

REFLECTING ON THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Annual Review of the Octagon Theatre,
Westlands Entertainment Venue and our
Arts Engagement & Outreach Service 2024-25



2024-25

WELCOME

As we look back on the last 12 months, we celebrate a remarkable community of people who have brought creativity, passion and joy to our venues. From spectacular performances, to unlocking talent and potential in our classes and workshops, to the simple joy of being together sharing stories over tea and cake, our venues have delivered this every day. While these moments have taken place throughout the year, behind the scenes there has been significant change.

Somerset Council declared a financial emergency which meant that non-statutory services (including culture) faced ever-growing pressure. Our colleagues and councillors showed their passion, dedication and support for the arts to ensure our venues and service would continue to provide culture and creativity. Management of Westlands Entertainment Venue (and our staff and volunteers) transferred to Yeovil Town Council, where we are proud to be part of the new Culture, Events and Promotions directorate. Yeovil Town Council have demonstrated their ambition and commitment to ensuring our venues continue to flourish, and are there to ensure our residents benefit from excellent art, culture, leisure and heritage, that supports health and wellbeing, and attracts visitors to the area. The Arts Council England (ACE) funded National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) Arts Engagement and Outreach Programme remains with Somerset Council, and so will the new Octagon Music Hub, which will bring strategic leadership for Music Education to children and young people in Dorset and Somerset within our organisation. Despite the financial emergency, plans to develop the Octagon Theatre and see the venue reopen continue to move forward (see page 11 for a detailed update). We cannot wait to see our beloved theatre back open but do not want to miss the opportunity to develop the venue and secure its long-term future for generations to come.

The last twelve months have certainly been a journey. Staff and volunteers have banded together by responding to challenges and opportunities with creativity, skill and dedication that makes me incredibly proud and grateful. Our guests, residents, customers and patrons have remained at the heart of what we do and, hopefully, they have not been impacted by the change and disruption happening around us.

Our biggest production of the year is always our annual pantomime, watched by around 25,000 people who make a visit to our pantomime part of their festive tradition. This year we took the production in-house, producing the show ourselves. A brand-new script, costumes, production team, and cast (with increased opportunities for South West based creatives) came together to create *Jack and the Beanstalk*. It proved to be a really joyous experience from start to finish and a strong debut for our first large scale production produced in-house here in Somerset.

Throughout the year, we have seen so many memorable and special moments every day. A huge thank you to all the artists, staff, volunteers, teachers, participants, audiences and guests who have found and brought so much joy to our venues and our service. I hope next year will bring many more moments of happiness and success to share.

Adam Burgan

*Director of Culture, Events and Promotions
for Yeovil Town Council
Arts & Entertainment Venues Manager for
Somerset Council*



SPARKING CREATIVITY, LEADING CHANGE

Our aim is to unleash creativity, connect our communities, improve access to the arts and nurture talent here in Somerset and across the South West.

STAGED

211

performances

ENTERTAINED

90,377

audience members at
Westlands Entertainment
Venue

PROGRAMMED

15

performances in
community spaces
to inspire 26,007
audience members
where they live

DELIVERED

1,291

classes, workshops
& activities

SHOWCASED

299

cinema screenings

FOOTFALL OF OVER

200,000

visitors to our venue
throughout the year

SAW

22,341

participations
(where participants
took part on more
than one occasion)

ENGAGED

10,638

participants

INVITED

2,156

local performers
to perform on our
stage

RECEIVED

5,642

hours of volunteer
support

MORE THAN JUST NUMBERS

90% of Year 12 & 13 students were more confident about a career in the creative industries after completing our week-long work experience programme.

This programme supported young people to develop key employability skills and discover how a receiving theatre operates.

100% of patrons who attended shows at our venue with support from our Accessible Ticket Scheme said they would not have been able to attend had they not received £3 tickets through the scheme.

One recipient shared: "[it has given us] a sense of belonging and being valued."

