



Wokingham Town Council

Town Hall, Market Place, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1AS
Tel: 0118 978 3185 www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk
Town Clerk: Mrs J. Nowecki

This Council Meeting is open to the Public and Press
Please notify the Officer or Chairman if you wish to record the meeting

In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 this meeting is to be held virtually.

Members of the public remain welcome and should contact the officer below for details.

10th November 2020

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the **Arts & Culture Committee** to be held as a **Virtual Meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 16th November 2020** for the purpose of considering and resolving upon the subjects and matters set out in the Agenda below.

Yours sincerely

J Nowecki
Town Clerk

Contact Officer: Gemma Cumming, Arts & Culture Officer
Direct line: 0118 974 0889 Email: gcumming@wokingham-tc.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive any declaration of interests from Members on the business about to be transacted.

3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC

The Chairman to answer questions raised by members of the Council or public.

This is an opportunity for the people of Wokingham to ask questions of, and make comments to, the Town Council. Members of the public are requested to restrict their questions and comments to three minutes. Questions which are not answered at this meeting will be answered in writing to the person asking the question. To ensure an informed response, please send your questions to the Town Clerk at least three working days prior to the meeting.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

To receive and confirm the Minutes of the proceedings at the meeting of this Committee held on 13th July 2020 (pages 16140 to 16143), copy attached, as a true and correct record.

5 MONITORING REPORT

To receive and consider the Monitoring Report dated 10th November 2020 (copy attached).

6 COMMITTEE BUDGET

To receive and consider the Committee's budget dated to 31st October 2020 (copy attached).

7 SCIENCE WITH SCHOOLS REPORT

To receive and consider the report regarding the Science with Schools event. (copy attached).

8 BOOK FESTIVAL REPORT

To receive and consider the report about the 2020 Wokingham Children's Book Festival (copy attached).

9 CHRISTMAS UPDATE

To update the committee on current Christmas projects.

10 COMMITTEE INFORMATION

- a) To receive information items raised by members
- b) Identify any specific items for marketing purposes

Arts & Culture Committee: Cllrs Anna Box, Philip Cunnington, Matteo Fumagalli, Sally Gurney (Chairman), Daniel Hinton, Peter Hornsby, Tim Lloyd, Morag Malvern and Abby Tebboth (Vice Chairman).

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, all persons attending this meeting are hereby notified that this meeting will be recorded. The purpose of recording proceedings is that it acts as an aide-memoir in assisting the clerk of the meeting in the compilation of minutes. The recordings are held in a secure location and deleted once it has been resolved that the minutes are a true and correct record.

In accordance with The Openness of Local Government Bodies regulations 2014, persons attending this meeting may make their own recordings of the proceedings subject to the Council's Policy on Filming, Recording & Reporting on Council and Committee Meetings (copy available on request).

14th September 2020 – DRAFT

In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 this meeting was held virtually.

Minutes of the proceedings of the **ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE** meeting held virtually on this day from 19:30 to 21:55.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr S Gurney

Councillors: Cllrs, A Box, P Cunnington, D Hinton, M Fumagalli, P Hornsby, T Lack, T Lloyd and A Tebboth.

IN ATTENDANCE

Arts and Culture Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence was received from Councillor M Malvern.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)

There were no questions from members of the council or public.

ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)

It was proposed by Cllr S Gurney and seconded by Cllr A Tebboth and it was

**RESOLVED
30173**

unanimously, that the Minutes of the Arts & Culture Committee meeting held on 13th July 2020 (pages 16110 to 16113) be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

The Monitoring Report dated 6th July was received and considered.

Invite More Arts to a future meeting:

It was agreed that for the time being, it would be best to invite More Arts to the next suitable date, preferably when meetings were taking place in person.

New Ideas update:

It was noted that a number of projects had been prepared for this meeting however, due to time pressures it had not been possible to prepare the proposed Classic Car Rally.

COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

The Arts and Culture Committee's budget dated to 31st August 2020 was received and noted.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



FUNDAY REPORT (Agenda Item 7)

The report, with a focus on improving the recycling provision at the event, was received and considered. Councillors were unanimously in favour of the principle of improving the recycling at the event. It was requested that any considered company(s) provide details of the waste they could recycle and the chain of recycling before any decision be made. Additionally the Art and Culture Officer stated that references and licences would be requested from any supplier.

