

Report from The Old Court to RBWM O&S Panel

Tuesday 3rd November 2020

**THE
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COURT**

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THE OLD COURT Windsor

- The Old Court, Windsor is a historic building that has served many roles in the history of Windsor. The building became listed in 2019. It was extensively refurbished between December 2017 and March 2018. At the end of the financial year 2019-2020 the building closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- In the year April 2019-March 2020 the team at TOC continued to develop the venue into a fully-functional community arts centre, kitted it out with the necessary capital purchases to make each room versatile and usable, collected a young, dynamic and passionate team and continued to maintain and establish links with many community groups.
- The aim of TOC's is to create a programme that is:
 - Well reputed, of high quality and thorough
 - Allow people of all ages from across the community access to inspiring, quality Arts programmes and practitioners
 - Inspired by and builds upon the unique history of The Old Court via meaningful arts participation for all ages
 - Include a wide range of creative arts including music, dance, photography, cinematography, theatre craft, design, literature etc.
 - Make TOC Arts Centre the recognised community arts HUB in Windsor, Slough, Maidenhead and the wider area.
 - Based upon lasting partnerships and relationships across the community that make the community more cohesive and bring about positive change
 - Utilising the assets of TOC's facility and staff broad range of skills set.

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SWOT Analysis

An external SWOT analysis of the programme identified the following opportunities and areas of need.

Strengths and Opportunities include:	Areas to develop to realise the education ambitions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• History/Reputation of the building• Existing relationships with local schools Windsor Festival (WF) First Schools• In a short while has already been successfully offering community opportunity• Geographically well placed to be a community HUB• Offers a range of venues: Theatre, Cinema, workshop area, Attic, and exhibition space• Theatre is well equipped and boasts an onsite technician• Technical Theatre staff can offer training to fill the practical gaps in the Windsor College courses.• Enthusiastic staff with a range of skills and commitment to the venue and community• Other local theatre (Theatre Royal) has a different focus, and not as community centred.• Support of the Council• Staff have existing relationships with the school and community via the Windsor Festival work• Systems are in place for community exhibitions• Has been no cinema in the area for 35 years, and the appetite for our cinema has grown	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review marketing programme and create a strategy• Website needs to be more functional• Integrate aspects of the cinema content and screenings into the strategy• Secure funding for the resources to deliver and develop the education and engagement initiatives

Achievements in 2019

- Made the building of the highest standard, providing an Arts Centre which can serve the community professionally and to a high standard of performance of all kinds
- New seating installed in auditorium
- What's On brochure produced monthly
- The relationship with NDCinema was reorganised and the activity of running the cinema was brought in-house and is now managed by TOC. NDCinema retain ownership of the projector, screen and sound system, and the relationships with film studios.
- 100 live events including a new relationship with Live Music Now
- Set up a volunteering programme for young people, and older adults
- Unique experiences such as Living Advent Calendar and Snowman with live orchestra



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Year report to RBWM: April 2019 - March 2020

Total attendees: 57290 (RBWM target 28000)

Health and Wellbeing classes:

- Yoga
- Writers Group
- Photographic society
- Life-Drawing
- Ballet
- Dance
- Music Theatre
- Drama
- Social clubs including Meet Ups
- RBWM Libraries events for children
- House Jazz Trio
- Actor-in-residence
- Ukulele group
- Jazz and Folk jam sessions

These classes help people socialise, enjoy time together, and focus on something different from daily life.

Attendance at classes: 1100 per month; 15 classes per week

Schools and Community projects: programme with Royal Opera House Create&Sing for Windsor Schools; work with Windsor College on supporting their shows, including with musicians.

Community hires: 24: meetings, performances, parties

Events marketed by the venue: 100

Corporate hires: 6

The building closed, because of the pandemic on Wednesday 18th March

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Living Advent Calendar

December 2019



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Plans for 2020

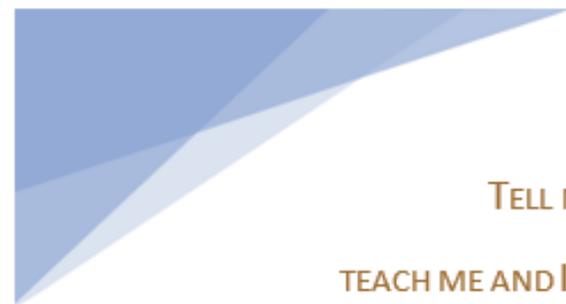
- Focus on building audience
 - New website
 - Presentation of events
 - Marketing
 - Brochure
 - Social media
 - Build mailing list
- Develop community and education programme through digital work
- Support grass roots musicians, artists and technicians

WAC Man, from 1977

Windsor Arts Centre Superhero to celebrate the opening in 1977 reproduced by Soulful Creative at The Old Court.