82% of students who attended our BSO GCSE Concert said it had enhanced their knowledge of GCSE music.

Hearing an orchestra perform live brought learning alive — a powerful, inspiring experience that left a lasting impact.

100% of participants who took part in our Parkinson's Dance project reported improved balance and fewer falls.

One participant shared: "I am less wobbly and less likely to fall over for several days."

100% of participants from our Time Together music-making project for new parents feeling low after the birth of their child said their mood significantly improved.

With many going on to access further support from project partners as they navigate early parenthood.

100% of artists who received our Creative Commissions grant said it positively impacted their artistry and career.

Sparking new opportunities and leading to paid work for over 80 local creatives across Somerset.



THE YEARS IN FIGURES



	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Attendance (Total number of tickets sold)	3,617 (O) 6,218 (W) 9,835 (T)*	63,042 (O) 25,193 (W) 88,235 (T)	(O) 108,377 (W) 49,422 (T) 157,799	9,180 (O) 80,918 (W) 90,098 (T)	90,377 (W)
Number of performances	27 (O) 15 (W) 42 (T)	188 (O) 44 (W) 232 (T)	(O) 195 (W) 68 (T) 263	21 (O) 210 (W) 231 (T)	211(W)
Number of Screenings (Westlands)	363	183	346	237	299
Gross Box Office income	£119,418	£1,610,213	£2,926,312	£1,952,792	£1,712,187
Annual income – Excluding Box Office	£15,053 (O) £172,990 (W) £188,043 (T)	£622,287 (O) £473,233 (W) £1,095,520 (T)	£1,416,481	£264,875 (O) £971,286 (W) £1,236,161 (T)	£1,028,980 (W)**

Key: (O) Octagon, (W) Westlands, (T) Total
*Figures affected by Covid-19 pandemic
**Westlands only from 1st August 2024 – 31st March 2025

“Thank you so much for hosting our show in Yeovil yesterday. We felt really looked after and hugely appreciate everyone going out of their way to make us feel welcome. The audience was so appreciative, and the curtain raiser participants were a bonus to our Yeovil visit. Please pass on our gratitude to all those who made this experience a memorable one for us.”

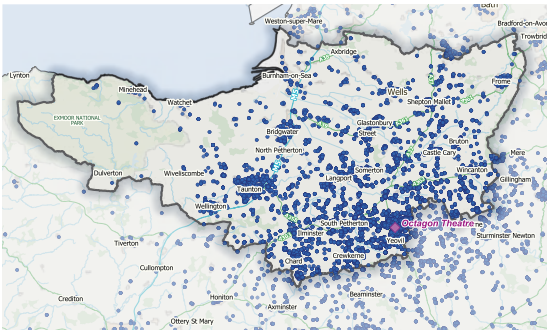
Artistic Director of visiting show

WHERE DO OUR CUSTOMERS COME FROM

These maps illustrate the geographic distribution of audience members who have travelled to attend performances at Westlands Entertainment Venue.

Each dot represents a person who purchased at least one ticket for a performance from 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025.

It's important to note that this map doesn't capture the full extent of our visitors. Tens of thousands more have attended conferences, meetings, community events, participation classes, banquets, or simply stopped by for coffee and cake. It also doesn't reflect how many tickets each person purchased or how often they visited. Instead, it highlights the impressive reach and diversity of our audience across the region.



OUR HIGHLIGHTS

A Year of Extraordinary Entertainment at Westlands

The Octagon and Westlands have delivered another year filled with unforgettable moments. From laugh-out-loud comedy and thrilling music to captivating dance and high-energy celebrations, each performance brought people together and created lasting memories.