The Committee also requested that advice and encouragement be provided to any food providers at the event to reduce the creation of waste.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

It was discussed if the Committee would prefer to request an additional £600 from F&P to support the concept or if they would rather utilise existing budget and reduce entertainment provision.

5 voted to increase the budget, 2 abstained and 1 voted to keep the existing budget.

The Committee recognised that if F&P did not increase the Fun Day budget the Committee would have to look at cutting entertainment provision.

SINGING TREES REPORT (Agenda Item 8)

The report on the singing trees concept was received and considered. It was broadly agreed that at this time the concept was not practical to move on in this physical format.

An alternative digital version was discussed. This would utilise a static non-powered item, such as a printed QR code or NFC device at a tree that could react to an individual's smart phone and play the music through the phone. This would be tied to a website and through an App (Wokingham History App potentially). It would likely be far cheaper, vandalism would be less of a concern and environmentally less negatively impactful. Any technology explored and/or utilised may also be considered to improve the existing app work of the Council.

Ideas for content were discussed. It was agreed that the tie of artistry with nature was of strong importance and would be preferable over historical or scientific content. Commissioning local band(s) to produce music for individual trees could be something to look into, which would also manage any ongoing rights costs. Other audio artistry such as poetry might be an option.

The Arts and Culture Officer was instructed to, over the next year, investigate costs associated with achieving content and creating a digital and physical framework to place this in.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

CHALK ABOUT IT REPORT (Agenda Item 9)

The report on the Chalk about it concept was received and considered. There was concern over costs and discussion if a lower amount would be more suitable for the first time event. The Committee requested that should this event

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



be funded, that local arts organisations be considered. The Arts and Culture Officer noted that this was an amount benchmarked with the assistance of a specialist company, however once a full detailed brief was produced it would be expected to follow the usual process for this amount, by going out for quotes. This would include local arts organisations that may need to look to subcontract a specialist chalk artist.

It was agreed to request max £3000 from F&P to support this project.

Should the project go ahead, the Arts and Culture Officer was requested to consider and utilise the following:

- Investigate and request any data relating to local mental health, particularly post lockdown. Cllr Cunningham noted he may be able to help.
- To consider the targeted demographic to be young people. Particularly 16-30 years old men.
- Consider, particularly with regards to any workshop or direct interaction, the best ways to both encourage individuals (who may feel uncomfortable about engaging or expressing their mental health difficulties in public) to attend and participate in the event.
- To invite as well as local mental health charities, local NHS relevant services.
- To ensure the event and the artwork is fully documented as it will be temporary.
- To consider a chalkboard as an alternative option, both as a quick, easy to access and low pressure option for those less inclined to draw and also serving individuals who may not be able to physically draw on the ground.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

INTERNATIONAL DAY REPORT (Agenda Item 10)

The report on the International Day was received and considered. It was recognised that minimal communication had been undertaken with local ethnic groups. However those groups who Councillors had interacted with were keen, while also recognising that some are informal groups rather than structured organisations.

Councillors recommended that the event primarily be composed from these local groups where possible, and could include traditional foods as well as other aspects of culture like dance and music etc. Non local professionals (music or food for example) would fill gaps.

It was requested that further consideration into how to reduce waste and recycle waste produced at the event be made. The Arts and Culture Officer will liaise with the Market Manager to discuss this.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

The Committee agreed to request max £3000 for this event from F&P.

THEATRE IN THE PARK REPORT (Agenda Item 11)

The report on the 2020 Theatre in the Park (COVID amended event) was received and considered. The Committee were thankful the event went well and

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



recognised that it was a very different event than planned due to the ongoing pandemic.

**RESOLVED
30174**

It was proposed by Cllr Gurney and seconded by Cllr Hinton and it was

to extend Bart Lee Theatre's Contract for a further two years. It was reiterated that the Committee would like to see, circumstances allowing, the event run as proposed on Elms Field.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

It was agreed that they would not ask for any funds to allow extra dates for a travelling show around the wards.

