

**Valley Arts
Public Meeting
Annual review 2019 - 2020**

4 February 2021 at 7.30pm



Welcome!

- From the Valley Arts trustees
 - Geraldine Hill-Male
 - Ray Montague
 - Matt Stewart
 - Camilla Usher-Clarke
 - Patrick Waldock



Where we were at the 2019 annual meeting in Jan 2020

- 2019 was a successful year for us.
- We had built a strong Case for Support.
- We were working closely with Lighthouse Schools Partnership to develop plans for an arts centre.
- We continued to put on a series of successful performing arts events at local venues across the year.
- A successful Arts Council application enabled us to develop our Autumn Fringe Festival with many more shows and workshops for all ages.
- We put on a successful evening at Yeo Valley Canteen. It sold out fast, and raised significant funds.
- We expanded our board of trustees and welcomed Oscar winning actor, Jeremy Irons, as a patron.



We all know what happened next

- COVID-19 changed everything. For all of us.
- The impact on the entire performing arts industry was catastrophic. Theatres closed. Stage crews laid off. Festivals cancelled.
- The concept of fundraising for charities changed overnight. Even those that were typically considered safe, saw income plummet.
- As a charity, we recognised an immediate need to be realistic in the here and now, and do what we could, in our own way, to help our community.



How Valley Arts responded

- No events. No fundraising. No income from Glastonbury.
- So what next...?
- Nothing could happen under Lockdown.
- So we turned our website into an entertainment guide, to help our community find new things to do.
- Then we made a film, Lockdown Liberation.
- An hour-long celebration, showcasing local talent, using young local film makers beginning their career.
- The response to our creative callout was phenomenal, including music, poetry, acting, dance, choirs and even a bit of pottery.
- From children to our elders, all were included.
- Launched with due razzmatazz via Ringers Radio, The Isolation Station.
- And we featured on BBC Radio Bristol.



A new way to stage events

- As soon as lockdown was lifted, our events team started planning Covid-secure events, under Government guidelines.
- Outdoor events include:
 - Bubble Bach in a field
 - Paddington's first concert at Manor Farm
 - Take Notice - an evening of spoken word in Chew Magna. Hosted by Beth Calverley and featuring Bristol City poet in residence Caleb Parkin and Malaike Kegode. This event was live-streamed to a national audience
- These events were offered free of charge to encourage our audiences to come back to live performances.



'A real lift in these difficult times. Thank you Valley Arts for everything you have done.'

Then Covid-secure indoor events

- As Lockdown lifted, we sold out:
 - The Six Wives of Henry VIII from Living Spit
 - The Great Big Story Mix-up from Roustabout Theatre
- Then we moved into another Lockdown and we had to cancel:
 - Cinderella from Tor Theatre
 - Living Spit's Beauty and the Beast
 - Great Expectations by a founder member of Kneehigh Theatre
- Sold out means 35 people in a hall with a capacity of 180. And we spent nearly as much time cancelling shows as putting them on.
- However, 400 participants and an online audience of nearly 2000 are a significant achievement in a terrible year!



'It was so lovely to be back at a live performance. We both really appreciate the time and effort Valley Arts put in to ensure this performance was put on safely.'

'Thanks for looking at BLM and the challenges it can bring to a rural community.'



Consultation: The Voice of the Valley survey

- The events of 2020 dramatically changed how people can meet and enjoy one another's company.
- So we want to hear your views, to help us adapt, and provide the best entertainment and performing arts resources for our community.
- Maybe it's a bit of Strictly-inspired dancing, a local gig with a bar, a creative writing workshop or perhaps a youth theatre group, all on your doorstep?
- Add your Voice via the website – www.valleyartscentre.co.uk
- If you need paper copies, just email info@valleyartscentre.co.uk and we will send them out.
- And thanks to kind donations from local businesses, there's even a free prize draw!



What are the plans for the Performing Arts Centre?

- In early 2020 the LSP Academy Trust, supported by Valley Arts, finalised the design for a new building at Chew Valley School.
- Planning permission has now been granted.
- Now well placed to apply for grants and funding from Education and Arts sources.
- It doesn't make sense to invest limited funds in fund raising for an Arts Centre during the pandemic.
- For the time being Valley Arts' focus is on promoting the performing arts in the Valley.
- Valley Arts continues to support CVS in its efforts to develop much needed facilities for the performing arts.



Q&A



Special thanks to a dedicated team

- We are forever grateful to the dedicated team of volunteers that help run Valley Arts.
- We couldn't do any of what we do, without you.
- Special thanks to:
Laura Davies, Stephanie Clements, Amy and Matthew Clipson, Meg Thackray-Howard, Jo Haywood, Naomi Kent, Stuart Mackie, Ed Lodite, Caroline Lowe, Miles and Luca Leonard, Maria Montague. Our wonderful patrons. And the cast of thousands that helped make Lockdown Liberation a reality.
- Thank you!



Thank you for joining
us this evening.

Find the survey at:
www.valleyartscentre.co.uk

