

The R C Sherriff Trust Annual Review 2023



THE **RCSHERRIFF** TRUST
30 YEARS ADVANCING THE ARTS IN ELMBRIDGE
1993-2023

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GENERAL STATEMENT

2023 was the first full year that saw a full relaxation in Government restrictions following the Coronavirus pandemic . Arts practitioners felt that it was possible to plan projects without the risk of cancellation. As a consequence there was an increase in grant applications and The Trust was able to extend its support to organisations and individuals looking to develop work in the post-pandemic landscape.

The Trust's investment company, Investec, continued to advise caution in regard to spending. International factors, such as the War in Ukraine, meant that the income generated still remained below pre-Pandemic levels. In order to counter the financial impact of these the decision was made by The Trustees to keep the amount of money available for the quarterly grant awards for organisations and individual projects and underwriting applications, and the grants for regularly funded organisations at the same level as 2022.

Therefore, our focus was on the primary directly managed projects and ensuring that the grant stream was as accessible as possible to Elmbridge artists and organisations. The Trust's Director and Administrator/Project Director continued to work remotely and in person. This hybrid working practice meant that the smaller office was sufficient to the working needs of The Trust.

2023 was the 30th anniversary of The RC Sherriff Trust. It was felt that the two pandemic years had the effect of reducing the period since the 25th Anniversary so only small number of events were held to commemorate this, with a view to developing projects to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Sherriff's death in 2025.

THE AIMS & OBJECTIVES OF THE RCSHERRIFF TRUST

To develop, promote and support community and professional arts in the Borough of Elmbridge, through:

- Awarding grant aid to local artists, arts organisations, venues and projects.
- Organising and directly managing arts initiatives.
- Offering advice and information to the arts community and to members of the public.

The R C Sherriff Trust supports the arts in Elmbridge, through its grant-giving and its self-initiated projects, for the following purposes:

- To support and stimulate excellence, new ideas and innovation in the arts in the Borough, whether amateur, community or professional.
- To invest in the creative talent of individual artists in Elmbridge and to provide opportunities for them to further develop their skills and knowledge.
- To increase opportunities for all Elmbridge residents to take part in or experience high-quality remotely delivered arts activities, regardless of economic or social circumstances.
- To increase, develop and improve resources and facilities for the arts in the Borough
- To support and encourage initiatives aimed at the development of new remotely distanced audiences and venues for the arts in the Borough.
- To promote good practice in management, marketing, fundraising and educational work amongst arts organisations in Elmbridge, and to encourage collaboration.

PROGRAMME FOR 2023: OUTCOMES

Governance, Networking, Planning and Strategy:

- The Trustees convened 4 meetings of the full Board (quarterly). 3 meetings were held remotely via Zoom and 1 meeting with The Trustees present in person along with representatives of INVESTEC.
- The Trust's Director met in person and remotely and regularly with the Elmbridge Arts Development Officer and The Riverhouse Barn Arts Centre Manager to co-ordinate plans and services and to agree on areas of co-operation regarding arts projects and initiatives that worked within the Government's socially distanced framework.
- The Trust Maintained, developed and supported working relationships with other partners in the Borough, including Brooklands Museum; Carer Support Elmbridge; Elmbridge Arts Council; Elmbridge Borough Council; Elmbridge Community Link; Elmbridge Museum; Elmbridge Youth Theatre; The Playhouse Users Committee; Elmbridge schools & colleges; Love of Learning; Music in Hospitals and the Princess Alice Hospice; Paragon Community Housing Group; Riverhouse Barn Arts Centre; Walton Business Groups WOTTA & BID; Walton Charity.

General Management and Marketing:

- Administered and supervised 4 (quarterly) grant application/assessment rounds.
- Continued to improve the services and information available via the website and online social media outlets.
- Continued to promote and manage the hire of our two sets of Radio Microphones (Trantec and Sennheiser systems) and Exhibition Stands.
- Continued to review and improve the office administrative systems, and to keep the Trust's administration costs under scrutiny.

