

CORN EXCHANGE NEWBURY



**'...THANK YOU FOR PUTTING ON
SO MANY ENJOYABLE SHOWS
AND EXPERIENCES AT THE
CORN EXCHANGE. YOU ADD VALUE
TO ALL OUR LIVES.'**

Corn Exchange Supporter

WELCOME FROM JESSICA

As I look back, I'm enormously proud of what we achieved in this year. We engaged with thousands of local people at quality live shows at the Corn Exchange, amazing outdoor performances in Newbury, and through our diverse programme of courses and classes. I am delighted with all that the team has achieved with and for their colleagues, volunteers and community.

This report outlines just some of the ways that the Corn Exchange has had a positive impact on local people's lives. We are passionate that the arts make a difference and I hope you enjoy reading about just some of our work.

We know that these achievements have only been possible with your support. You – our Members and Companions, donors, funders, staff, volunteers, audiences and participants – are all extraordinary but together enable great success and make a huge difference to our community. Thank you.

Our community is at the heart of everything we do and we are really excited about opening our new hub for arts and wellbeing at the Old Library later in 2025. It will be a place to connect with others, develop creative skills or try new things – to improve emotional, physical and mental wellbeing for our community.

Thanks, as ever, for your support.

Jessica Jhundoo-Evans
Director



We appreciate ongoing support from



OVER THE LAST YEAR YOU HAVE MADE EVERYTHING WE DO POSSIBLE...



7,150
attended outdoor events



27,460
engagements with our learning and participation programme



228
live indoor shows



19,626
watched our panto



71
artist residencies at 101



4,519
donors



19,773
volunteer hours



£1,109,407
raised from grants



212
workshops delivered in schools



6,925
young people engaged with our Learning Centre activity



6,735
older people taken part in Ageing Creatively



130,050
overall engagements across all our activity

WE SEEK OUT BETTER WAYS TO DO THINGS

CODE

In August we presented an extraordinary mid-scale show featuring trial bikes, parkour and beautiful choreographed physical ensemble sequences by Justice in Motion, developed at 101 Outdoor Arts. The project spoke about County Lines knife crime and aimed to reach out to teenagers and young adults with its powerful message. We supported the participation of four local young people who learnt physical theatre and parkour skills enabling them to perform with the company in the show. We worked with local community associations to stage the performances in communities which have faced challenges with anti-social behaviour in order to reach young people affected by these issues.

Making Music, Making Friends

We proudly delivered several of these intergenerational projects this year. Monthly sessions connect a class of primary school children with a group of older people, who then participate together in fun music and singing sessions. As part of our Ageing Creatively programme these sessions consistently leave a lasting impact, proving to be deeply meaningful experiences across generations, promoting mutual understanding and appreciation.

'The residents talk about the children long after they've gone.'

Care Home staff member

'The children have learnt... that music is something that reaches all ages and that it can bring a sense of unity. Singing is a way of bringing happiness to everyone.'

Primary School teacher



CODE



If You Fall



The Wizard of Oz



Youth Theatre



Making Music, Making Friends



Boy on the Roof

WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT THE ARTS

Youth Theatre

Over 150 local young people, aged 14 to 19, have taken part in weekly sessions with professional theatre practitioners this year, making new friends and learning new performance skills. Our Youth Theatre supports young people in building confidence and self-esteem as well as teaching communication and presentation skills and the importance of commitment, teamwork and empathy. This year our Infant and Junior Youth Theatre worked with professional theatre makers to present a large scale production of *The Wizard of Oz* on the Corn Exchange stage.

We have seen first-hand the positive benefits of engaging young people with arts and cultural learning and celebrating their talents and we're committed to providing bursaries to ensure the sessions are open to all.

'I am so glad I didn't quit drama. The show was the best thing I've ever done and it felt amazing. I'm going to be in every show, every year until I'm a grown up and then I'm going to be an actor.'

Youth Theatre member

Co-commissioning

This year we are delighted to have co-commissioned *If You Fall* presented by Ad Infinitum – a show about care, love and the end of our lives – and *Boy on the Roof*, presented by Vamos Theatre, the UK's leading full mask theatre company, a story of an unlikely friendship where acceptance, understanding and love find their way to centre stage.

