**Report of the Directors and Unaudited Financial Statements**

**Company Registration Number:**

**4777684 (England and Wales)**

**Charity number:**

**1150696**

 **Period of accounts**

**Start date: 01st June 2016**

**End date: 31st May 2017**

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## Company Information for the Period Ended 31st May 2017:

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|  |  |
| **Charity name:** Bridging Arts**Charity registration number:** 1150696**Company registration number:** 4777684**Company secretary:**Windsor, Stebbing, Marsh |  |
| **Registered office and operational address:**  | BOLANKANCROWANPRAZECAMBORNECORNWALLTR14 9ND |
|   |  |
|   |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Directors:**  |  |
|   | Kemal Ahson  |
|   | Salvatore Consolino (until May ‘17)Louise Oddy  |
|   | Andrew Dobbie Pontus Rosen |

## Directors' Report Period Ended 31st May 2017

The Directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the period ended 31st May 2017. Bridging Arts Ltd has charitable status and is a registered charity, but for the purposes of this report it is referred to throughout as ‘the charity’.

The Directors shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1 June 2016 to 31st May 2017:

Kemal Ahson

Louise Oddy

Andrew Dobbie

Pontus Rosen

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in part 15 of the Companies Act 2006

Approved by the board of directors on 31 August 2017

and Signed On Behalf Of The Board By:

Name: Andrew Dobbie

Status: Chairman of Trustees

## Our aims and objectives

The charity’s objectives as set out in the objects contained in the company’s memorandum of association are to:

To advance education for the public benefit by the promotion of the arts, in particular but not exclusively the art of: drama, performing arts, visual arts, music, film-making, digital media, and combined arts activities.

## Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We aim to tackle difficult social issues through arts and art-related projects.

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at work over the past 12 months. It looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits it has brought to those groups of people we are set up to work with. The review also helps us to ensure that our aim, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

## The focus of our work

The focus of the year was **Heart of Conflict**, our Heritage Lottery funded project in Cornwall to mark the centenary of World War One. We were delighted to receive a grant for this work from the Heritage Lottery Fund. We expanded on work carried out in 2015-16, and staged an exhibition at the Royal Cornwall Museum from December 2016 to June 2017.

This was an excellent example of a Bridging Arts project, bringing together people of very diverse backgrounds and interests to create something of real value and lasting interest.

## How our activities deliver public benefit

**Heart of Conflict** originally aimed to encourage pride and cultural identity in Cornwall’s former mining heartland – Camborne and Redruth. These towns and surrounding areas are among the poorest in the United Kingdom. Many people are proud of their heritage and identity in these towns. However, we identified a further need for engagement and education, particularly among young people. The percentage of students at KS4 achieving C-A\* grades at GCSE is significantly lower than the national average. Workshops prior to the project starting showed a real lack of knowledge about heritage and WW1.

The project built a bridge between this, our target audience, and their heritage – emphasizing local stories and making connections.

In 2016-17, we expanded this work across Cornwall. Its overall message: not everyone makes the history books but everyone has a story to tell. It is particularly valuable when people who do not have a chance to tell this story – or perhaps are even unaware of it – have the chance to speak out.

## What did we do

* We trained Girl Guides to interview older people who had extraordinary memories of their grandparents in WW1.
* We worked with local historians who lent their expertise to the project and lend the objects and photographs that they had collected.
* We worked with community groups to uncover objects and their stories.
* We used this material to stage an exhibition at the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro, from December 2016 to June 2017.
* Volunteers researched the background to articles and found many leads in the Cornwall Studies Library, Redruth.
* We uncovered stories of heroism that surprised us all. We discovered the grandsons of two men who had played in rugby matches on the Front after Camborne Rugby Club sent out a ball: both had been unaware of the matches and their grandfathers’ participation in them.
* The seven-month exhibition at the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro, attracted regular visitors and gained extremely positive feedback.

*“This is the best and most poignant WWI exhibition I have seen to date. A masterly use of personal stories & objects to illustrate well chosen themes. Well done!”*

 *Visitors’ book, March 2017*

* We held a series of lunchtime talks and workshops around the exhibition. A poetry workshop, in particular, was extremely successful and laid the foundation for future work by Bridging Arts in this area.

## Stitch

We held a series of workshops at the Masbro Centre in Hammersmith, London, working with older people to create original embroidery. We developed designs that evolved from our earlier project, Stitch in Wandsworth. This resulted in valuable and fascinating contact with older people, including a visit to the Victoria & Albert Museum to see their spring exhibition on medieval gold work.

## Whatever It Takes

We worked in partnership with a skate shop in Camborne, Cornwall, to run a competition for skateboard design. The winner was a chef in Newquay who said that he spent his time flipping burgers. We reproduced his design, featuring a giant stack of burgers, on skateboards which were then sold through the shop and via other channels.

Our exhibition of skateboard art by skating professionals was on display at the skate shop during this period.

## African headwrap

We ran a competition for a design for an African headwrap in collaboration with the art collective Gida in Brixton. Again, we reproduced the winning design by a young Australian artist on scarves that were then sold to cover costs.