Audiences were treated to great live music from The Manfreds, The Drifters, The Puppini Sisters, Steeleye Span, Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers, Tony Christie and The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain. The thrilling harmonies of G4 and Armonico Consort filled the air, while comedians Jack Dee, Omid Djalili, Ed Gamble, Rob Beckett and Al Murray had audiences in stitches. Music lovers sang along with *Man in the Mirror*, *Whitney Queen of the Night* and *That'll Be The Day*. DJ Judge Jules and the Back to the 80s party nights got everyone on their feet. Highlights also included *The Nutcracker*, Andre Rieu and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra – delivering stunning dance and orchestral performances. Families were captivated by *Ministry of Science* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and we enjoyed drama with a production of *Macbeth*. Plus, we welcomed some familiar faces to our stage to share stories from their careers including Aled Jones, Graham Norton, Kate Mosse and Adam Frost.

Each event was a celebration of creativity, imagination and community, offering something special for everyone.



"Those Piano Nights are more than a bit special. A straightforward yet brilliant concept; set up a grand piano in Westlands' Lounge Bar, and while away a relaxing evening with good drink, good food and good company. Against a backdrop of, as the Westlands website puts it... musical elegance. What a treat, on many levels!"

Audience Member



YEOVIL LITERARY FESTIVAL

Chapter 12

2024 marked the 12th Yeovil Literary Festival, with thousands of book lovers flocking to our venues to share their passion for reading, meet literary heroes, stories, and perspectives. The line-up featured Sir Ian Rankin, Martin Clunes, Kaleb Cooper, David Walliams, Kate Humble, Paul Sinha, Susie Dent, Alan Johnson, Ben Elton, Carol Klein, Simon Armitage, Michael Ball, and Luke Evans to name just a few!

The festival is a not-for-profit partnership between The Octagon Theatre and Westlands Entertainment Venue, Waterstones Yeovil, Yeovil Community Arts Association and Yeovil Library. Together, we continue to create opportunities for discovery, connection, and inspiration through literature.

A total of 5,220 tickets were sold across 43 engaging events, making it a tremendous success.

Welcome to the
Yeovil Literary Festival 2024



THE OCTAGON THEATRE UPDATE

The Octagon Theatre remained closed through 2024-25 with many of our customers, artists and residents concerned about the future of the theatre, indeed, it was the most common comment in our recent public survey. A number of milestones were reached through 2024-25 on the development plans for the theatre.

The Octagon is owned by Somerset Council who are leading the project to develop and reopen the theatre. Somerset Council are working in partnership with Yeovil Town Council who have agreed in principle to provide funding of £3.75m towards the development. The £10m of government funding awarded to the development remains available and combined with existing fundraising, ticket levy income and other sources sees a total budget of £15m.

During the year a new architect led design team were appointed along with new project manager and cost consultant to manage the project. Our team have been working with the new design team to help them understand the building, the issues and challenges the current building faces, particularly around access, stage technical issues, lack of front of house facilities (including toilets) and general wear and tear on the building. In June 2025 the Project Board signed off RIBA II plans and RIBA III commenced.

We look forward to sharing more information with you as the project develops. We cannot wait to see The Octagon Theatre back open and welcoming guests and artists. You can keep up to date on progress with the Octagon Theatre development by visiting our website.



OUR CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

Jack and the Beanstalk Takes Centre Stage

In 2024, we proudly produced our first-ever in-house pantomime. For over fifty years, The Octagon's beloved pantomimes had been created by national producers. When that chapter came to a close, we saw an opportunity to take the reins ourselves and create something new for our community.

The result was *Jack and the Beanstalk*, a joyful celebration featuring a brand-new script, original sets and costumes, and a creative team drawn from the South West. The production gave our staff a chance to contribute their creative talents and bring something truly local and personal to the stage.

The Fine Times Recorder praised the show, saying:

"This Jack and the Beanstalk is an outstanding pantomime, telling the story, entertaining all the audience and proving once again that in theatre terms, Yeovil really is an exceptional place."

More than 21,405 people attended 38 performances, all of which received glowing reviews.

We are already looking forward to our next adventure, *Beauty and the Beast*, which will take to our stage this Christmas for the very first time as a professional pantomime, promising even more laughter, music and magic.