We are proud to support these companies to present these ambitious shows and since developing these relationships we have helped these companies build loyal audiences in Newbury.

WE PUT OUR AUDIENCES AND PARTICIPANTS FIRST

Creative Art Journaling: Young Minds

These sessions provide a visual safe place for young people to acquire skills to express themselves and help them through challenging times. Led by a professional artist, Creative Art Journaling connects with young people's mental health to help them explore, articulate and manage their emotions through creative activity. This year we delivered 8 six week courses, with 80% reporting that they felt more able to attend school and 90% saying that the sessions had helped them manage emotions or behaviour.

'Y (who usually prefers to communicate non verbally) nodded throughout Deborah's personal story & even spoke to her at the end...their teacher commented how amazed she was that he had done this as he rarely says a word to anyone. He also stayed the longest and did not want to go because he wanted to finish his page.'

Practitioner

Panto Pay it Forwards

Thanks to our donors and funders, the second year of our Panto Pay it Forwards appeal raised over £9,600 and provided free *Beauty and the Beast* tickets to 238 school children and 317 vulnerable adults and families who otherwise would not have been able to see the magic of panto.

'It meant that children who would not normally have had access to an experience like going to the theatre were able to come and join us. We could celebrate as a community and no child felt that they had been left out or that it was an experience that they couldn't quite afford.'

Primary School Teacher



Creative Art Journaling



Singing for Recovery



Mo and the Red Ribbon



Mo and the Red Ribbon



Beauty and the Beast

WE RESPECT AND INCLUDE EVERYONE

Singing for Recovery

These sessions have a focus on wellbeing and use vocal warm-ups, singing techniques and group singing to promote relaxation and enjoyment in a friendly environment. Aiming to help build the confidence needed for recovery through singing with support and guidance from a professional singer, feedback from participants show that these sessions have been really impactful.

'What a wonderful, wonderful experience! It has reignited my love of proper singing and brought me true, pure joy. Something I've not had - just for me - for a long, long time - thank you'

Participant

Mo and the Red Ribbon

This year we brought this incredible large-scale outdoor performance by French company L'Homme Debout (*The Standing Man*) to Newbury, which attracted over 3,000 people to the town centre. The performance moved the audience through the streets telling the story of a child refugee, Mo, who had arrived in Newbury in search of their family. The epic sequences and stunning visual images entranced audiences. Larger than life moments of interaction included fire pots dispersed along the high street, 200 giant balloons bouncing above peoples' heads and a montage of digital projects in a spectacular finale.

WE AIM FOR EXCELLENCE

Take it Outside

This year saw the launch of our Jerwood Foundation funded *Take it Outside* programme at 101 Outdoor Arts, an artist development scheme aimed at supporting extraordinary early-career artists, typically with less than ten years of professional practice, that are aiming to develop work for outdoors and public space. Through this scheme, we are supporting artists to lead innovation and artform development over the next decade, creating work of international quality for outdoor contexts.

'I'm currently immersed in the Take It Outside Residency at 101, and the support I've received thus far has been nothing short of incredible. 101 stands out for its uniquely warm atmosphere, fostered by its cross-disciplinary approach to performance. Beyond being a facility that has gifted me a new scale of experimentation, 101 embodies a vibrant community, enriched by its dedicated staff and the ethos that defines it. Through the Take It Outside residency at 101, as well as engagements with (101 designer maker event) Shedonomism I've found myself opening up to a world of collaboration with technicians and performers. It's an exhilarating journey, and I'm eager to explore where this influx of new skills and conversations will lead my work.'

Philip Ewe – Take it Outside artist

Museum of the Moon

For three weeks over the summer we took the seats out of our auditorium to hang Luke Jerram's world class *Museum of the Moon* installation. Working in partnership with Visit Newbury, over 19,000 visitors came to see the installation, many of whom had never been to the Corn Exchange before. Almost 500 people also took part in experiences under the Moon, including Storytime under the Moon for young families, Adult and Family Tai Chi, Adult and Family Yoga, Gong Bath and Restorative Yoga and Sound Healing.