2023 PROJECTS & GRANTS

Directly Managed Projects 2023

The Rosebriars Initiative

The aim of The Rosebriars Initiative is to address issues of isolation, health and well-being for Elmbridge residents over the age of 60.

2023 saw the Rosebriars Initiative fully re-established following the Pandemic. The projects included:


- weekly singalongs at Riverhouse Arts Centre, Walton on Thames
- Art workshops at City Wharf, Thames Ditton.
- The Silver Screen Film Club at Riverhouse.
- The Sherriff Talks at Riverhouse.

In order to accommodate the growing number of participants, additional monthly workshop were started this year.

The singalongs and film club also saw an increase in participation and the programme of films for 2023 saw the addition of the '**Sherriff Talks**' – a programme of arts talks, thematically linked to the monthly film.

The R C Sherriff Trust Silver Screen Talks

A season of Talks about theatre, film, music and literature to link in with The R C Sherriff Trust's Over 60s Silver Screen Film Club.




Entertaining Troops: Stories from the 'Theatres' of War

Entertaining Troops: Stories From The 'Theatres' of War
This Talk tells the story of how, during one of the darkest times in history, the show still went on. Whether through the work of the Entertainments National Service Association, better known as ENSA or when, in 1944, a Noel Coward play inspired by R C Sherriff's 'Journey's End', premiered, not on the West End stage, but in a prisoner of war camp with a future star of the James Bond movies.

Tuesday 21 March @11am
Riverhouse Barn Arts Centre, Manor Road, Walton on Thames
In conjunction with the screening of 'Operation Mincemeat' at 1pm
Cost: Talk £3 Film & Talk £5

For details email arts@rcsherrifftrust.org.uk



The R C Sherriff Trust Silver Screen Talks

A season of Talks about theatre, film, music and literature to link in with The R C Sherriff Trust's Over 60s Silver Screen Film Club.



Rockin' The Silver Screen: How Cinema Learned To Twist And Shout!

Talk - Rockin' The Silver Screen – How Cinema Learned To Twist And Shout!
From Cliff Richard to Tommy Steele, The Beatles to The Spice Girls, popstars and the movies have gone hand in hand since Bill Haley first rocked around the clock. But when singers decide to act and actors decide to sing, you sometimes end up with Mr Spock singing about Hobbits!

Tuesday 31 October @11am
Riverhouse Barn Arts Centre, Manor Road, Walton on Thames
In conjunction with the screening of 'Elvis' at 1pm
Cost: Talk £3 Film & Talk £5

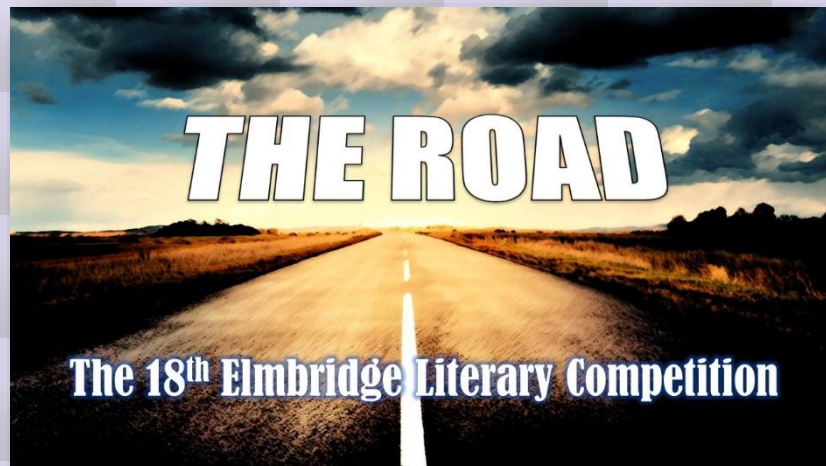
For details email arts@rcsherrifftrust.org.uk



The Rosebriars Initiative was solely funded by The Trust in 2023.

The Trust's Director continued to look at external funding for the Initiative.