The festive season is always the busiest and most magical time for our organisation, as friends and families come together to celebrate and create unforgettable memories with us. Westlands Entertainment Venue is lit up with festive cheer, hosting a flurry of seasonal celebrations. The sold-out *Castaways Christmas Spectacular* brought the house down, while the nostalgic Back to the 80s Christmas Party and many more events filled the venue with joy. Our incredible staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure that the festive season truly is the most wonderful time of the year.

PRODUCTIONS & EVENTS

We bring culture to doorsteps by programming a vibrant range of world-class performances in public spaces across Somerset and provide a multitude of opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to perform on our regional stage.

Bringing world-class performances into the heart of our community

- 5 mesmerising outdoor theatre productions, 2 classical music concerts captivating parents & their babies and people living with dementia, 1 enthralling walkabout performance, as well as our enchanting Piano Nights and Acoustic Afternoons.
- Over **26,000 people** from across the county attending cultural events and watching live performances in community locations where they live.
- Over **500 performers** of all ages and abilities taking to our regional stage to perform in our community productions.
- **Positive economic impact** in locations where events and productions were staged.



One Super Saturday

In 2024, Yeovil's Super Saturday event featured a show-stopping extravaganza – a gigantic 12-foot-tall wheel that left the audience in astonishment! Autin Dance Theatre performed their spellbinding production, *Parade - The Giant Wheel* twice throughout the day, delighting families and shoppers in the heart of Yeovil's Town Centre. The Giant Wheel was rolled through Yeovil, powered by 6 artists and joined by a vibrant community cast. Crowds danced, followed and watched in awe as performers brought the streets to life. It was a joyful, unmissable spectacle that united people of all ages in movement, music and wonder.

The impact was undeniable. The event didn't just unite the community – it reignited the town's vibrancy. The energy was electric as families, shoppers and visitors filled the streets, boosting footfall and giving businesses a welcome lift.



Festivals, Conferences, Banquets and Meetings

As a multi-purpose venue, every day at Westlands Entertainment Venue is different. Spend a day at the venue and you'll see a range of different events and activities taking place throughout the day.

- The venue is popular for festivals including the Yeovil Beer and Cider Festival, Somerset Jobs Fair, Christmas Arts & Crafts Market, and Yeovil Together.
- Westlands welcomed corporate events, conferences and banquets for Leonardos and Screwfix, and the Election Count, with banquets including the Funtasia Charity Ball.
- Each month we host around 53 meetings – approximately 636 per year.



“It was incredible to see the town respond in this way, for people of all walks of life to come together, stand side-by-side, and participate in this unifying experience.”

Event Organiser, Super Saturday

PARTICIPATE

Across the year we offer a range of opportunities for all ages and abilities to join in, get involved, and take part. From energetic dance sessions to inspiring arts and crafts, participants are encouraged to unleash their creativity and SHINE.

Inspiring the region to take part, get creative and stay active

- **Over 7,300 people** aged from just 3 months to 90 years took part in activities, classes and workshops at our venue and across the county.
- **22 weekly participation classes** for all ages and abilities, resulting in 1,095 employment hours for local vocational teachers.
- Over **6,500 children, young people and families** attended our free Summer and Winter **PlayDays** held in Yeovil, Wincanton, Langport and Chard.

“This experience was amazing, it has made me feel quite inspired and definitely increased my confidence.”

Participant



South Somerset's PlayDays

The summer of 2024 saw us working with local and national organisations and artists to bring FREE creative activities and live theatre to residents, as part of the PlayDay initiative.

During the summer of 2024, we planned a series of four free PlayDays in local parks and recreation grounds in Yeovil, Langport, Wincanton and Chard, to provide young people and their families with the opportunity to unleash their creativity and sense of play. Participants got to create music and play a variety of different instruments from African drums to the ukulele; having a go at spinning plates, juggling and stilt walking; creating no-waste paper plate golden geese, air-drying clay beanstalks and decorating magic beans; with free face painting and activities from Somerset Libraries, Freedom Leisure and others. We also programmed live outdoor theatre productions by national touring theatre companies to entertain, inspire and educate audiences.