'Such a fab use of the auditorium. Well done for bringing it to Newbury, Corn Exchange'

Google review



Museum of the Moon



Take it Outside artists



Careers in the Arts



Work Experience



Listening with Your Eyes

WE WORK COLLABORATIVELY

Careers in the Arts

A joint project between the Corn Exchange Newbury and The Watermill Theatre, funded by Greenham Trust, which sets out to inspire and educate young people aged 14 to 25 in what a career in the arts can and does look like. The project aims to help young people to feel confident about pursuing a career in the arts, to change the assumption that performing is their only option, and to put a spotlight on the many other opportunities in the creative industries that can range from marketing, planning and fundraising to the designing, making and running of shows and events. So far we have engaged with over 4,260 young people as part of this project.

'Attending these sessions has solidified my passion for the arts and has helped me discover all of the doors that could be open to me. I've loved finding out about the many roles and teams in a theatre... I would love to have more opportunities like this in the future...'

Careers in the Arts participant

Listening with Your Eyes

Our partnership with West Berkshire Adult Social Care and Vamos Theatre provides the Listening with Your Eyes communication training sessions to council care staff across all council run residential and day centre settings in West Berkshire – teaching confidence in reaching and connecting with people living with dementia. The training offers tools and techniques to support good practice in person-centred care including empathy, deep listening, insight, and trust; encouraging positive communication without words that is physical, honest, clear and caring. This year we have trained over 50 council employees.

'It was a brilliant blend of the informative and the engaging. I got a lot from it that I will implement in my working practice.'

Participant

OLD LIBRARY

This year we launched our fundraising campaign to redevelop the Old Library in Newbury town centre to become a new arts hub and permanent home to our creative participation activity.

Greenham Trust have purchased the building on our behalf and we have secured planning permission to redevelop this empty town centre heritage building, originally opened as a Carnegie library in 1906. Exterior work and weather proofing have been completed with interior construction to begin once sufficient funding has been secured. Once complete the transformed Old Library will provide a permanent home for our engagement activities with two dedicated engagement spaces, one of which will be a flexible performance space, and a café bar. Our creative participation activities provide a lifeline to many local

people: reducing social isolation and loneliness within our community; improving mental health locally; and supporting young people in building confidence and self-esteem. The Old Library will be the perfect new home for this area of our work.

As we go to print in February 2025 we are continuing our fundraising campaign and hope to begin interior construction work very shortly.

Our campaign video is here vimeo.com/920031083

'This will be such a valuable space and wonderful resource for our town' **Community member**

We would like to thank all of our Old Library campaign donors so far, more information is available here cornexchangenew.com/oldlibrary

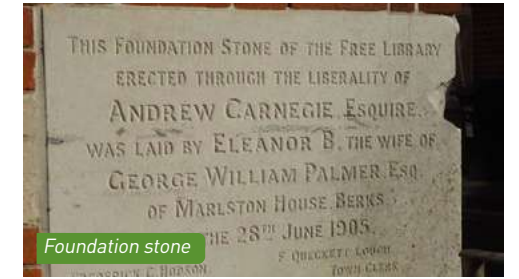
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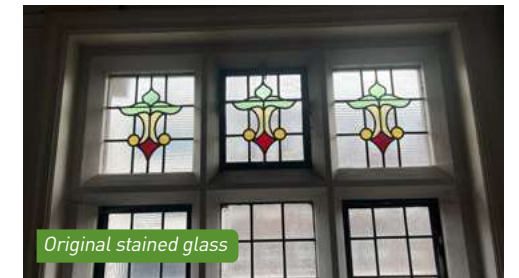
OLD LIBRARY
CREATING A NEW ARTS HUB FOR NEWBURY



