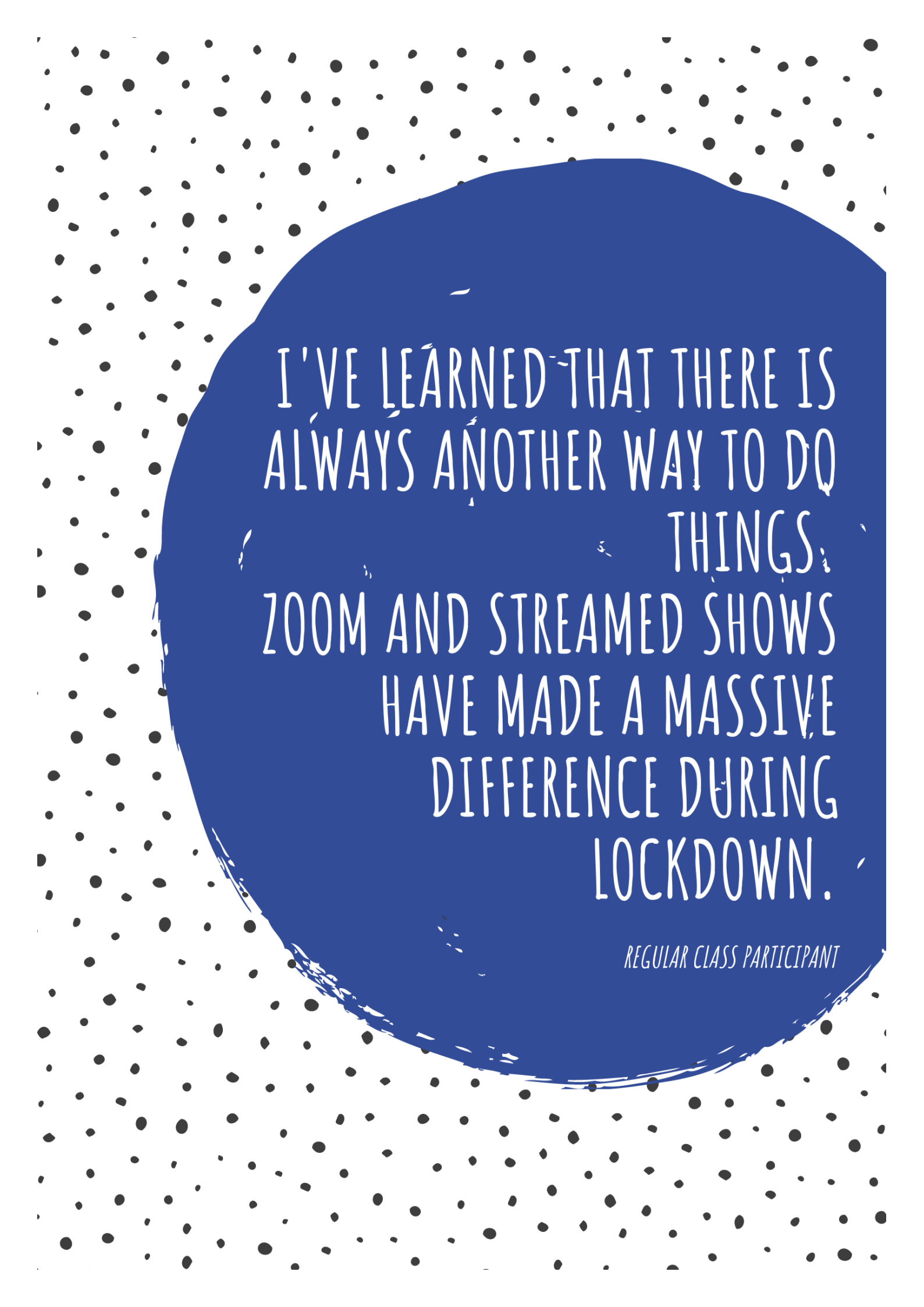




**ARC in Lockdown  
2020 - 2021**





I'VE LEARNED THAT THERE IS  
ALWAYS ANOTHER WAY TO DO  
THINGS.  
ZOOM AND STREAMED SHOWS  
HAVE MADE A MASSIVE  
DIFFERENCE DURING  
LOCKDOWN.

*REGULAR CLASS PARTICIPANT*



# Introduction

The last 15 months have been truly extraordinary. Despite our building being closed for most of that period, we have continued to connect with artists and communities, helping people to stay creative.

As we move back into our building, we wanted to ensure the work created during lockdown wasn't lost or forgotten. What we have achieved, together, during COVID shows the talents of our artists and the importance of our work to the many communities we serve. More than anything it has reminded us that 'ARC isn't just about a building. It's about relationships.'

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this story: Our customers, artists, funders, staff and Board members. We couldn't have done it without you.