18th Annual Literary Competition

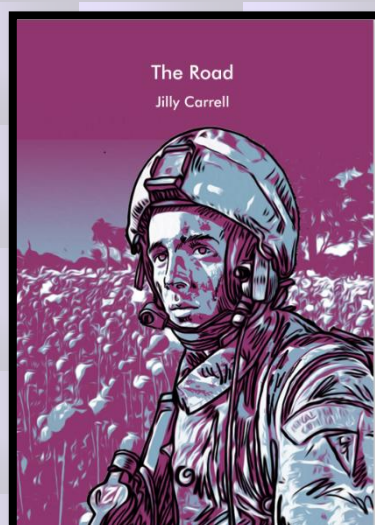


The Competition launched in September 2022 with a closing date of February 2023.

The theme - '**The Road**' - was linked with the 30th anniversary of The R C Sherriff Trust.

Much of Sherriff's writing involved journeys, some literal; the charabanc day trip of his first play, A Hitch In The Proceedings; the family heading off for their annual holiday in his novel, 'The Fortnight in September', or the journey home taken by David Preston every night, except one, in 'Home By Seven', some metaphorical; Harry Faversham in 'The Four Feathers', Johnny McQueen in 'Odd Man Out' and the journey undertaken by Stanhope, Raleigh, Trotter and the soldiers in Sherriff's most famous work, a journey that leads to a fateful climax in the trenches of the First World War.

Following the success of 2022's 'Enigma', The Competition was again open to national and international submissions. Winning entries came from Elmbridge residents, authors from across the United Kingdom and writers and poets from as far afield as India and the USA.



The Elmbidge Prize for the best story or poem submitted by an Elmbidge resident was won by Rosie Norvill for her 1st Place poem, ***The Road***, in the 8-11 Year Old Category.

The Loretta Howells Prize for the Elmbidge School that submitted the most winning, highly commended and commended entries went to St Charles Borromeo Catholic Primary School.

The Competition was once again run in partnership with publishers Sampson Low, who published all the winning entries as Chapbooks. (Small and affordable forms of literature, Chapbooks historically were sold on the streets, and covered a range of subjects from fairy tales and ghost stories to news of politics, crime or disaster.)

For further details about Chapbooks visit:

www.bl.uk/romantics-and-Victorians/articles/chapbooks

Following the same timetable, the 2024 Competition – ***Fame*** - was launched in September.

The Elmbridge School Choir Festival

This was the 6^h ESCF, and following its successful return a number of infant schools took part so the 2023 Festival was held over 3 nights, with one being specifically for years 1-4 pupils. In all, 18 schools participated:

- Cardinal Newman RC Primary School,
- Oatlands Primary School,
- Cranmere Primary School,
- Cleves Primary School,
- St Charles Borromeo RC Primary School,
- Claygate Primary School,
- Cobham Free School,
- Burhill School,
- St Albans Primary School,
- Royal Kent Primary School,
- St James Primary School,
- Grovelands Primary School,
- Thames Ditton Infants,
- St Matthews School,
- The Orchard School,
- Manby Lodge School,
- St Andrews School,
- Esher Church School,

Once again the Festival took place at ACS Cobham.

Special guest for the Festival was Ollie Turner from The Beat Goes On.



Sing: The Elmbridge Adult Choir Festival

As part of the 30th Anniversary of The R C Sherriff Trust we held the first Choir Festival for adult Choirs at St Peter's Church in Hersham on the 23 & 24 February.

The aim was to celebrate adult choirs across the Borough and give them the opportunity to perform to new audiences.

The Choirs involved were:

- Elmbridge Choir
- Earthly Voices
- Molesey Ladies Choir
- Treble Clef Choir
- Elmbridge Ladies Choir
- Oxshott Choral Society
- St. Peter's Choir
- Walton Voices
- Weybridge Male Voice Choir

As one of the Trust's regularly funded organisations **Promenade Choir** were the special guests on both nights.