The PlayDays provided accessible, high-quality activities and performances on people's doorsteps, with opportunities to try new things, get creative, play together and keep active during the summer holidays. These events were a great way to bring people together, change perceptions on place, and positively impact mental health and wellbeing.

“The summer holidays are long and expensive, this event has given us a reason to leave the house without incurring huge costs.”

Parent

ARTS FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING

Creative activities that provide emotional and physical support to individuals with mental health and long-term health conditions, delivered in partnership with NHS trusts, community organisations and voluntary services.

Projects include:

- **Parkinson's Dance** in Langport, a creative movement & dance project designed to address the symptoms of Parkinson's.
- **Movement Through Cancer** in Yeovil, a creative movement & dance project designed for people living with or at any point of their cancer journey.
- **Time Together** in Wincanton, a sensory and creative music-making project aimed at parents feeling low after the birth of their child, delivered in partnership with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.
- **Somerset Wellbeing Orchestra** in Chard, a music-making project aimed at adults who have reported mental health challenges or would like extra support, delivered in partnership with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

Supporting people to live well, live longer and aid their recovery

- **Over 100 specialist support-led sessions** delivered that support treatment, recovery & long-term wellbeing.
- **146 participants** were supported across our health & wellbeing projects.
- **ALL participants** said the projects are helping them to better manage their health and wellbeing.
- **Improving health care** professionals understanding of how creative arts can benefit the health and wellbeing of their patients.



SCAN ME



Watch our **Movement Through Cancer** film and listen as our brilliant practitioners discuss the benefits

SCAN ME



Hear from participants of our **Parkinson's Dance** project in this short film created last year

Changing lives through creative dance

Bill, who previously had no interest in dance, reluctantly started attending our Parkinson's Dance sessions in Langport one year ago. Now, he never misses a session, as he gains a lot of joy from dancing and has experienced many benefits since. He now feels confident and strong enough to walk without his walking aid and has had fewer trips and falls. Bill's Parkinson's Nurse even said, "keep doing what you are doing Bill – you are doing really well at the moment!" Bill commented he has never heard her say this to him and noted the only change he has made to his life is attending these sessions. His partner said she is so pleased to see him walking and moving easier, and being more sociable, since accessing the Parkinson's Dance project, noting how the sessions have made them both happier and healthier.



CREATIVE LEARNING & EDUCATION

We collaborate with schools throughout Somerset to create meaningful opportunities for teachers and students to engage with and be inspired by world-class companies. By working closely with leading creative organisations, we deliver a rich and varied programme that brings learning to life. Our programme involves CPD training that supports and empowers teachers, free in-school workshops for pupils, opportunities for students to watch captivating performances and perform live on our regional stage.

Enriching classroom teaching and broadening familiarity with the arts from a young age

- **16 Somerset primary & secondary schools**, delivering dance, theatre and music programmes with Wise Children, Motionhouse Dance and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO).
- **800 students** benefitted from creative participation through workshops with inspirational performers and musicians.
- **2,350 students** watched live professional performances.
- **63 teachers** benefitted from CPD training with highly specialist practitioners

Creativity that supports educational achievement

“The partnership with The Octagon & Westlands has had a direct impact on the improvement of of the practical component for Year 10. The hands-on workshops with Wise Children has helped to professionalise the students at Stanchester as they move towards their GCSE year.”

Curriculum Lead of Creativity & Culture,
Stanchester Academy

“Access to the arts is particularly difficult in rural villages, the children have really benefitted from having these sessions and being able to have exposure to BSO and classical music has been fantastic.”

Music Lead, Long Sutton Primary





TALENT DEVELOPMENT

To support talent and inspire the next generation, we have designed a programme of activity to help young people find their path into the Creative Industries.