**Annabel Turpin**

**Chief Executive & Artistic Director**

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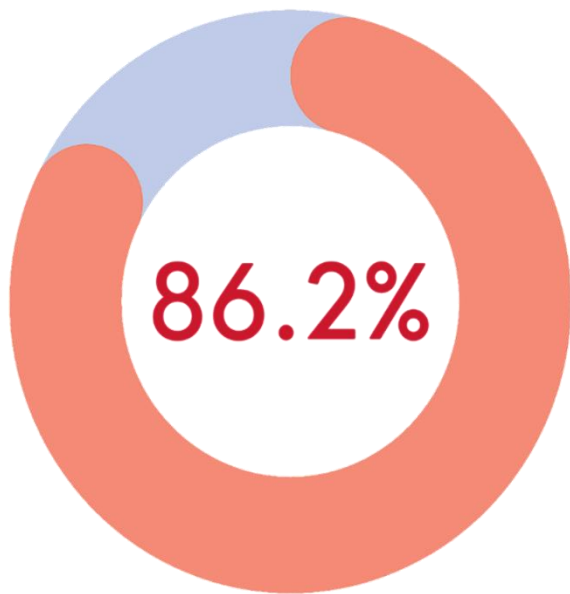


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**ARC  
Overview**

March 2020  
to  
April 2021

**OVER 10,000  
ENGAGEMENTS**



**ARC was closed to the public for 86.2% of weeks (50 of 58)**



**Approx. 86% of engagements happened remotely**



**Brand new productions responsive to COVID measures commissioned or supported**



**Opportunities to see live, and live streamed performances directly from ARC**



**Regular creative classes took place: online, and with blended delivery at ARC**



**Ways to engage across our programme: online, by post, by phone, or in person**

# 2020 - 2021

March



ARC Closes

Staying Out begins phone & postal delivery

April



Creative activity starts being delivered online

May



Programmes aimed at connecting people are launched

June



Specially commissioned cultural experiences start streaming

July



More cultural experiences join our remote programme

August



Staying Out co-create work, as part of SIRF 2020 At Home

September



ARC reopens  
COVID secure in-person activity returns



# An Overview

October



Live cultural experiences return with COVID measures

November



ARC closes  
The Festival of Light and Colour streams online

December



Brand new programmes of creative activity are offered

January



Work begins on LIGHT:space, commissioned through Pizza and Pitches

February



ARC's first show offered via telephone takes place

March



Tees Valley Young Creatives Network is launched

April



New specially commissioned cultural experiences are streamed



“

‘I don't know how I would have been without my weekly hour of fun, and my only time to be with others - even over zoom.’

---

REGULAR CLASS PARTICIPANT

# Delivering Creative Activity

In light of the government's announcement about avoiding non-essential social contact, ARC closed to the public at 6.30pm on Monday 16 March 2020.

This decision was made with the best interests of our customers, audiences and visitors in mind, recognising our responsibility to play a part in reducing the spread of COVID-19 must come first.

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## Staying Out

**Staying Out** became ARC's first regular participatory programme to be offered remotely, because it supports people in some of the most vulnerable situations - **Staying Out** is a weekly social prescribing project.

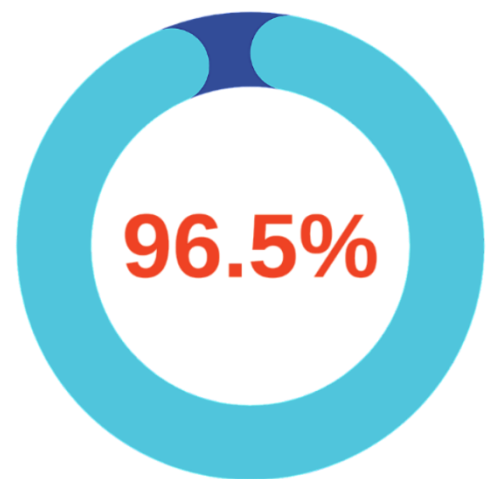
It provides people aged 65+ who have been identified as socially isolated in their community, or have recently been discharged from hospital, with creative and friendly arts and crafts based sessions.

Throughout ARC's closure we have also welcomed new participants following referrals from local voluntary and statutory organisations.



**Staying Out had over 750 engagements.**

**Individual sessions have been delivered across 54 out of 56 weeks (96.5%) since 16 March 2020, only pausing for statutory holidays.**



---

Weekly creative activity has been delivered via phone and post, as the majority of participants do not have internet access, or have access requirements where online activity would exclude them.

In agreement with Stockton Borough Council, ARC took responsibility for managing wellbeing checks, and ensuring each participant's sessions included ongoing

support; including signposting and referrals to local organisations for shopping, medication supplies, medical and mental health support, financial advice, and home maintenance, where appropriate.

Members of **Staying Out** have enjoyed taking part in a diverse range of creative activities; including fabric garland making, collaborating to create blankets to donate to local charities, reminiscence storytelling, art pack based work, and bespoke projects based on their individual interests.

In August, **Staying Out** members collaborated with spoken word artist, Arji Manuelpillai, to co-create performance poetry for Stockton International Riverside Festival's (remote) Community Carnival.

Participants engaged in creative reminiscence storytelling with **Staying Out** delivery staff via phone. Their responses were recorded verbatim, and developed into personalised performance poetry. Arji then performed these back to group members over the phone, at times of their choice.

This project also raised potential for **Staying Out's** creative outcomes to inspire the creation of a future commission for SIRF 2021.

