



Continuing from its founding in January 2022 Wordsmith Crafts CIC (WSC) seeks to benefit the community and in particular (without limitation) to provide people with greater access to the full resources of their heritage, especially those who do not currently access them. The Company is not established or conducted for private gain and any surplus or assets are to be used principally for the benefit of the community.


Most of these activities can be grouped under two general project headings, Cluaran and Quartz.


Cluaran – Living breathing heritage. – School visits, Heritage Events, Storytelling (Including online), Heritage Crafts, developing quality formal volunteering and business opportunities.


Quartz project – using visual arts to help people explore, understand, and express spirituality. Drawing on the Christian heritage of Scotland.

This second report has been drawn up to describe how the activities of WSC have benefited the community in 2023. You can download the 2022 report from our website www.wordsmithcrafts.co.uk

<u>A selection of Wordsmith Crafts activities.</u>				
Similar activities have been grouped together, some are year long programmes and others one off or a series of events.				
Activity	Client/funder	Stakeholders	Benefactors/Social Impact	Consultation/Evidence
Christian Life Community (CLC)	St Johns Dumfries	St Johns Dumfries	People involved in Quartz have been meeting as a house group every second week. These meetings are loosely inspired by Ignatian Spirituality. We take turns to lead and host the evenings. We try to provide ways to respond creatively with arts and crafts as well as by through discussion.	An average of seven people meet up each time. They are gathered from several congregations in Dumfries. These meetings build relationships which support other activities like the Chrysalis Easter art installation in St Johns. https://www.ancient-pathways.co.uk/activities/christian-life-community/
Community Arts	St Johns Dumfries	St Johns Dumfries	In 2023 we ran several connected events where people could contribute meaningfully at several levels.	https://www.wordsmithcrafts.co.uk/quartz2024/category/lent2023/

			For example under the heading “Lent 2023” we gave people the opportunity to contribute to a cocoon which then opened on easter Sunday to reveal a stained glass butterfly by Andy Brooke and viewable by the public online and in St Johns church. Some simply took the opportunity to reflect on things they would like to transform. Others used this as a creative prayer activity. Still more participated in the whole process as an accessible contribution of their traditional observation of Easter.	
Forest Church (Specials)	St Johns Dumfries	St Johns Dumfries	In addition to the regular Forest Church gatherings, we have organised occasional events which appeal to people at a general heritage level, as well as those who find special spiritual significance. These have included a pilgrimage to Whithorn with pilgrim badge casting.	https://www.wordsmithcrafts.co.uk/quartz2024/lent2023/st-ninians-pilgrimage/
Forest Church (Monthly)	St Johns Dumfries	St Johns Dumfries	We gather every month for Forest Church. This has a regular core group of six participants with about the same again participating less frequently. Information about each month is posted online and those who cannot physically attend send pictures and comment.	https://www.ancient-pathways.co.uk/activities/forest-church/
Online presence	CIC	WSC Associates General public	We have chosen to adapt our community life to take advantage of the positive ways in which new technology can be used to convey information. We have a presence on the internet. This use of the internet goes beyond simply providing a noticeboard and reporting on activity. It also overcomes geographical challenges to physical access to our activities. It also helps reduce paper use!	www.wordsmithcrafts.co.uk www.ancient-pathways.co.uk www.cluaranhaven.org.uk As well as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts This includes a blog for both Cluaran and Quartz projects.

Time travelling Forest School	The Stove Network HES	Stove Network HES	We helped develop and deliver a “Time travelling Forest School” as a pilot activity over several months	
English conversation group		Help Lyubotin	Working with a Dumfries based refugee to provide online cultural exchange sessions with a school in Ukraine	
Nithraid – on the water	The Stove Network	The Stove Network	Public event free at point of access As well as contributing to the public spectacle of Nithraid, we also worked with volunteers to give them the opportunity to row a clinker boat. Participants also used costume and storytelling to imaginatively explore their relationship with the river Nith and discuss their observations with the general public.	https://www.cluaranhaven.org.uk/category/events/nithraid-2023/
School visits	D&G Council Various schools	D&G Council Various schools	Schools, School Pupils, The CIC arranges school visits provided by a combination of voluntary Re-enactors and professional artists. We have visited Primary schools in Stranraer to help increase engagement with the Rhins coastal path project. We have taken Gallovidian history into Ayrshire and Edinburgh where primary school pupils meet the inhabitants of the Viking era for “The Best Day Ever”. We have contributed to Lockerbie Academes Boys2Men programme.	
Chaplaincy			Through the Quartz partnership we help Dumfries High School meet its “Time for Reflection” Curriculum for Excellence requirements as part of the chaplaincy team.	
Whithorn Crafts and Stories	The Whithorn Trust	Whithorn ReBuild Douglas Ewart	Continuing work with the Whithorn Trust to provide workshops and taster sessions. These range from public “drop in” activities to ongoing work with the ReBuild employees and Secondary school pupils.	We bring skills and experiences to meet practical tasks, but also contribute to community development through networking and informal discussions.

