Wordsmith Crafts C.I.C.
www.wordsmithcrafts.co.uk
Registered in Scotland No. 719460
3 James Avenue, Dumfries, Scotland, DG2 9AU

Wordsmith Crafts CIC Annual report for 2025

Introduction

Our main areas of activity in 2025 continued to be "Cluaran" and "The Quartz Partnership". This report covers activity up to January 2026. Cluaran activities are usually paid for by organisations who hire us, or individuals taking part in events as general public. Cluaran members also contribute to keeping WSC afloat. Quartz activities are provided free at point of access, with occasional expenses for materials. St Johns provides financially for one day a week of Simons time at stipendiary rate.

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

We have continued to consolidate this part of Wordsmith Crafts activity. We continue to support the "Galloway Longfhada" Viking reenactment group (a charity registered in England and Wales) and a highlight of this year was arranging a special event with them for "New Scots" by arranging connections, transport a venue, volunteer support, and translation services. We have provided 9 school visits in D&G and the central belt this year. Through Cluaran Simon makes his studio available for drop in "Making Space" sessions and for artists to develop their skills. One "activated" member in particular has developed he hobby into a small enterprise "Rowena Cottage". We also responded to enquiries from another 10 schools which did not result in a booking. The most common reason given for this was a lack of funding. When funds have been available internally, we have reduced the price of a visit in order to keep the price per pupil to a consistent level. Where possible we also group visits together to lower overheads and travel costs. This has made school visits remote from our base possible and also visits to smaller schools more affordable.

Quartz project – using visual arts to help people explore, understand, and express spirituality. - #SensingSpirituality activities drawing on the Christian heritage of Scotland.

As well as the core Quartz activities of meeting as a CLC House group, providing assemblies for Dumfries High School and running "Forest Church" services we have also provided artist support for the contemporary service at St Johns. We ran a series of "Faith and Art" sessions with St Michaels church of Scotland. This developed into a storytelling session for doors open day and a pattern of working which will be of use to other congregations in Dumfries. We continued to work with H.E.S. creative Caerlaverock programme through participation in the "Queer Caerlaverock" events. The "Canopy of Stars" installation in St Johns also deserves special mention. We are getting the hang of hanging things in the church building roof!

Wordsmith Crafts C.I.C.
www.wordsmithcrafts.co.uk
Registered in Scotland No. 719460
3 James Avenue, Dumfries, Scotland, DG2 9AU

GENERAL WSC INFORMATION AND SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

Introduction

Both areas of activity are supported by volunteers. This means that every pound spent on paying core wages and employing freelancers supports volunteers who then contribute in-kind. A rough calculation can be made to suggest what it may have cost if all the activity had to be paid for. Volunteers, of course, also provide a unique character to their involvement. They bring fresh perspectives and enthusiasm which contribute value to WSC activities it would be hard to put a price on! WSC in return provides a framework in which Cluaran and Quartz members can safely volunteer. This includes training, access to the workshop and community resources, and in response to changes in legislation PVG checking. Not all Cluaran or Quartz members volunteer formally of course. Our aim is to help people enter into their full heritage. For some this will be a short holiday whilst others will participate and go away personally enriched. For those who choose become more fully immersed, WSC provides a haven where those can develop this and become more able to hand on heritage in their own unique manner. This "In kind" contribution to social capital is approximated in the following table.

Turnover	Employed and freelance payments	'In kind' formal Voluntary time contributed
14,063	£12,657.00	£8,720.00 (Excluding informal 'club' like activities like skill sharing)