---

## Creating Together

**Creating Together** also moved online throughout ARC's closure, with a return to the building when COVID restrictions were lifted.

**Creating Together** sessions are delivered by Displace Yourself Theatre, and offer adults who have come to the UK seeking refuge or asylum, have experienced, or are at risk of homelessness, or have mental health support needs, opportunities to share and develop skills in different creative and arts activities.



'It's really kept us both going, cos if you don't want to be on a computer nowadays, you're stuck.

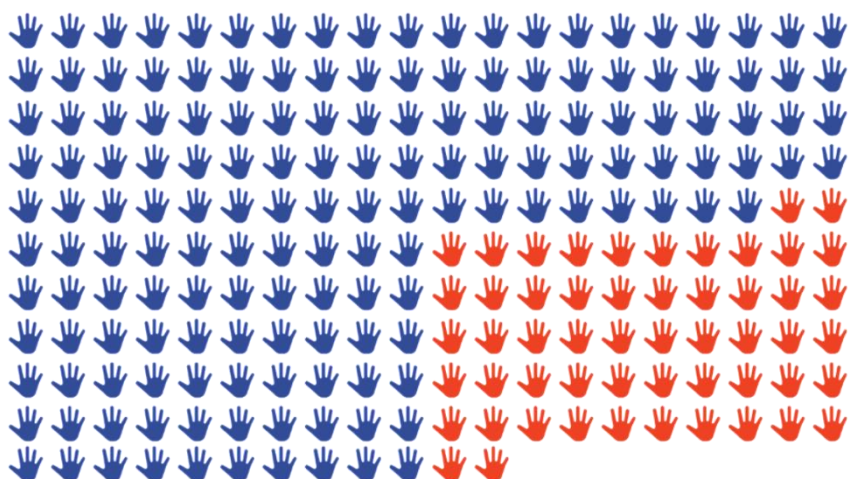
It's kind of Holly phoning, cos you wouldn't just talk to anyone who comes along. She always checks what we need and helps us.

She's been keeping me going with my knitting, so I've been doing squares for the Staying Out blanket'.



## Regular Classes

ARC's **regular classes** moved to online delivery from April 2020. Participants across our communities engaged in a diverse range of weekly activity, including ARCulele, Arts and Crafts, Keep Active, Creative Writing, and Ballet Pilates.



**ARC had 2046 engagements over 212 regular creative classes. 158 took place remotely. 54 had blended or in-person delivery.**

When ARC reopened to the public between Monday 7 September and Wednesday 4 November 2020, most **regular classes** with content more suited to in-person delivery restarted.

The majority returned with blended delivery, offering participants a choice of engaging in-person at ARC with COVID measures in place, or via Zoom, depending upon their needs and preferences.

In late 2020, **Staying Out** collaborated remotely with ARC's **ARCulele** and **Creative Arts and Crafts** classes, to create a song and music video based upon their memories, feelings, and stories about Christmas.



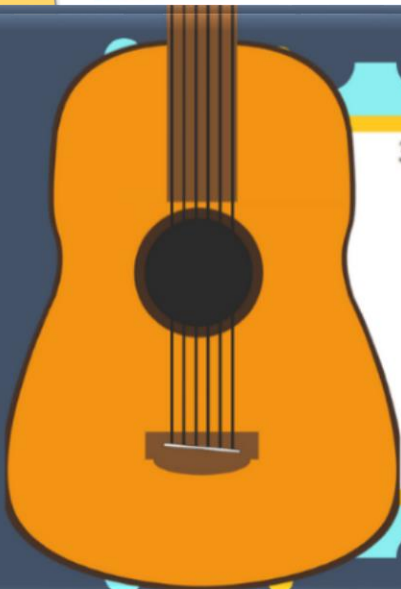
Their responses were recorded verbatim during weekly phone sessions, and passed to ARC's **ARCulele** group, who worked together via Zoom to develop lyrics and a melody. Individual recordings were then emailed to ARC for final sound editing.

Using themes found within **Staying Out** participants' stories, ARC's **Creative Arts and Crafts** group created art work, which was incorporated into the [music video](#).

War was on during Christmas - I remember walking past Stockton barrage balloon every day, it was used to confuse the flyers. It was always in the beck and every day I walked past and wished to see it fly. It never did. Father worked horrible shifts; family didn't live nearby. So we didn't celebrate Christmas that often.

Christmas food smell, Christmas cake in the oven. Salvation army singing, they used to come round the street I enjoyed that.

I have a friend who in the past has bought me things that don't fit me or I don't use or never worn. She means well. Last year she actually asked me 'well what do you want?' I've never had a cuddly toy. I never played with toys I had dolls - one called Mary and one was called Lizzie I lost Lizzie on a trip to South Shields when I was very young. But I never had cuddly toys, so I asked for a cuddly toy - She got me a lovely long-eared rabbit toy.



3. C F C  
Christmas was always good, even when times were hard  
C G7  
Fruit cake in the oven, you could smell it in the yard!  
C F C  
A present from a friend, excitement and joy  
C G7 stop C  
For the best surprise of all was a cuddly toy!





2

With...