Empowering young people to build futures in the creative industries

- **60 secondary school students** got to have a go at lighting, sound and stage management, and be producers, directors and performers for the day at our Creative Careers Event.
- **Over 1,000 students aged 8-25** learnt about different jobs in the Creative Industries through our Careers Talks delivered to Primary, Secondary and College students in Somerset.
- **27 work experience students** got hands-on experience and insight into running a busy receiving and producing venue.
- **3 apprenticeships** offered, supporting our Marketing, Technical and Catering teams.
- **1 internship** in partnership with Exeter University
- Provided paid on-the-job training experience to **3 local emerging facilitators** on our Participation and Arts for Health & Wellbeing programmes.

“My Assistant Teacher role has been inspirational and has opened up new opportunities and pathways for me. I have learnt so much and am so grateful for this opportunity, it has been the highlight of my career so far! Thank you.”


Local emerging facilitator



Supporting local talent

We are proud that our venues are at the heart of the community in Somerset. Many local groups and societies stage performances and events at our venues throughout the year including Castaways Theatre Group, Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society (YAOS), University College Yeovil (Graduation), Helen Laxton School of Dance, Keri Hill Dance, Eminence Dance, Miss Natasha School of Dance, Yeovil Amateur Pantomime Society, Project Play, Project Dance and many more.

ARTIST SUPPORT



We offer support and encouragement for independent professionals and organisations working in all forms of creative practice whether that's visual arts, circus, dance, film, music, opera, photography, poetry, storytelling, theatre, or another artform. To nurture artistic innovation in Somerset and contribute to a sustainable local, regional and national ecology.

Supporting artists to develop lasting creative careers in Somerset

- **200 hours of Free Studio Space** for artists to create, rehearse and develop new work.
- **44 artists** receiving 1:1 mentoring support and advice.
- **20 Piano Nights & Acoustic Afternoon sessions** giving paid performance opportunities to 13 local musicians to perform live to over 770 audience members.
- **8 Creative Commissions** awarded to local artists & organisations to develop original work that reaches people living in Somerset.
- **21 Artists Blogs and Vlogs** showcasing Somerset's creative and cultural practitioners.

“It did exactly what it said on the tin and explained the fundamentals of producing but also how the trainers were able to adapt and change the content of the workshop to suit the experience of the participants. It was very much appreciated, and I learnt so much more because the workshop was tailored to my level of experience.”

Participant

ACCESS & INCLUSION

Our Accessible Ticket Scheme, SHiNE Bursary Fund, Octagon Buddies, School Travel Bursary and Octagon & Westlands Inclusion Group, supports individuals of all ages and abilities to attend and take part in, creative participation classes, workshops, theatre shows and events, who might not be able to access the opportunity otherwise.

Our Access Schemes empower individuals in our community to thrive, express their creativity, and feel truly valued and included.

Creating space for everyone to belong and be inspired

- **Over 450 tickets** at £3 to low-income customers across 20 performances.
- **16 participants supported** to attend weekly participation classes through our SHiNE Bursary Fund.
- **Free buddy support** offered to anyone who feels unable to attend shows and events on their own.
- **7 schools supported with travel costs** to enable over **1,890 students** to experience the magic of theatre.
- **Improving access** by actively listening to disabled, D/deaf, and neurodivergent people about barriers they face.



“We very much enjoyed it - it was our first ever pantomime experience. As a family of 6 on low income it would simply not have been affordable on our family budget without the Accessible Ticket Scheme, which is why we’ve never been before. It was a fantastic experience, thank you for the opportunity to experience your pantomime.”

Patron

Taking pride in where we live

To share some feedback we received from patrons who have attended shows at our venue thanks to the Accessible Ticket Scheme, 100% of respondents ‘strongly agreed’ that they felt ‘proud of their local theatre for offering the Accessible Ticket Scheme and making theatre more affordable for people on low incomes’. And 100% of those that responded said they would not have been able to attend had they not received £3 tickets through the scheme.