FINANCIAL REQUESTS FOR 2021/22 (Agenda Item 12)

The spreadsheet was received and considered.

There was discussion relating to reducing costs for existing events in order to be able to fund some of the new proposed initiatives. Ultimately it was decided to not alter any existing events.

**RESOLVED
30175**

It was proposed by Cllr Gurney and seconded by Cllr Tebboth and it was

unanimously, to request the following from F&P in this priority order.

1. International Day (£3000)
2. Chalk About It (£3000)
3. Fun Day (£600)

RETURN TO PHYSICAL MEETINGS (Agenda Item 13)

The idea of returning to physical meetings was discussed and it was agreed that there was still a preference by the Arts and Culture Committee for virtual meetings.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 14)

- a) The following item for information was received.

Wokingham Panto: The Arts and Culture Officer reported that the Town Clerk had agreed to a request to use Howard Palmer Gardens in a similar fashion to the Theatre in the Park event to hold a socially distanced and COVID safe version of the annual local pantomime.

- b) Due to the nature of this meeting only covering proposed future activities for later discussion at F&P no items were deemed beneficial to promote.

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



Monitoring Report: Arts & Culture

Date: 8th September 2020

Date Action Agreed	Item for Action (to include any resolution number)	Person Actioning	Proposed Completion Date	Progress
09/03/2020	Invite More Arts to a future meeting to get an overview of their activities.	A&C Officer		It was agreed to invite More Arts to the next suitable date when meetings were taking place in person
14/09/2020	Singing Trees	A&C Officer	August '21	Investigate the potential for an app based singing trees project.

Principles and Priorities: Arts & Culture

Date: 10th November 2020

Wokingham Town Council Overall Principles

Service

All residents of Wokingham Town deserve high quality services.

Distinctiveness

Wokingham Town is proud of its distinctive nature as a modern market town with an ancient heritage

Sustainability

Wokingham Town will aim to be a sustainable community.

Inclusivity

Wokingham Town will be welcoming to all

05/11/2020

Wokingham Town Council

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/10/2020

Month No: 7

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
304 Arts & Culture								
1156 Mosaic Sponsorship	3,333	0	2,000	2,000			0.0%	
1159 Book Festival Income	3,760	1,866	3,600	1,734			51.8%	
1253 Fun Day Income	189	0	150	150			0.0%	
1256 Misc. Income	381	0	0	0			0.0%	
Arts & Culture :- Income	7,664	1,866	5,750	3,884			32.5%	0
4341 Concert	34,070	10,500	37,000	26,500		26,500	28.4%	
4342 Cultural Month	2,076	0	2,300	2,300		2,300	0.0%	
4343 PRS Licence	600	574	600	26		26	95.6%	
4345 Book Festival	5,496	2,754	6,600	3,846	845	3,001	54.5%	
4388 Theatre in the Park	4,000	2,514	2,500	(14)		(14)	100.5%	
4389 Board Games event	579	0	1,000	1,000		1,000	0.0%	
4512 Sunny Saturdays	5,070	(200)	5,000	5,200		5,200	(4.0%)	
4513 Dressing the Christmas Tree	791	0	700	700		700	0.0%	
4518 Living Advent Calendar	996	0	1,100	1,100	600	500	54.5%	
4519 Mosaics	4,543	0	2,500	2,500		2,500	0.0%	
4603 Fun Day	6,830	2,730	7,800	5,070		5,070	35.0%	
Arts & Culture :- Indirect Expenditure	65,050	18,871	67,100	48,229	1,445	46,784	30.3%	0
Net Income over Expenditure	(57,386)	(17,005)	(61,350)	(44,345)				
Grand Totals:- Income	7,664	1,866	5,750	3,884			32.5%	
Expenditure	65,050	18,871	67,100	48,229	1,445	46,784	30.3%	
Net Income over Expenditure	(57,386)	(17,005)	(61,350)	(44,345)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(57,386)	(17,005)						



Wokingham Town Council

A&C Officer's Report 8/2020-21

To: Arts and Culture Committee

Date: 27th October 2020

Subject: Science in Schools

1 REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the outcomes of the Science with schools event that took place in September 2020.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This event was envisioned to be a brokerage project to engage schools with universities and expand knowledge on the range of STEM based careers there are. To frame STEM subjects wider than secondary learning and to engage with specialists who can bring a new light onto STEM subject matter.
- 2.2 Cllr Fumagalli took the lead to start a pilot event that was initially planned to take place in the Town Hall but was re-envisioned into a digital event.