## Plans for the future

We will build on **Heart of Conflict** work in 2018, the last year of the centenary of World War One.

We are keen to hold further poetry workshops around its themes. We will also explore the possibility of taking the project’s methodology to other areas of the country. We are particularly keen to forge links with the areas of France where many of the Cornishmen featured in Heart of Conflict were based. We will seek grants and sponsorship to cover costs involved in this work.

Simultaneously, we will work on developing elements in other projects where we have already developed valuable practice, interaction with delivery partners and people, plus excellent resources such as education packs. Building on work done with older people, we will explore the idea of ‘meaningful’ colouring books for the elderly. We will seek to tour our skateboard competition to schools in Cornwall over the next 12 months.

Our ‘unique selling point’ remains flexibility and speed of response: this means that projects can be developed in response to real need and delivered accordingly.

## Volunteers

We have depended on volunteers to develop and deliver our projects: their contribution has been crucial in ensuring the success of our work and in engaging with participants. Work with volunteers is core to the ethos of Bridging Arts and will remain a priority.

## Financial Review

It remains tough to develop and expand projects because of uncertainty over Brexit and the national background of restricted funding for community projects, especially those with ‘soft’ outcomes. However, we are encouraged by the success of straightforward fundraising through Easyfundraising and PayPal. The Trustees strongly believe that grant funding should not be the only stream of income for the charity.

The Directors are satisfied with the results of the company during the year under review. Funds raised were used for the projects for which they were intended: detailed budgets were kept of each project and the spending of restricted funds monitored.

## Reserves policy

The Directors have examined the requirement for free reserves i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed. The Directors consider that ideally, given the nature of the company’s work, the level of free reserves should be a minimum of three month’s average expenditure at any one time. The Directors are of the opinion that this provides sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in incoming resources due to timing differences in income flows, adequate working capital to cover core costs, and will allow the company to cope and respond to unforeseen emergencies while specific action plans are implemented.

The Directors are satisfied that the reserves at year end are in line with this policy.

## Legal Status

The company was incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Act 2006 as a private company limited by guarantee without a share capital. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. Trustees of the charity are also Directors of the company.

The company undertakes charitable activities and was registered as a charity with the Charity Commissioners in February 2013.

## Governance and Management

The Directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the Company’s articles are known as Directors.

All Directors and Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity.

## Small Company Provision

This report has been prepared in accordance with s477 of Companies Act 2006.

## Fixed Assets

The company did not hold any fixed assets during the year.

## Directors

The Directors of the company for the year were as follows:

Kemal Ahson

Salvatore Consolino (resigned 11 May 2017)

Andrew Dobbie

Louise Oddy

Pontus Rosen

By order of the board

Company Secretary

WSM Services Ltd

## Statement of Directors’ responsibilities

Directors are required to prepare financial statements, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for the period. In preparing the financial statements, the directors are required to:

1. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
2. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
3. state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed
4. prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis

The Executive Director is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accurately the financial position of the company and enable the board to ensure that the financial statements comply with Companies Act 2006. She is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

For the year ending 31 May 2017, Bridging Arts Ltd was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors’ responsibilities:

1. the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476
2. the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts
3. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies’ regime.

Andrew Dobbie

Chair of Trustees

Approved by the Directors and signed on 31 August 2017

## Statement of financial activities for the Period Ended 31st May 2017

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Unrestricted Funds 2017** | **Restricted Funds 2017** | **Total funds 2017** | **Total Funds 2016** |
| **Incoming resources** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Incoming resources from generated funds |  |  |  |  |
| Grants |  | 0 | 150 | 0 | 9500 |
| Voluntary income |  | 1125 | 0 | 0 | 1057 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bank interest |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES** | **1125** | **150** | **1275** | **10557** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Resources expended |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cost of generating funds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Costs of generating voluntary income | 114 | 0 | 0 | 1521 |
| Charitable activities  |  | 891 | 8905 | 0 | 0 |
| Governance costs |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED** | **1005** | **8905** | **9910** | **1521** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR** | **(-120)** | **(-8755)** | **(-8635)** | **(464)** |

## Balance sheet as at 31 May 2017

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## Balance sheet

**As at 31st May 2017**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   |  | **2017****£** | **2016****£** |
| **Current assets**  |   |   |   |
| Cash at bank and in hand:  |   | **2840**  |  **11,474**  |
| **Total current assets:**  |   | **2840**  |  **11,474** |
| **Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)****Net current assets (liabilities):**  |   |  **-** |  **-**  |
| **Total assets less current liabilities:**  |   | **2840** |  **11,474**  |
| **Total net assets (liabilities):**  |   | **2840**  |  **11,474** |

**Unrestricted funds 2002 1974**

**Restricted funds: 838 9500**

**TOTAL FUNDS 2840 11,474**

**31st May 2017**

The company does not have any gains and losses other than Profit and Loss for the period to report.

## Notes to the Accounts

1. For the year ending 31 May 2017 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.
2. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
3. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
4. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies’ regime and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 31 August 2017

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD BY:

Name: Andrew Dobbie

Status: Chairman of Trustees