Over £1500 was raised through ticket sales that was used to support choirs and music projects throughout the year.



30th Anniversary Celebration

To commemorate the Trust's 30th Anniversary, a weekend celebration was held at The Vera Fletcher Hall 17 & 18 November.

This included a retrospective exhibition of artwork by the Rosebriars Art Group and it was also used as an opportunity to discuss possible projects for the 50th Anniversary of Sherriff's death in 2025.



Grants:

34 Grants, totalling £45417.44 were awarded during the year, through a combination of quarterly grant applications, Arts Initiative Projects delivered by partner organisations, Regularly Funded Organisations, Three Year Funding, and the quarterly grant award process. £1500 attributed to grants came from money raised by Sing: The Elmbridge Adult Choir Festival.

A list of grants awarded is attached at Appendix I.

Grants are further summarised by Type at Appendix II, by Art Form at Appendix III and by distribution around the Borough of Elmbridge at Appendix IV.

Directly Managed Arts Projects:

The Trust continued to award grant funding and support to arts organisations, individuals and community groups enabling them to provide a programme of arts activities targeted at particular 'client' groups across the Borough.

In total £27,000 was awarded to organisations in receipt of regular funding in 2022.

These organisations were:

- Elmbridge Community Link
- Elmbridge Youth Theatre
- Esher & Dittons Youth Orchestra
- Love of Learning
- Music in Hospitals
- Promenade Choir
- Scoot Theatre
- Riverhouse Arts Centre
- The Vera Fletcher Hall

All Regularly Funded Organisations were due to have grants reviewed in 2020 for renewal.

Nonetheless, due to the Coronavirus Crisis the Trustees agreed that the RFOs would continue to receive funding in 2022 to combat the negative effects of the pandemic and enable them to plan for 2023.

However, the adjustment to the amount of funding offered in 2020 & 2021 remained for 2022.

Proposed Programme 2024

Following advice from Investec that the income for 2024 will be similar to 2023, the Trust will continue to act cautiously with regard to directly managed projects in order to ensure that the same level of income is available for the regularly funded organisations and the quarterly grant streams.

Trust Projects for 2024:

- The Rosebriars Project
- Sing: The Elmbridge Adult Choir Festival

Partnership Projects with Elmbridge Borough Council:

- The Elmbridge Literary Competition
- The Elmbridge Schools Choir Festival
- Moving Art

The hard copy edition of Arts Focus is still on hold, with the main emphasis on promoting events and organisations through the The Trust's website and social media.

The question of Office space will also be looked into in the knowledge that Air Products will be vacating the Technology Park by 2025 and that possible development on the site will mean an alternative space is required for the Trust's office.

Therefore the process of archiving the Trust's papers and documents will take place so that, if required, the Director and Project Manager can work remotely if required, until new office space is secured.

TRUSTEES

The following served as Board Members and Trustees during the year:

- Cllr Barry Cheyne (Chair)
- Mrs. Tania Shipley (Vice-Chair)
- Mrs. Shweta Kapadia
- Tricia Bland
- Cllr Karen Randolph
- Cllr Janet Turner
- Mr. Brian Nathan
- Ms. Wendy Smithers
- Mrs. Maggs Latter
- Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper
- Mr. James Vickers

STAFFING

Permanent:

Pete Allen: Director (full-time)

Sandra (Sam) Thompson: Administrator/Project Manager (part-time)

Dean Blanchard: Treasurer (part-time).

Freelance:

Sophie Boyce

Imogen Andrews

Simon Cherry

Susannah Cherry

Adrienne Dines

Sylvia Green

Loretta Howells

Agnes Meadows

Stewart Henderson

Tim Kerr, a sound engineer, continued to maintain, and advise on, the Trust's radio microphones, as a volunteer.

Investec Charity Fund Management continued as the Trust's Investment Managers. Barclays Bank PLC was retained as the Trust's Bank.