Original lyrics by **Staying Out**

Additional lyrics & music by **ARCulele**

Visuals by **Artistic Arts and Crafts**

0:21 / 4:20

KODAK PORTA 400

Count your blessings  
IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME

2

Count your blessings - ARC Christmas Song 2020 - FINAL CUT.mp4

ounds of the 'Sally Army' playing in the street

1:49 / 4:20

KODAK PORTA 400

2

Count your blessings - ARC Christmas Song 2020 - FINAL CUT.mp4

Carol singers came to spread the cheer

1:11 / 4:20

KODAK PORTA 400

2

Count your blessings - ARC Christmas Song 2020 - FINAL CUT.mp4

Count your blessings, it's Christmas time

1:32 / 4:20

KODAK PORTA 400

2

Count your blessings - ARC Christmas Song 2020 - FINAL CUT.mp4

cake in the oven, you could smell it in the

1:45 / 4:20

KODAK PORTA 400

2

Count your blessings - ARC Christmas Song 2020 - FINAL CUT.mp4

We'll sing songs together, from years gone by

1:45 / 4:20

KODAK PORTA 400







**'I am so delighted to see the results of this project!**

**The MSTLP! work which was the outcome of this has created some fantastic experiences for children and young people, and their carers.**

**This book is a perfect example of what is possible with a bit of imagination, the right people, a bit of funding and a determination to unlock potential.'**

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**MARTIN GRAY**  
**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**  
**STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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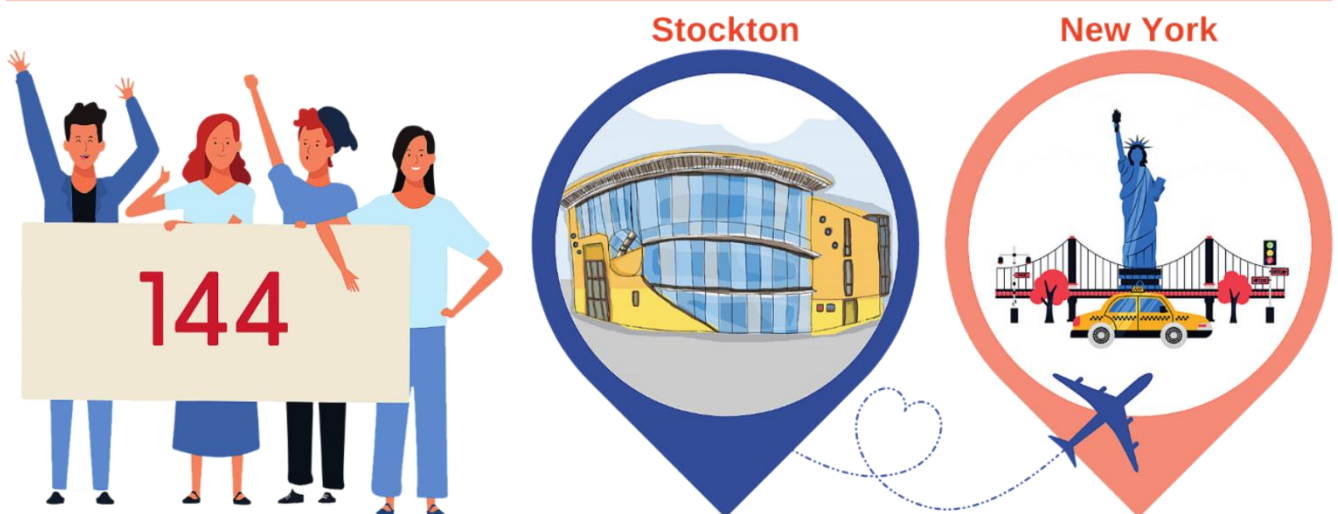
# Connecting People

## We ARConnected

**We ARConnected** was ARC's coronavirus responsive community project; designed to help people stay creative while self-isolating, shielding, or on lockdown.



Every fortnight from when the first UK lockdown began, we invited our communities to make creative pieces of work of their choice based on a different theme. People submitted work when they felt safe and able to, via email, post, or drop-off.



**144 creations were submitted for ARC's Creative Lockdown exhibition. These joined an exhibition at Flushing Town Hall, Queens, New York in October 2020.**

**Staying Out** participants also had the opportunity to take part in **We ARConnected**; whilst our **Creative Arts and Crafts** regular class members created their own pieces of art, based on weekly stimuli set by their tutor. In September, this work formed a public exhibition for ARC's reopening called **Creative Lockdown**.

## Connecting Internationally

Through an international relationship with Flushing Town Hall in Queens, New York, the **Creative Lockdown** exhibition continued to connect with communities over 3000 miles away.



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in the wake of the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Rayshard Brooks, Flushing Town Hall asked New Yorkers to express their thoughts and feelings through art. These were displayed in an outdoor exhibition; **Call and Response: Grief, Resiliency and Hope**, at Flushing Town Hall in October. ARC were the only international arts organisation to also be involved.

## Supporting Our Communities

With amazing support from Poundland customers, and Tesco Extra Stockton, ARC provided **free packed lunches** for children at risk of hunger through food poverty over the October 2020 half term holiday. Families were able to contact ARC confidentially to book lunches meeting a diverse range of dietary needs. This offer supported the families of more than 80 children across our community.