3 THE EVENT

- 3.1 There were no ongoing costs associated to this event.
- 3.2 Staff time was minimal and was focused on advising Cllr Fumagalli and passing information to the Marketing Officer.
- 3.3 Cllr Fumagalli organized both the speakers and liaised with St Crispin's on the digital event. Jointly we managed creating an opening speech and liaised with the Civic Officer for the Mayor to attend to open the event. The Arts and Culture Officer was able to observe the session.
- 3.4 Year 10 science students at St Crispin's were treated to a series of talks from scientists from Imperial College London. The focus for this event was the environment.

Four scientists joined digitally from the Ascot based "Grand Challenges in Ecosystems and the Environment Initiative" a global hub for addressing key environmental challenges for humanity.

This included Aquatic Ecologist Dr Emma Ransome, Theoretical computational biologist Dr Samraat Pawar, Tropical Ecologist Dr Cristina Banks-Leite and Environmental Social Scientist Dr Morana Mills

They gave talks relating to their particular areas of research, how they got into their roles to begin with and what undergraduates in their fields could expect from a course. The students had lots of interesting and insightful questions and learnt about theoretical study, practical fieldwork (at home and abroad) and the interaction with social studies.

- 3.5 The event was well received by all. It may be useful to expand some on the day support either through the school or if we are engaging with multiple schools some Officer support to

manage back room IT needs and permissions in a live session. It remains useful to have an Officer in the session to absorb the content and to prepare report and information for marketing purposes it may be possible to dual role here.

3.6 Feedback from students is attached.

4 KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE COUNCIL

4.1 Distinctiveness:

4.1.1 The only event of its kind in the Town that we are aware of. It has potential to be expanded to other schools if continued to be done digitally or with a large enough centrally accessible space.

4.2 Sustainability:

4.2.1 This years event was focusing on the sustainability aspect of the four key principles. Learning about the work of scientists who are specially dealing with matters related to climate change and the impact humanity is having on their environment.

4.2.2 However it could focus on other areas.

4.3 Inclusivity:

4.3.1 This event included a variety of scientists across gender and cultures.

4.3.2 It could in the future look at scientific studies relating to areas that feed into our definition of inclusivity. One aim being to encourage female students into STEM fields.

4.3.3 The digital offer has the potential to reach students across the Town without having to travel and include scientists around the country.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Should this brokerage project continue it look to move to a self-sustaining model that may continue after the next election.

5.2 We look to maintain this as a digital offer

5.3 Consider if the Committee wish to suggest a focus for a future year that feeds into one of the key principles.

Gemma Cumming
Arts & Culture Officer

The Scientists told us about their careers and their journey to the work they did. It was very interesting to hear about all the different roles to do with the environment. They also left time for us to ask questions which was very helpful as it allowed me to understand specific parts of their jobs. It made me realise that work to do with the environment can be done both in an office and in the field. It opened my eyes and made me consider a job to do with the environment. Furthermore, it made me understand just how bad climate change is and how it's affecting us not only as humans but all animals and wildlife.

The scientists were very interesting and they taught us lots about the different effects of climate change and the groups of people working to stop it. I especially liked learning about how they got into their careers and what they worked on to get there. It inspired me to want to learn more about the environment and how to stop global warming.

This was a talk on Teams about climate change and what different peoples jobs do to prevent it. I enjoyed this experience because it was eye opening and shows what some people do in their everyday lives. I liked the marine biologist the most because I liked that she was hands on and travelled a lot.

This was the climate event about climate change and how different scientists jobs relate to climate change. I found it interesting because it was eye-opening and I got to understand things about different jobs in different industries. I found the marine biologists the most interesting because it was different and I enjoy learning about the oceans.