Pete Allen
Director

July 2024

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: GRANTS AWARDED 2023

GRANT NO.	RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNT AWARDED
3-YEAR FUNDING			
29/23	Riverhouse Arts Centre	Contribution to the general running costs of the Riverhouse Arts Centre, via Walton on Thames Community Arts Trust (WOTCAT).	£12,000.00
Total		1 Grant	£12,000.00
CAPITAL GRANTS			
38/23	The Cobham Band	A Capital Grant towards the cost of a Second Hand Drum Set and E Flat Tuba	£1,000.00
Total		1 Grant	£1,000.00
PROJECT GRANTS (Individuals)			
26/23	Tony Albertini	A grant towards the costs of staging four pilot Singalongs at Elmbridge Day Centres.	£300.00
31/23	The Tree of Curiosity	<i>The Tree of Curiosity</i> (Jenny Cave-Jones & Imogen Andrews) is requesting a grant towards the cost of headphones as part of the Sanctuary Cinema Project.	£260.00
36/23	The Soor Family	The Soor Family requests a grant towards the continuation of vocalisation and singing lessons for their son.	£500.00
Total		3 Grants	£1,060.00

GRANT NO.	RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNT AWARDED
PROJECT GRANTS (Organisations)			
11/23	Walton BID	A grant towards the Inaugural <i>Walton on Thames Film Festival</i> based around the 120th anniversary of Cecil Hepworth's adaptation of Alice In Wonderland, celebrating Hepworth as one of Britain's pioneers of film.	£1,000.00
13/23	Elmbridge Choir	A contribution towards the funding of a pianist to accompany Elmbridge Choir for 3 concerts and rehearsals in aid of local charities in Elmbridge over the next 12 months.	£660.00
15/23	REDZ Dance School	A contribution towards the cost of 16 young dancers from Redz Streetdance participating in the Dance World Cup Finals.	£1,000.00
19/23	The Cecil Hepworth Theatre	A contribution towards the cost of new sound equipment for the Theatre, which has recently been taken over by new management.	£775.50
23/22	PCC of St Peters Church, Hersham	The Parochial Church Council seeks a contribution towards the cost of a good quality 2 nd -hand piano to be kept permanently in the WI Hall at Burhill Rd in Hersham.	£500.00
23/23	Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents Association	The Residents Association is requesting a grant for a contribution towards the Nature and Climate Festival 2023.	£1,000.00
24/23	The Mary Frances Trust	A grant towards an Art & Craft Activities Programme in Elmbridge	£750.00
25/23	Treble Clef Choir	A grant towards the cost of an accompanist and a portable podium for the conductor for Carol Singing events in December 2023.	£699.00
32/23	Dramacube	A contribution towards Beauty & The Beast – Musical Theatre Workshops for 7-12 year olds.	£500.00
33/23	The Festival of Light	A grant towards an Art & Craft Activities Programme as part of the 2023 Festival of Light.	£1,000.00
34/23	SCOOT! Theatre	A grant towards the cost of Scoot Youth Theatre's production of <i>The Selfish Giant</i> at Riverhouse Arts Centre in December 2023.	£1,360.00
35/23	Momentum Childrens' Charity	A grant towards <i>Christmas in the Community</i> : Momentum Children's Charity Children's Grotto and Carol Service.	£1,085.00
Total			12 Grants £10,329.50

GRANT NO.	RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNT AWARDED
REGULARLY FUNDED ORGANISATIONS (RFO)			
30/23	Elmbridge Community Link	A regular annual grant to support the work of Elmbridge Community Link.	£2,000.00
31/23	Vera Fletcher Hall	A general contribution towards the running costs and funding of performances	£5,000.00
32/23	Music In Hospitals & Princess Alice Hospice	A regular annual grant to support Music In Hospitals and their work with The Princess Alice Hospice	£2,500.00
33/23	Love of Learning	A regular annual grant to support the work of Love of Learning	£2,000.00
34/23	Promenade Choir	A regular annual grant to support the excellent work of Christopher Goldsack with his Promenade Choirs.	£750.00
35/23	Scout Theatre	Supporting the work of Scout Theatre who provide a way into the Theatrical Arts for youngsters throughout the Borough.	£750.00
36/23	Esher & Dittons Youth Orchestra	Esher & Dittons Youth Orchestra are awarded this grant in recognition of the excellent work they do in encouraging young people into the world of music.	£1,000.00
37/23	Elmbridge Youth Theatre	A regular annual grant to support the work of Elmbridge Youth Theatre	£1,500.00
		Total	8 Grants £15,500.00