100 people took part in The People's Palace of Possibility, whilst 695 viewed Wild Vision Collective's LIGHT:space exhibition online and in person. 222 people united through our Transgender Day of Remembrance event online.

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## Transgender Day of Remembrance

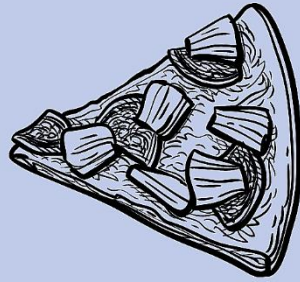
ARC worked in partnership with Ellie Lowther from ELC to produce Teesside's official **Transgender Day of Remembrance** event on 20 November 2020. Due to COVID restrictions, this special vigil was hosted by Ellie via ARC's YouTube channel, engaging 222 people.

Transgender Day of Remembrance is observed in November each year to honour the memory of people globally whose lives have been lost in acts of anti-transgender violence, hatred or prejudice.

During the evening, Ellie introduced **Transgender Day of Remembrance**, before a full list of the names of those who had lost their lives was read out, whilst their photo was displayed. For 2020, this also included those who lost their lives to COVID-19, in recognition of the pressures of isolation, detachment, and healthcare inequalities facing trans people world-wide.

Following the online vigil, Ellie hosted a post event Zoom room for participants to meet and reflect further.





**'Just to say 'Well Done' on a fantastic virtual Pizza and Pitches evening.**

**Well-made short films, with digital subtitles. Wide variety of creative ideas.**

**Really well put together - and great that you found a way to continue Pizza and Pitches despite these challenging times.'**

PIZZA AND PITCHES AUDIENCE MEMBER

## Pizza and Pitches

We held **Pizza and Pitches events** via Zoom, in November 2020, and March 2021.

**Pizza and Pitches** is a community commissioning programme that ARC developed in partnership with The Albany in Deptford. Anyone with a new creative idea they would like to make happen in Stockton can submit a proposal. Applicants have the chance to pitch for £1000 and our support in bringing their idea to life as part of ARC's programme, with the winning idea chosen by public vote at **Pizza and Pitches** events.

In November 2020, the winning pitchers were Wild Vision Collective, with an exhibition to bring light and hope in the midst of the pandemic, and brighten up the darkest time of year.

In March 2021, Wild Vision Collective collaborated with ARC and Wellington Square to curate and present LIGHT:space, a night time art trail exhibited in windows, which incorporated light, video, and movement. Local artists also submitted light based work through an open call out. An interactive online tour of LIGHT:space was also available via ARC's website for anyone unable to view the exhibition in person.

---

## The People's Palace of Possibility

Delivered by The Bare Project in collaboration with ARC, **The People's Palace of Possibility** was an immersive arts project. To make the most of lockdown restrictions, its story was told through the post, and digital and/or phone interaction.

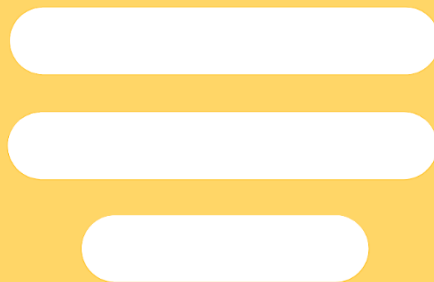
100 participants from across the Tees Valley signed up to take part in the project during February 2021. Each received a series of letters and packages which unfurled the mysteries of **The People's Palace of Possibility**, and invited them to share visions for the future and commit tiny acts of resistance.





**FANTASTIC!!!  
EVERYONE**

**GET DOWN THERE  
TO SEE THESE  
FABULOUS  
CREATIONS!!!**



**LIGHT:SPACE ART TRAIL VISITOR,  
PIZZA AND PITCHES FUNDED  
IN-PERSON COVID SECURE EXHIBITION**



## ARChive 2041

On Monday 16 March 2020 ARC announced its closure ahead of the first national lockdown. One remarkable year later, we invited our communities to contribute to our **ARChive 2041** project. Together, we produced a time capsule filled with creative work that shows snapshots of life throughout this moment in history: the highs, the lows, the unforgettable and the everyday.

People have submitted photographs, stories, and videos of songs created specially for the project, diaries outlining key moments in their grandchildren's first year of birth during lockdown, and memorials to family members lost to coronavirus.