This coincided with work undertaken on cataloguing the extensive archive material found in the loft. This work is ongoing





TELL ME AND I FORGET

TEACH ME AND I MAY REMEMBER

INVOLVE ME AND I LEARN

Benjamin Franklin

Involve me and I learn

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME OF THE OLD COURT, WINDSOR.

Schools Education Work undertaken

When	Project	Components	Delivery Partners
March 2019	ROH Hansel and Gretel teacher training	Certified teacher CPD	Royal Opera House Berkshire Maestros
April 2019	Training for 16yr- adult: Theatre Skills for putting on your own performance	Practical training on theatre skills run by Alfie	TOC Staff delivery
June 2019	ROH La Boheme	Singing workshop/ presentation of selected arias from La Boheme, along with understanding the libretto and learning about Opera and stagecraft	Windsor Upper Schools
September 2019	The Flying Machine	An adventure in sound and image Interactive Arts activity with schools	Orpheus Sinfonia
Sept 2019	Windsor Festival Exhibition	Schools submit arts material for exhibition.	TOC hosting partner for WF
Jan 2020	Berkshire Young Singer of the Year	An annual competitive event. The final of this was postponed, and was staged live in September 2020	Windsor Festival Berkshire Maestros
March 2020	Berkshire Young Musician of the Year	An annual competitive event, but this year, for Percussion, Brass and Wind	Windsor Festival Berkshire Maestros

Supporting GrassRoots live music

Project Description:

To create a 3 year performance opportunity for GRASSROOT musicians of all types from the RBWM and Slough area encouraging development of local talent through associated activity and providing a paid, professional gig in a working venue. Each venue would allocate a monthly slot for the GRASSROOTS showcase and 2 bands would perform a 75-minute set each night in each venue. The idea is that each band has 2 performance opportunities, one in each venue, with the opportunity to apply for further performances. By limiting the opportunity to bands from the Windsor, Maidenhead and Slough borough we will ensure that the opportunity will be genuinely benefitting local grassroots musicians and enable an area we can realistically thoroughly seek out beneficiaries within.

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Existing Community Relationships (beyond school connections) with whom we are already working:

- Windsor College Drama Department
- Royal Windsor Information Centre
- Windsor Arts Youth Theatre
- School of the Arts
- Dramatica
- Acoustic nights (open mic)
- Photographic society
- Dance school
- Windsor Fringe and Windsor Festival
- U3A Ukulele Group
- Windsor Writers Group
- Sound Crowd (local participants)
- Swingland (local participants)
- Local Windsor Artists
- Slough Art Society
- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Libraries
- Voci Chamber Choir
- Quire Voices
- Royal Harmonics

Community Programme Ideas – With a focus on reaching youth, young and older adults

General Learning Workshops	Youths (16-21)	Adults (18-30)	65+
<p>Learning in the Attic Programme (Inspired by the work and history of the venue)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartooning and animation • Learning to be a reporter • Blogging • Writing a short story • Sound Engineering • Film expose programme like a short pre or post screening discussion (led by students of WC) • Calligraphy • Getting into the music business • “A Taste of “series: ukulele, ballet, theatrical singing • Mixing and lighting 	<p>Back stage Workshops: (servicing Primary Schools Programming)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prop making • Set design building • Sound engineering • How to use lights <p>Mock Trial – partnership with Maidenhead Mock Trial society and a local law firm</p> <p>Volunteer Programme</p> <p>Movie Club</p>	<p>Theatre Sports Night</p> <p>Board Games Night</p> <p>Themed Late Club Nights</p> <p>Design Challenge Night</p> <p>Ballroom Blitz model</p> <p>Potential themed film evenings – supper club screenings</p> <p>Exhibitions on Screen</p> <p>Book Club</p>	<p>Let me tell you a Story (How locals were involved in the history of TOC creating a historic record – inspiring other Learning activities in column 1))</p> <p>History of the local area in school programme (training to present)</p> <p>Cabaret Night (partnering local Music society- participatory and acts)</p> <p>Volunteer programme</p> <p>Golden Oldie Film events – tied to an afternoon tea or day out package.</p>
EXISTING Families/Children	Existing Youth	Existing Adults	New Teacher Training Programme:
<p>Family Concerts with wrap around and/or immersive learning</p> <p>Ballet Classes</p> <p>Youth Theatre class and holiday programmes.</p> <p>Ensemble Bash half term Feb 2019</p>	<p>Performing Arts from Windsor College</p>	<p>Choir Sound Crowd</p> <p>Photographic Society</p> <p>Ukulele Group</p> <p>Windsor Writers Group</p> <p>Spanish Group (in bar)</p> <p>German Group (in bar)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic Singing cross curricular programme • Create and Dance • Microphones and sound desks 101 • Using Lights to enhance your school show • Stage Manager skills for dummies (taster)



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