GRANT NO.	RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNT AWARDED
SCHOOLS FUND			
10/23	Thames Ditton Infants School	A grant for an African drumming assembly, workshop and performance giving pupils the chance to experience music from a different culture.	£499.00
14/23	Cobham Free School	A grant towards an 'Art for all Day' workshop for all our Lower School pupils (144 pupils aged 4-7years), to encourage creativity and promote a sense of pride and help their mental wellbeing.	£500.00
21/23	Esher Church School	A contribution towards the cost of purchasing a variety of musical instruments for the pupils.	£1,000.00
39/23	Heathside School	A Capital Grant towards the cost of the purchase of an acoustic upright piano for students to learn, practice and perform on.	£1,250.00
		Total	4 Grants
			£3,249.00

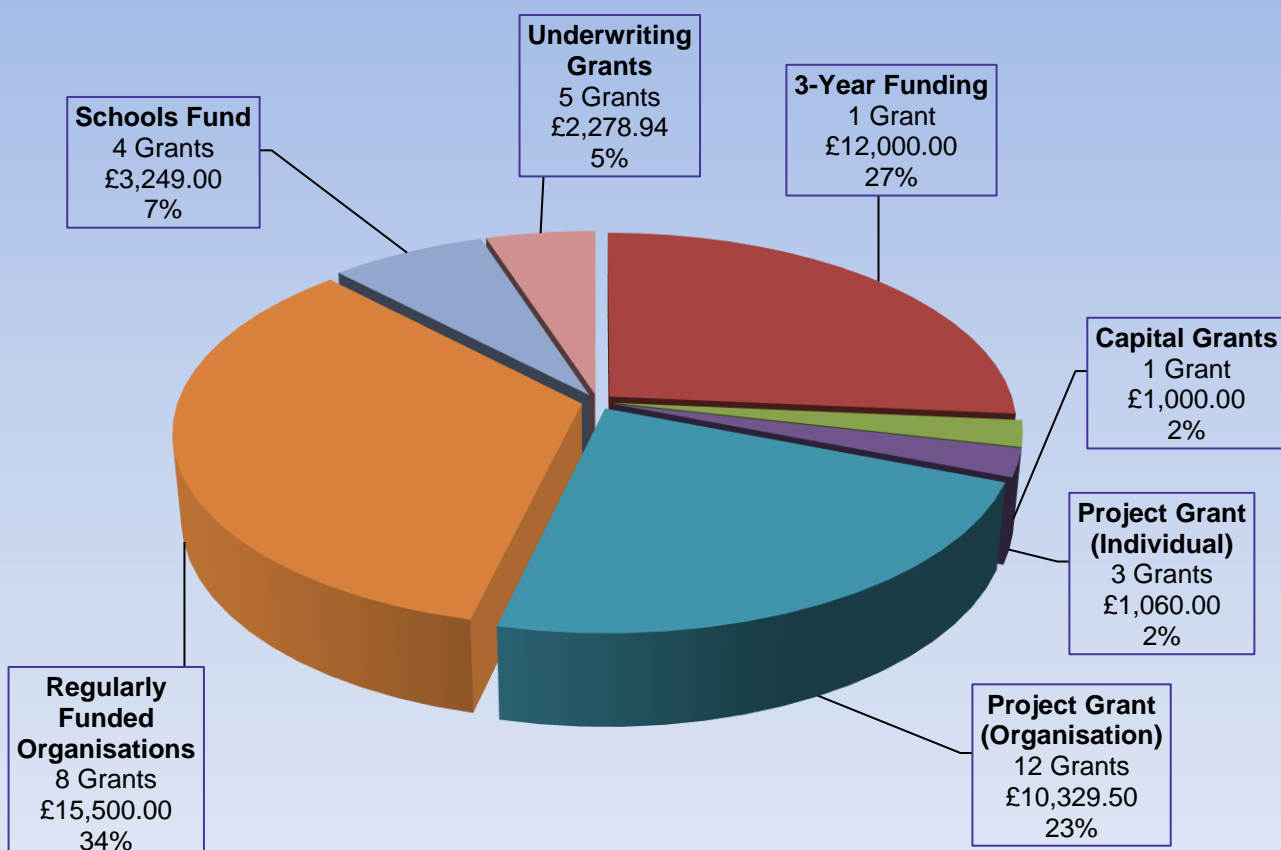
UNDERWRITING GRANTS			
12/23	Claygate Choral Society	An Underwriting Grant towards the cost of a concert featuring a small orchestra performing the Fauré Requiem and Howard Goodall's Eternal Light: A Requiem.	£500.00
17/23	Callum Stewart	An Underwriting Grant towards the cost of 'A Night of Variety' at The Cecil Hepworth Playhouse on 10 June 2023	£91.94
18/23	Walton and Weybridge Amateur Operatic Society	An Underwriting Grant towards the cost of <i>Curtain!</i> , a musical theatre show, running in May at the Cecil Hepworth Playhouse.	£1,000.00
29/23	Ember Choral Society	An Underwriting Grant towards the cost of an evening performance of choral music with the choir, invited soloists and a professional orchestra on December 2 nd at Holy Trinity Church, Claygate, Surrey.	£500.00
38/23	Oxshott Choral Society	An Underwriting Grant towards the cost of a Christmas Concert on 9 December 2023	£187.00
		Total	5 Grants
			£2,278.94

		TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED	34 Grants
			£45,417.44

APPENDIX II: Summary of Grants by Type 2023

Grant Type	% of Total Grants Awarded	Number of Grants	Average Grant	Total Amount Allocated
3-Year Funding	26.42%	1	£12,000.00	£12,000.00
Capital Grant	2.20%	1	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Project (Individual)	2.33%	3	£353.33	£1,060.00
Project (Organisation)	22.74%	12	£860.79	£10,329.50
RFO	34.13%	8	£1,937.50	£15,500.00
Schools Fund	7.15%	4	£812.25	£3,249.00
Underwriting Grant	5.02%	5	£455.79	£2,278.94
Total:	100.00%	34	£1335.81	£45,417.44

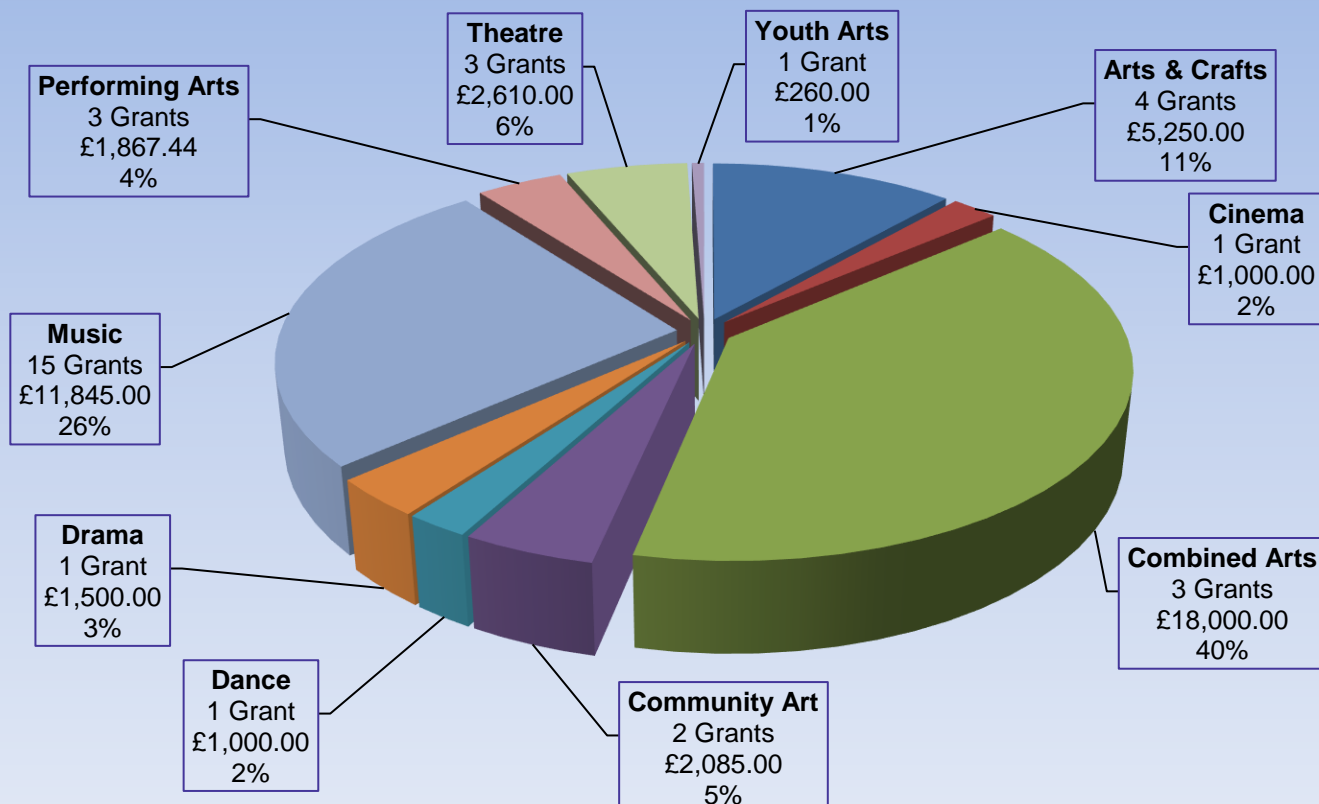
Grants Awarded by Type in 2023 A total of £45,417 awarded in 34 Grants



APPENDIX III Summary of Grants by Art Form 2023

Art Form	% of Total Grants Awarded	Number of Grants	Average Grant	Total Amount Allocated
Arts & Crafts	11.56%	4	£1,312.50	£5,250.00
Cinema	2.20%	1	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Combined Arts	39.63%	3	£6,000.00	£18,000.00