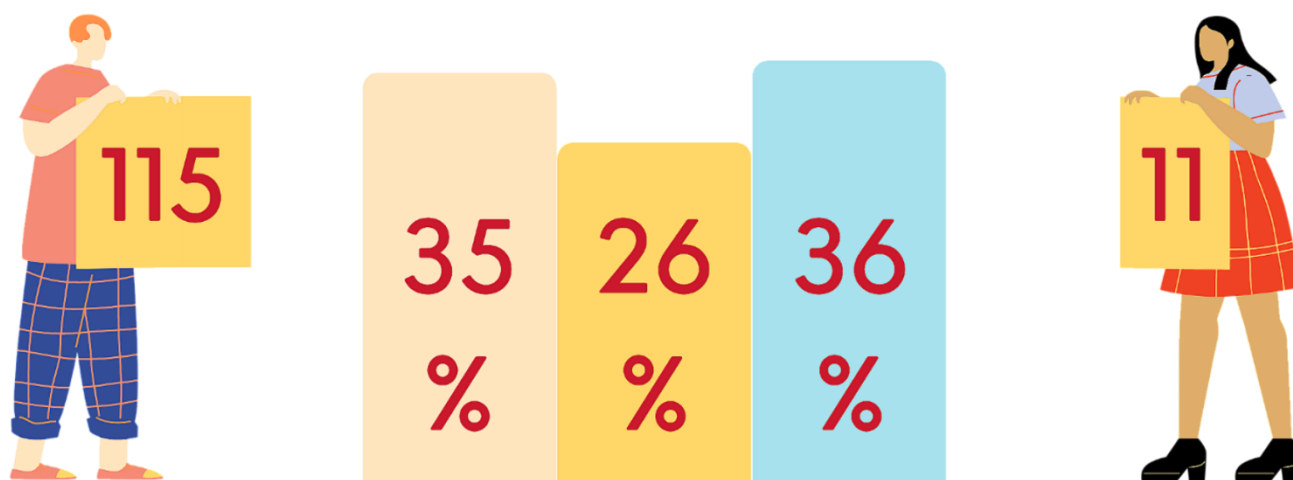
The **ARChive 2041** time capsule will be sealed inside ARC when we reopen to the public. The moment will be marked by a free, streamed event, including a preview of some of the creative work inside the capsule, and the unveiling of artwork by one of ARC's Artists of Change, Lizzie Lovejoy, which will mark the place where the capsule is sealed.

In 2041, ARC will revisit the **ARChive 2041** project and reopen the time capsule. Everything inside, from photos to music, will be included in an exhibition at ARC.

---

## !FAB@ARC!

During lockdown, a number of new programmes were developed in response to the needs of our local communities.



**!FAB@ARC! had 115 attendances. 35% were new to ARC. 26% reconnected with us after 2+ years. 11 new participants joined following our relationships with the refugee and asylum seeker community in Stockton.**

---



**'I LOVED EVERYTHING!  
ALL OF IT!**

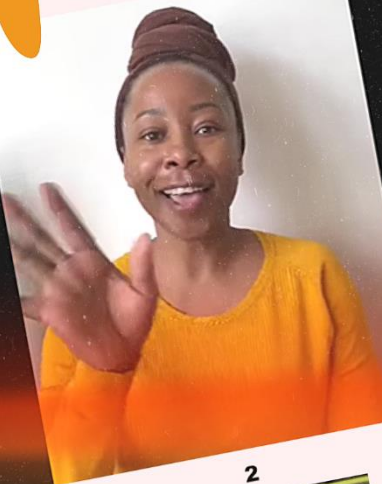
**I CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW  
GRANDMA. WE'RE GOING  
TO DO MORE OF THIS  
TOMORROW, AND WE CAN  
GET HER TO JOIN IN ON  
THE COMPUTER TOO.'**

**!FAB@ARC! PARTICIPANT, AGED 7**

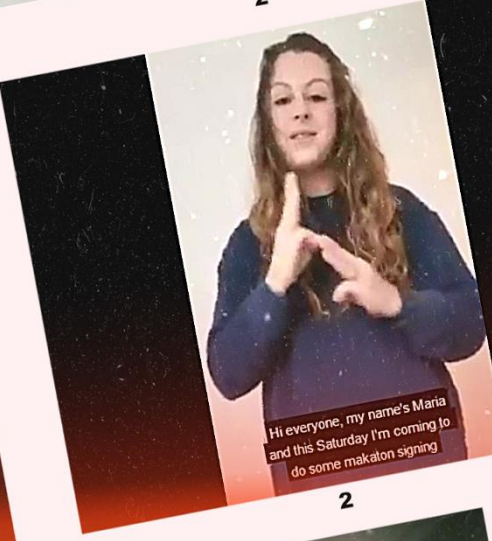




KODAK PORTA 400



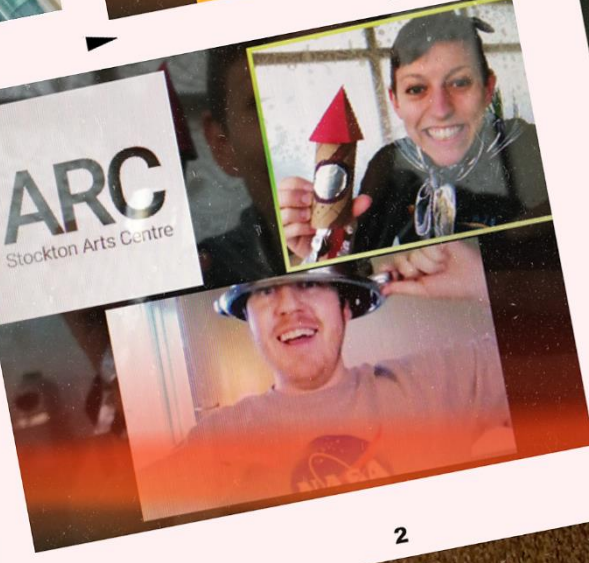
2



KODAK PORTA 400

2

KODAK PORTA 400



2



KODAK PORTA 400

2



KODAK PORTA 400

2

KODAK PORTA 400



2



From December 2020, **!FAB @ ARC!** (Families are Back!) offered an exciting and engaging 12 week programme of participatory creative activities for children aged 3 - 7 and their families. The programme aimed to reconnect communities from Stockton and the Tees Valley with ARC, as part of the Tees Valley Great Place programme.