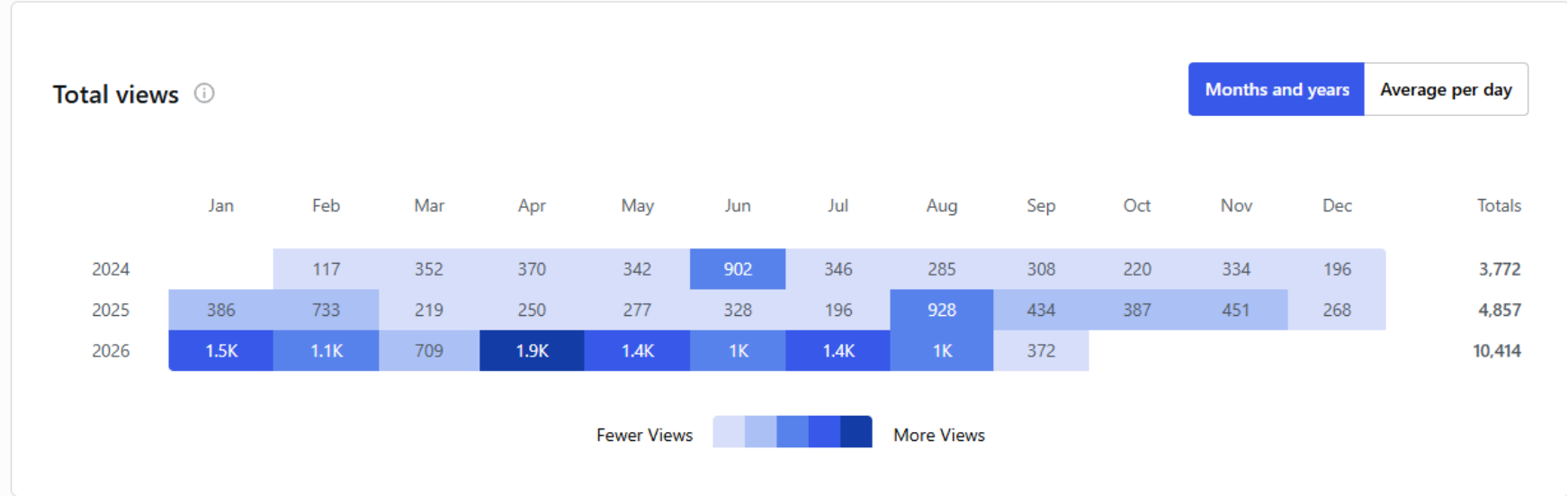
PVG

WSC has identified "Historical Interpreter" (HI) as a regulated role in Scots law. A requirement of the role, either in a professional or voluntary capacity is going into schools and being in a position where the HI will be in a position of influence over children. WSC is registered to check that prospective HI's are members of the PVG scheme and Simon has been trained to carry out this process. WSC child protection procedures have also been updated.

Online heritage

The Wordsmith Crafts website still provides the "Landing Page" for all our activities. We continue to provide updates and resources on the Quartz and Cluaran websites. We also maintain a presence on Facebook and Instagram. Simon has continued to maintain the digital presence of Quartz. Quartz activity is directly linked to the main St Johns website. In 2025 three people contributed various posts to the site, publishing one or two a week. The Forest Church service is also available online each month. The following graphic shows the development in views of the Quartz website (Including 2026 when this overview is being written!)

Wordsmith Crafts C.I.C.
www.wordsmithcrafts.co.uk
Registered in Scotland No. 719460
3 James Avenue, Dumfries, Scotland, DG2 9AU



You can also download previous years reports from our website www.wordsmithcrafts.co.uk

Review of activity within 2025

An overview of Wordsmith Crafts activities. 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**	
More details, and photos, of these activities can be found online. Visit www.wordsmtihcrafts.co.uk or try searching on facebook and instagram				
Quartz Installations Easter Banners Canopy of stars (Christmas)	St Johns Dumfries	Quartz members, from several different churches General public	This year we have contributed a collaborative Lent and Easter banner project involving the congregation in printing Ruthwell cross style leaves and animals.	In advent we started to make and install a "canopy of stars" This filled the roof of St Johns with hundreds of stars throughout the season.

Christian Life Community **(CLC)**	St Johns Dumfries	Quartz members from several different churches	We have continued to meet every second week. We have been taking it in turns to host and prepare a topic for the evening. Our discussions feed into the life of St Johns through the Arts, Forest Church and the Contemporary service lay leadership. Numbers have remained stable	
Community Arts Faith and art Pen and think (Wild Goose festival) Doors open day (storytelling) Queer Caerlaverock	St Johns Dumfries (Quartz partnership) Participant Donations	St Johns Dumfries St Michaels CofS The Stove Network	Simon led a series of "Faith and Art" sessions using the experience of Quartz in St Johns to provide a hands on opportunity to the theme. This was followed up with a colouring book and storytelling session based on the stained glass windows in St Michaels and St Johns for Doors Open day. Further afield we worked with "Asheiri" in Creetown to run a retreat day where participants explored their connection with nature through weaving.	Building on historical heritage activities with Caerlaverock hidden histories Simon Simon participated in "Queer Caerlaverock" shifting perspectives and socio-historical experiences of sexuality and gender identity / gender non-conformity, real and imagined, to help bridge the gaps that exist in the representation and understanding of our queer heritage.
DHS assemblies	St Johns Dumfries (Quartz partnership)	Dumfries High school Pupils, staff Dumfries Council	Simon provides input at assemblies. These have been reorganised to be based on school houses rather than following one particular year group	
Forest Church (Monthly)	St Johns Dumfries	St Johns Dumfries Quartz members from several different churches	We have continued to meet up most months. In December we were busy making and hanging stars in St Johns building!	Follow a record of online services on: https://www.ancient-pathways.co.uk/activities/forest-church/
Forest Church (Specials) Weaving connections with nature Nativity of St John	St Johns Dumfries	St Johns Dumfries Asheiri	Using traditional textile skills harvested from our Cluaran artists we ran some forest church specials. One made yarn from nettles, and the other wove connections with nature.	https://www.ancient-pathways.co.uk/sensingspirituality/forest-church-special-3/ https://www.ancient-pathways.co.uk/sensingspirituality/weaving-our-connection-with-nature-2/