Old Library February 2024



Foundation stone



Original stained glass



Old Library entrance



Side Elevation Plan



Interior March 2024



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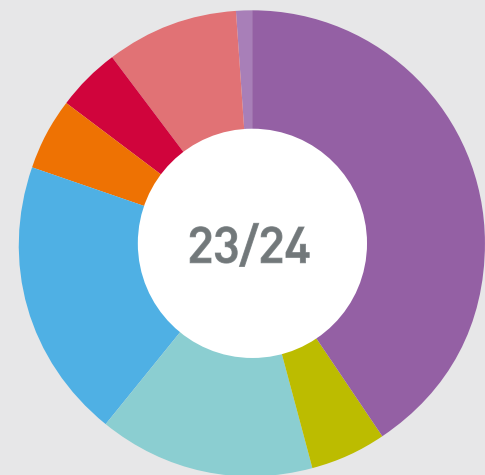
18

19

- 1 & 2 *The Wizard of Oz*
- 3 *Ancient Futures*
- 4 *Act 55*
- 5 *Listening with Your Eyes*
- 6 *CODE*
- 7 *Stitch and Sew*
- 8 & 13 *Mo and the Red Ribbon*
- 9 *If You Fall*
- 10 *Latin in Line*
- 11 *Boy on the Roof*
- 12 *World Crafts*
- 14 *Festival of Light*
- 15 *Roald Dahl schools project*
- 16 *Urban Sketching*
- 17 *Create and Make*
- 18 *Ballroom and Latin*
- 19 *Young Performers Showcase*

OVERALL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

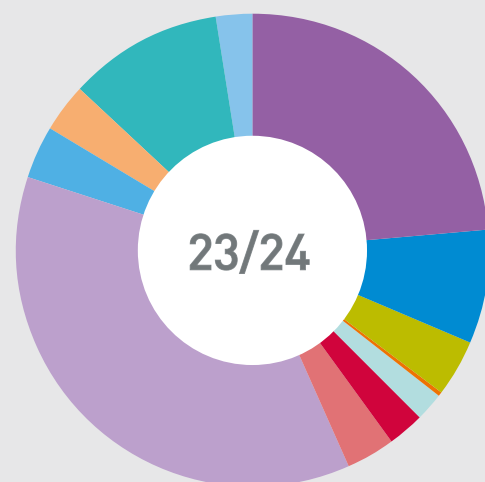
INCOME



Artistic Activity	£1,334,040
Learning and Participation	£172,524
Grant Funding (inc ACE and Lottery)	£485,043
Trusts and Foundations (inc Greenham Trust)	£637,917
Fundraising (Individuals and Sponsorship*)	£167,507
Fundraising - Old Library (up to Mar 24, excl pledges)	£145,476
Trading	£297,249
Other Income	£33,181
Total	£3,272,937

*includes £26,359 from Gift Aid

EXPENDITURE



Artistic Activity (film, live performance and hires)	£762,453
Artistic Activity (101 and Outdoor)	£250,720
Learning and Participation	£124,121
Fundraising	£7,926
Fundraised income moved to designated funds	£59,500
Capital expenditure on Old Library Campaign (up to Mar 24)	£78,867
Trading	£115,074
Staff Costs	£1,172,045
Administration Overheads	£114,384
Marketing and Technical	£106,847
Premises Overheads	£342,055
Other Expenditure	£74,293
Total	£3,208,285

THANK YOU

We are grateful for the support and generosity of all our members and donors, please see a list of our individual donors here cornexchangenew.com/oursupporters, and our Old Library Patrons here cornexchangenew.com/oldlibrary

We would like to thank all the trusts and foundations, businesses and organisations who have supported us this year, including with our Old Library campaign.

Every penny you have donated has made a real difference, helping us to carry out our extensive programme of work, fulfilling our mission to offer high quality arts and creative activity to more and more local people. We hope you will continue to support us as we look forward to reopening the Old Library and expanding our creative participation work.



Corn Exchange gratefully acknowledges funding from:



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COMMUNITY FUND



NEWBURY Town Council



RIVAR LTD

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WAITROSE & PARTNERS

West Berkshire COUNCIL

Events wouldn't happen without our team of dedicated volunteers. We would like to thank all of our volunteers for kindly giving us their time.





Photographers:

Camilla Adams
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Adam Hillier
Simon Vail

Mo and the Red Ribbon



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