Each week, a new activity offered creative experiences via Zoom, which encouraged family wellbeing through sharing quality time together.

**!FAB@ARC!** was developed to ensure families didn't need special knowledge, could engage in ways that met their access requirements, and could use resources found at home.

Sessions focused on activity ranging from street dance; forming an online band; Makaton sign and sing; and creating crafts from recycled materials, to participatory storytelling incorporating mask making, 'active volcano' making, and African drumming, singing, and dance.

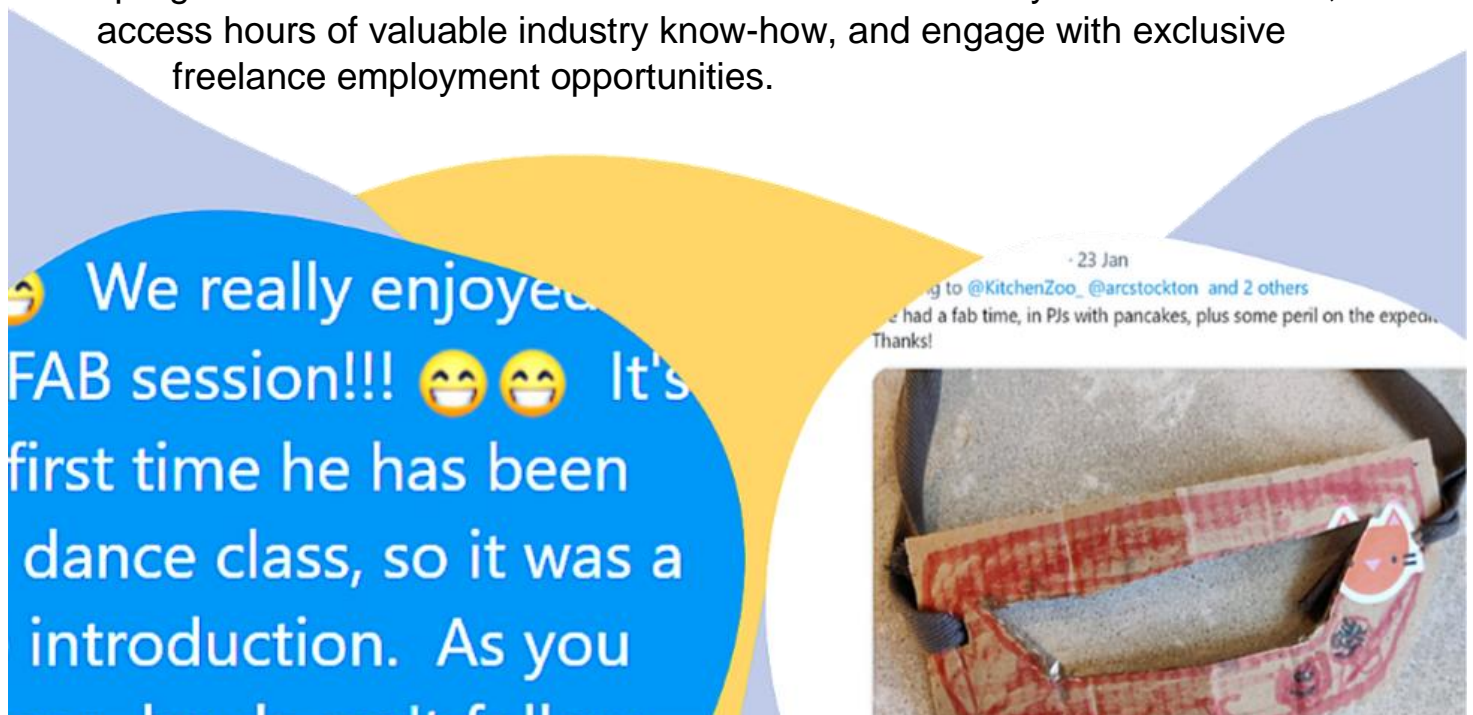


## Tees Valley Young Creatives

In March 2021, we launched Tees Valley Young Creatives, a career starting programme of free support to help the creative class of 2020 secure employment in the cultural industries, and unlock new opportunities in their field.

ARC has been commissioned to deliver Tees Valley Young Creatives as part of Tees Valley Combined Authority's cultural recovery programme. We also appointed two young people as Network Builders, to make sure the programme responds directly to the class of 2020's needs, career goals, and interests.

The programme offers the chance to connect with other early-career creatives, access hours of valuable industry know-how, and engage with exclusive freelance employment opportunities.



# TEES VALLEY

# YOUNG CREATIVES



TEES VALLEY MAYOR



## Access to Industry Online Networking Evenings

Fortnightly Zooms, featuring opportunities, and a choice of two workshops from some of the most exciting voices in the sector.