			Quartz members have been developing connections with "Mountainhall Greenspace", contributing to the community panel consultations	
Historical School visits	Local Councils, PTA's Parents	D&G Council "The Vikings" Various schools Pupils Cluaran Members	We have focused on the viking-era. "The Vikings" an international educational charity refer enquiries from Schools to us.	We have visited 9 schools this year. They have all been in D&G or the central belt. We also responded to enquiries from another 10 schools which did not result in a booking. The most common reason given for this was a lack of funding. When funds have been available internally, we have reduced the price of a visit in order to keep the price per pupil to a consistent level. Where possible we also group visits together to lower overheads and travel costs. This has made school visits remote from our base possible and also visits to smaller schools more affordable.
"Old Scots meet New Scots" **New Scots workshops**	New Scots Activity Fund The Depot	D&G council MOOL NewScots The Vikings	We applied for funding to run a day where "Old Scots could meet New Scots" The funding paid for a venue, refreshments, transport, and other other overheads. The Depot provided contact with translators https://www.wordsmithcrafts.co.uk/news/old-scots-new-scots/	We ran two sessions. The first was predominantly Ukrainian refugees and was family focused. The second was for our Levantine new Scots. Galloway Longfhada Vikings provided an encampment and handling sessions with artefacts. WSC prepared online links that could be accessed by smart phone when interest outstripped people ability to translate.
Making Space		Cluaran members General public St Johns	This is the engine for building the Cluaran community. It is also where props are maintained and developed to use in School visits. These events are run by Simon as a self-employed artist. WSC pays an annual	These events are run by Simon as a self-employed artist. WSC pays an annual contribution towards the costs of making the workshop space available. These times also develop contributions to events like "Nithraid" Which we participated in again, making model boats with families.

			contribution towards the costs of making the workshop space available.	We are working on a log boat.
Galloway Longfhada	Galloway Longfhada Vikings	Galloway Longfhada Vikings	WSC continues to supply the trailer and yard storage for Galloway Longfhada, the Dumfries branch of "The Vikings" a re-enactment charity	Members have also found access to the workshop and its resources useful. One has used Cluaran membership to develop her hobby into a business.

Conclusion

WSC continues to have an impact in the local community. Part of this is laying the groundwork for more ambitious projects that will help enthusiasts develop their hobby into a business, or to give primary school pupils an appetite for history. The core though has been in developing and resourcing the activities people become involved in through Quartz and Cluaran. We have provided around 500 school pupils with an encounter with their heritage and have helped adults deepen this connection at public events, both as participants and through formal volunteering opportunities.

Simon Lidwell,

Director, Wordsmith Crafts CIC

Gary Kirk

Director, Wordsmith Crafts CIC (voluntary)

Wordsmith Crafts C.I.C.
www.wordsmithcrafts.co.uk
Registered in Scotland No. 719460
3 James Avenue, Dumfries, Scotland, DG2 9AU

Appendix 1

Financial position

At end of year 31st Jan	Turnover	Capital and Reserves	Profit/(Loss)
2023 - 2024	15,588	1,515	(2,438)
2024 - 2025	15,362	201	(1,464)
2025 - 2026	14,063	59	(222)

Appendix 2

TRADING EXPERIMENT

This was an initial test of the model and monitoring systems required for WSC to support Cluaran artist makers in developing their skills and selling their work to an international heritage market online. This showed that there is a market for hand made well researched products and makers interested. Uncertainty about tariffs, and the admin load in running the shop are however challenging for individuals. This experiment was wrapped up, but the general idea is worth pursuing in 2026/27.