Community Art	4.59%	2	£1,042.50	£2,085.00
Dance	2.20%	1	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Drama	3.30%	1	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
Music	26.08%	15	£789.67	£11,845.00
Performing Arts	4.11%	3	£622.48	£1,867.44
Theatre	5.75%	3	£870.00	£2,610.00
Youth Arts	0.57%	1	£260.00	£260.00
Total	100.00%	34	£1,335.81	£45,417.44

Grants Awarded by Art Form in 2023 A total of £45,417 awarded in 34 Grants



APPENDIX IV Summary of Grants by Area 2023

Area / Location	% of Total Grants Awarded	No. of Grants	Average Grant	Total Amount Allocated
Borough Wide	11.91%	6	£901.50	£5,409.00
Claygate	2.20%	2	£500.00	£1,000.00
Cobham	3.88%	3	£586.67	£1,760.00
Esher	7.71%	2	£1,750.00	£3,500.00
Hersham	2.75%	2	£625.00	£1,250.00
Molesey	2.39%	1	£1,085.00	£1,085.00
Oxshott	0.41%	1	£187.00	£187.00
Thames Ditton	16.51%	4	£1,874.75	£7,499.00
Walton on Thames	52.24%	13	£1,825.19	£23,727.44
Total	100.00%	34	£1,335.81	£45,417.44

Grants Awarded by Area - 2023 A total of £45,417 awarded, in 34 Grants