This was a talk about climate change and what different scientific researchers are finding in their results. I found this event very eye opening and a great opportunity to be involved along with my peers. My favorite was the presentation given on marine biology because it was very different.



Wokingham Town Council

A&C Officer's Report 9/2020-21

To: Arts and Culture Committee
Date: 27th October 2020
Subject: Wokingham Children's Book Festival

1 REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the outcomes of the third Wokingham Children's Book Festival that took place on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th October 2020.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Wokingham Children's Book Festival was envisioned in the July 2018 meeting of the Committee.
- 2.2 We continue to work with Wokingham Borough Council's Libraries service and the Extended Services Cluster Co-Ordinator for Wokingham East due to their expertise and support.
- 2.3 More Arts continued this year to support the event. Their funding was focused on the schools outreach sessions.
- 2.4 Due to the ongoing COVID situation the decision was made by this Committee to undertake the Book Festival digitally.
- 2.5 A program of authors was created, based on capacity and skill with the new digital style event, and a key consideration of maintaining a diverse range of authors.
- 2.6 It was agreed, due to the move to digital and the ongoing COVID situation, to choose to not charge for the events this year although we maintained the ticketing system.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND OTHER COSTS

- 3.1 The budget was £3000 from Wokingham Town Council and £1800 was donated by More Arts. The usual income target was scrapped as there would be no income from ticket sales this year. However, as this was agreed after budget setting, financial reports will note an overall budget of £6600. The Arts and Culture Officer worked to a lower budget anticipating no income from ticket sales.
- 3.2 The original income target from ticket sales was £1800 as such the Arts and Culture Officer worked to a budget of £4800.
- 3.3 Final Expenditure is expected to be: approx. £4000. Many invoices from authors are not in as yet.
- 3.4 Expenditure was also minimized as due to COVID. It wasn't appropriate to create flyers and other types of advertising, authors came in at a lower cost for appearing live as there were no travel costs to consider and management of a brand new digital style event restricted how many authors we could have during the weekend to 10.

- 3.5 Approx £1700 was spent on the outreach sessions. Drastically increasing the number we would normally support. Wokingham Libraries lead with these, starting about a month in advance of the main event. As these were also digital they could reach multiple schools and classes with one session. 40 schools from across the borough attended multiple sessions. That works out to approx. 410 classes and 11,000 individual views (some classes attended multiple sessions).
- 3.6 Feedback from the schools on the Outreach sessions was very good. It should be noted that it is felt that that number of sessions this year was taxing to maintain and the Library service would be looking to do less in the future (rather than 5/6 a week, 3 a week in the run up to the main event).
- 3.7 It should also be noted that Staff time was an additional implication both supporting the event on the run up and on the event day.
- 3.7.1 For the Town Hall: The Arts and Culture Officer managed the branding and assisted with publicity, website and ticketing platforms, event oversight and official partnership communications. Additionally testing, training and running the digital platform. The Marketing Coordinator advised on publicity and led on publicizing the event through Social Media and the Press, and liaised with Wokingham Borough Council Comms team.
- 3.7.2 For the Library: As part of the partnership significant staff expertise, to arrange and work with authors, publishers, publicize through their channels and help run the weekend event and lead on the outreach work.
- 3.7.3 Over the weekend the Arts and Culture Officer ran the tech and digital platform with the assistance of Councillors, Library staff and volunteers. The team was intentionally kept small this year as any interaction with the digital platform required a level of training, and communications between event staff was trickier as we were not all in the same space.
- 3.8 Tickets went well this year. There was a steadier flow of tickets in the weeks prior to the event than in previous years. Like previous years there was a noticeable jump in tickets sold as the event approached with the majority being allocated in the week preceding the event.
- 3.9 650 tickets were allocated. As a digital event, each household only needed one ticket, unlike in a physical event when each individual needed a ticket. Using this as a basis to compare to last year in a physical event this would be approx. 1300 places sold.
- 3.10 Last year we sold approx. 900 spaces however it should be recognized that a perfect comparison with previous years is impossible, as each form of event (physical or digital) have their own limitations.
- 3.11 It should also be noted that while ticket sales were higher than previous years there was also a significant discrepancy between tickets sold and actual attendees of the events. Approx. 75% of ticket holders attended their session (either live or on replay at a later date). This is thought to be an effect of it being a free event this year.
- 3.12 Personal feedback was harder to obtain this year as it required individuals to answer questions from home rather than capturing people in person while waiting. However statistical data was higher due to not only having information from the ticketing platform but also from the online service.
- 3.13 We learnt:
- That while the majority of our viewers were within the Borough, we also had a wider reach than usual outside of the Borough to places such as Reading, Bracknell etc. We also had a national reach with viewers elsewhere in the country and a very small amount in other countries around the world.
 - As usual, most people did not reveal how they found out about the event they booked on. Of those who did, the top three were; Word of Mouth, Promotional Email and Social Media.

