Alcoholics Anonymous. (A full list of current users is attached to the application.)		
How is your organisation constituted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Registered Charity <input type="checkbox"/> Charitable Incorporated Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Community/Voluntary Group <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit limited company <input type="checkbox"/> Community Interest Company <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Company Ltd by Guarantee (with no shares)		
Grant fund applied to	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Community Support fund <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture fund <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon Reduction fund		
Overall purpose of grant	We need to replace our computer as our current one is no longer supported and has stopped working. We rely on having a computer for managing all of our work, including the bookings, accounts, communication and social media.		
Amount applied for	£500		
How do you intend to spend the grant if successful? (e.g. equipment, materials, staff expenses, training, room hire etc.)	Purpose	Total spend	Spend from this grant
	Dell PC	£500	£500

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How will the balance be funded?	None		
Give details of other applications for funding for this project. <i>*If you have not yet received a decision on other applications, please give the date when the decision is expected</i>	Source	Amount applied for	Amount awarded*
	None		
If the grant is for an event when will it take place?			
How will your project meet the criteria for this grant fund? <i>(See guidance notes)</i>	The grant will support activities that build the capacity of our community organisation to support ourselves and funding the purchase of a computer will be assisting in a one-off way.		
How will your project help to reduce CO₂ emissions? <i>(See guidance notes)</i>	We will recycle the old computer and the new one will be more energy efficient than the 10 year old computer we are currently using. We will use our existing monitor.		
CHECKLIST I confirm that:			Yes/No/ N/A
I have read the grant terms and conditions			yes
I have attached a copy of our latest accounts, including a breakdown of salary costs			yes
I have attached a copy of our governing document/constitution			yes
I have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy (only required for projects working with children, young people or vulnerable adults)			n/a