ENVIRONMENT



We are committed to acting on and responding to the climate emergency. We place sustainability at the heart of decision-making and embed environmental consideration into our daily operations through training, monitoring our energy consumption, and localising our activity across Somerset.

We have made several positive changes by using renewable energy sources and lowering our energy consumption. This year we have reduced our mark in the following ways:

- **54% of tickets were sent as e-tickets**, reducing paper waste – a positive step up from 49% the previous year.
- **73% of all waste was recycled**, supporting circular economy and reducing environmental impact.
- **100% of our waste was diverted from landfill**, reinforcing our commitment to responsible disposal practices.
- We partnered with **Carbon Literacy Project**, offering staff accredited training that empowers them to make informed, sustainable decisions in their daily work.
- **Over 6,170 people attended our creative PlayDays in community locations across South Somerset**, bringing arts activities closer to home and reducing the need for travel.
- We source electricity from **100% green energy providers**, ensuring every pound we spend supports the development of renewable energy and helps phase out fossil fuels.
- We have established **Environment & Sustainability Staff Champions**, a working group of staff members from each department, which has seen us take a more active stance on promoting environmental consideration both internally and externally.



SUPPORTING ROLES

Volunteers

Our venues and activities are brought to life by an incredible team of 80 dedicated volunteers. They are the heart of our success, helping us deliver inspiring programmes and creating unforgettable experiences for our audience. Over the past 12 months, our volunteers have generously given 5,642 hours of their time to support our work. We couldn't do it without them!

A special shout-out goes to our Foyer Club, who handle Front of House duties – everything from taking tickets and showing customers to their seat to selling ice creams, confectionery, and merchandise. As a registered charity, they also play a vital role in fundraising for our venues, helping us to continue to thrive. We are truly grateful for the passion and commitment our volunteers bring, and we're proud to have them as part of our community.



Partners

The success of our Arts Engagement & Outreach programme is built on the strong relationships we've developed with our incredible partners. Their support has been instrumental in helping us bring creativity, culture, and joy to communities across Somerset. This year, we've been able to deliver a wide range of activities thanks to the invaluable contributions of:

Abri Housing Group
 Alzheimer's Society
 Ark at Egwood
 Armonico Consort
 Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
 Chard Museum
 Chard WATCH CIC
 Freedom Leisure
 Langport & Huish Youth Group
 LiveWest
 LOVE Yeovil
 Motionhouse Dance Company
 Somerset Activity & Sport Partnership (SASP)
 Somerset Diverse Communities
 Somerset Libraries
 Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
 Somerset Skills & Learning
 Stuff & Nonsense Theatre Company
 The Balsam Centre
 Wise Children Theatre Company
 Yeovil Art Space
 Yeovil College

THANKS

This has all been possible thanks to The Octagon Theatre becoming an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) and being awarded an investment of £760,000 to support arts and cultural activities in Somerset from 2023-2026.

In addition, we received support from Somerset Council, Yeovil Town Council, Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership (SASP), Somerset Community Foundation, Abri Housing Association, Wincanton Town Council, Leonardo UK, Langport Town Council, Brympton Parish Council, and Chard Town Council.



"I would just like to say thank you so much to everyone who made this such an amazing day out. It isn't easy for a little one with SEND to sit for a performance but that doesn't mean they don't enjoy it. My little man spent most of the show at the edge of the stage, joining in as he could. Your cast made him feel so special, waving at him and responding during the show and coming to speak to him when they were taking their well-earned break. The cast and front of house staff and volunteers made him feel special and wanted. Thank you again."

Audience member

Special thanks goes to our Octagon Arts Engagement & Outreach Board:

CLlr Federica Smith-Roberts (Chair)
 CLlr Nicola Clark (Vice Chair)
 Amelia Thompson
 Caroline Barnes
 CLlr Heather Shearer
 CLlr Mike Best
 CLlr Val Keitch
 John Clark
 Lucinda Langdon
 Sara Skirton

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