<p>Tales at the Tap</p>	<p>WSC</p>	<p>Artists Riverside tap patrons</p>	<p>Public event free at point of access This is an experiment introducing storytelling for adults into a pub setting. The aim is to test demand and develop an audience for family and adult rather than simply children’s storytelling. We tell a range of mostly ancient myths and legends. This is a development of the online “tales from the longhouse” carried out by Cluaran during lockdown.</p>	<p>This is a new free at point of access activity launched in December, building on the CIC success in 2022 to reach new audiences with heritage tales.</p> 
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Simon Lidwell, October 2024

Director

Wordsmith Crafts CIC

Appendix 1

Financial position

At end of year 31 st Jan	Turnover	Capital and Reserves	Profit/(Loss)
2023	22,170	3,953	3,953
2024	15,588	1,515	(2,438)

Appendix 2

A selected List of 2023 events and clients. This excludes informal contacts and support through community networking. The table shows approximate hours contributed to the activity. These are divided into those employed through PAYE or Freelancers, and Volunteers according to the level of skills contributed.

Event name	project	For	With	Principle Benefactors	PAYE	Freelance	Prof	Skilled	unskilled
Visit brownies	cluaran		G-Longfhada	brownies			3	3	
Kirkcudbright school with Creative Caerlaverock	cluaran	Stove		school	21				
Bruce trust - Comyn	cluaran	Bruce trust		public		4	4		
Rephad school	cluaran	D&G		school		14			
Seuchan school	cluaran	D&G		school		14			
Cocoon project	Quartz		st johns	quartz, public	21		84		15
Shrove Tuesday launch	Quartz		st johns	quartz, public, new Scots	4				12
Creative Caerlaverock forest school	cluaran	stove	HES	school		56			
DND at Caerlaverock	cluaran	stove		Summerhill youth		17		7	
Whithorn casting	cluaran	Whithorn trust	newton s school	school		7			
Royal High Edinburgh	cluaran			school		7			
Whithorn Primary	cluaran			school		14			
b2m Lockerbie Academy	cluaran		b2m	school		4			

Trich Craft Workshop	cluaran			public		8			3
Jay at workshop	Quartz			young adult		7			
CD “gaither” gig	cluaran	d&G arts		pub		6			
“Tales at the Tap”	cluaran			young adult		4			
GW Junior School	cluaran	GW J		SCHOOL		21		14	
“Tales at the Tap”	cluaran			young adult		4			
Quartz at Creative Caerlaverock open day	Quartz	STOVE, HES		quartz, public, new Scots		7		21	7
Forest Church at Wardlaw Hill	Quartz		St Johns	quartz, public		3			
Boat evening	cluaran	Nithraid		young adult		4		5	30
“Tales at the Tap”	Quartz			pub		6		3	
Boat evening	cluaran	Nithraid		young adult		4		4	
Boat evening	cluaran	Nithraid		young adult		4		5	30
Nithraid	cluaran	Nithraid		young adult		4		42	20
Creative Caerlaverock at Summerhill (CCSum) Intro	WSC	stove		youth informal		2	2		
(CCSum) costumes	WSC	stove		youth informal		2			
craft club	WSC			pub			3		

St Marys Maryhill	cluaran		school		7			
Greenhill Primary	cluaran		school		7			
“Tabernacle” FC special	Quartz		quartz, public	12			7	
“Tales at the Tap”	Quartz		young adult	4			3	
Blacksmithing Workshop	WSC		young adult		7			
“Tales at the Tap”	Quartz		young adult	4			3	
Cargilfield primary	cluaran		school		14			
angel making, public crafts	Quartz	S Army	quartz, public	5			5	5
angel making, public crafts	cluaran		quartz, public	5			5	15
Ukrainian conversation club	cluaran	luybotin	SCHOOL	6				3
Heathall Brownie visit	cluaran		school				3	3
Christmas Tree Festival	cluaran	st johns	quartz, public	15			5	5
Jacob interview	Quartz		pub	2				
“Tales at the Tap”	cluaran		young adult	6			3	
Craft Club	cluaran		young adult				3	
Ukrainian conversation club	cluaran		school	5				
Craft Club	cluaran		young adult				3	

CLC (throughout the year)	Quartz		st johns	quartz, public	72				
Monthly forest church	Quartz		st johns	quartz, public	60				
Websites and Admin					104				
Approx total hours					382	227	96	111	117