4 KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE COUNCIL

4.1 Distinctiveness:

- 4.1.1 The only event of its kind in the Borough and intentionally servicing Wokingham Town, Borough and the wider area.

4.2 Sustainability:

- 4.2.1 This year's digital program has reduced the requirement for individuals to travel to the event reducing environmental impact there. However there are downsides to not doing the event in person.

- 4.2.2 The event has a teaching aspect and potential to lean harder into environmental topics than we did this year. Although do note the following events touched on environmental topics.

- Elephant in my Kitchen (main event)
- Earth Heroes (Authors into schools)
- Hope Jones saves the world (Authors into schools)

Incidentally, the new picture book version of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang has reimagined the titular character as an electric car.

4.3 Inclusivity:

- 4.3.1 This event has, since it's inception, aimed to be diverse and inclusive. This year:

- The main Book Festival weekend was forced to go digital. It was presented on a free browser based program and was free to enter. Every effort was made to make it as accessible for those with limited funds. However this does not help those families who cannot afford a internet enabled device and an internet connection.
- The outreach sessions were very powerful at reaching all children regardless of their socioeconomic status as they were streamed directly into classrooms. There was also such a wide variety for reading ages that there were events suitable for many learning abilities.
- The big pro to presenting sessions digitally is that they are more inclusive to the disabled community, allowing individuals to watch live, or at a later date more suited to their situation and within their own comfortable and familiar space. Crowdcast could be doing more with live auto-captioning, however we will be captioning sessions for a later release to YouTube.
- The mix of authors for both the main weekend and the outreach sessions were ethnically and culturally diverse. One author presented her session from her parents' home in India, which was also the inspiration for the book she was talking about. We also had authors from the LGBT community and Neurodivergent community.
- The majority of the 10 sessions during the weekend touched an aspect of diversity and by that hopefully helped to foster inclusion. From the simple stories of a young black boy and his dog, to women's history of suffrage, to seeing life through the lens of a neurodivergent individual.
- From the authors into schools outreach also see the following:
 - Ferdinand and the Age of Exploration
 - Explore Myths and Legends of the World!
 - Diversity and Inclusion in Picture Books
 - Who can save the Baobab tree?
 - Chinglish with author Sue Cheung
 - I, Ada – The Extraordinary Mind of Ada Lovelace
- Full list of outreach sessions at <https://wokingham-tc.gov.uk/bookfest/authors-into-schools/>

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Outreach via a digital platform highly inclusive, reaching classrooms around the Borough. Increases reach of the festival.
- 5.2 The digital version of the event went well. However in person interaction remains more powerful.
- 5.3 The diversity of the authors was powerful. This can be maintained by going to the smaller specialist publishers first for suggestions, then to the larger publishers.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That if COVID is still active in 2021 that a decision be made to either attempt physical or go digital by May 2021.
- 6.2 That even in a non-COVID scenario a mixed approach of physical to digital be considered.
 - The reach to the schools for digital is particularly powerful.
 - It enables a greater choice of authors.
 - Has benefits to inclusivity
 - Can extend attendance within physical spaces that might be more attractive to larger named authors.
- 6.3 To maintain the current core WTC funding and continue to look to hit existing income target where possible for sponsorship and ticket sales.

Gemma Cumming
Arts & Culture Officer