Sessions on offer fall under one of three strands:

- Building a Freelance Creative Career
- Leadership and Inspiration
- Wellbeing and Resilience

## Exclusive social media platforms

Regularly sharing paid freelance call-outs, member-only professional opportunities, career advice, sector news, peer support, resources, templates, tutorials, and space to chat with likeminded creatives.

Exclusive and private member platforms include:

◆ Facebook ◆ Instagram ◆ YouTube ◆ Twitter



## In-person creative social events

Monthly face-to-face meet ups at ARC, featuring guest professionals from the cultural industries, hands-on freelance skills and wellbeing workshops, member-led creative activities, drop in career advice, plus opportunities to network and collaborate on freelance work.

(From July 2021)

‘I have come away from this feeling a lot more confident to begin a career in the creative industry.’

‘I feel excited and positive about what I want to do for the first time in ages. It’s made me think I’ll get to where I want to be again.’

‘We wouldn’t know where to start if things like this didn’t exist’

TEES VALLEY YOUNG CREATIVE NETWORK MEMBERS



## Artists of Change

In January 2021, ARC appointed three **Artists of Change** who will work with our local communities over the next 12 months, creating art that responds directly to their needs, interests and tastes. This initiative is part of ARC's commitment to give local people and artists a bigger say in what happens at ARC.

Working to an open brief, each Artist of Change is employed by ARC to curate, create or lead activity in collaboration with our communities, as well as challenge us to think about how we operate.



### Symoné

Symoné is a multidisciplinary circus and performance artist. Her work fuses movement skills, and shifts between cabaret, club and theatre, whilst exploring human consciousness, queerness, underground parties, and celebration / ritual.



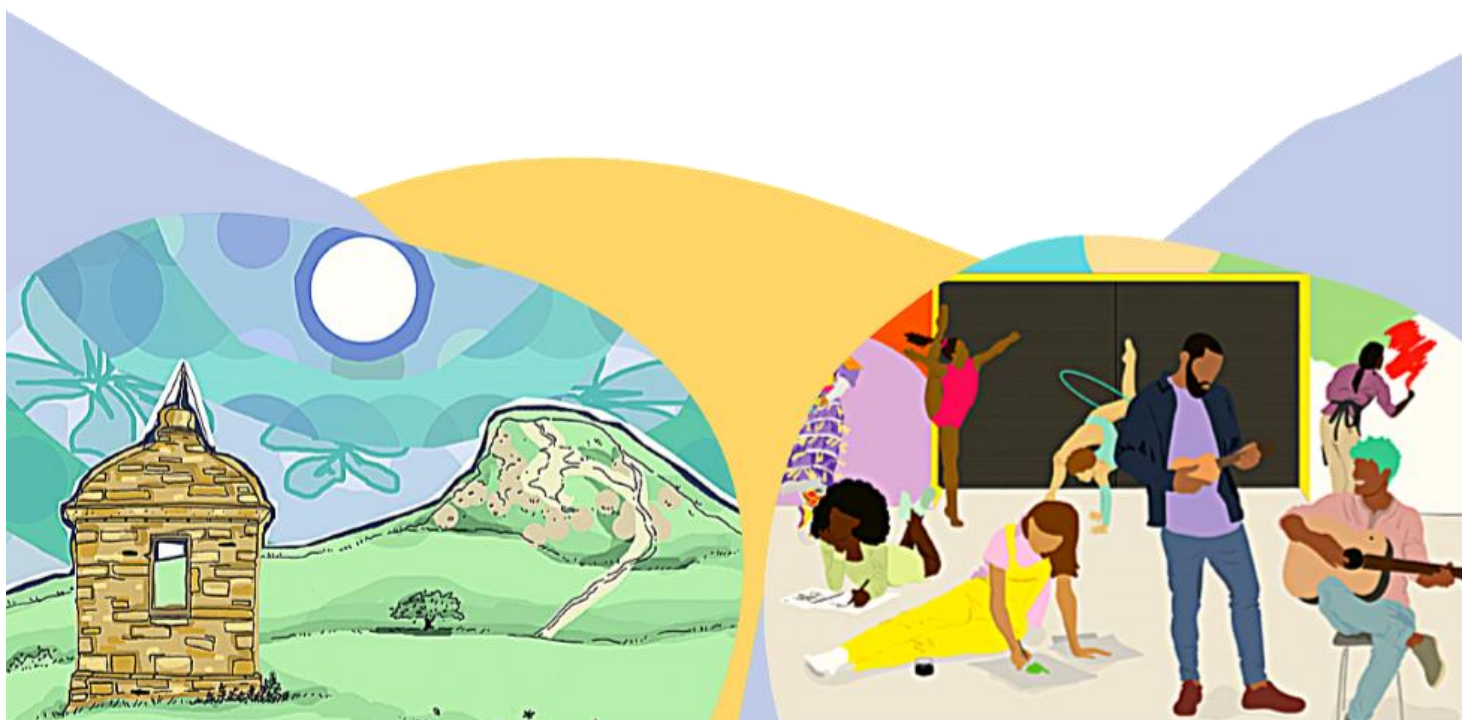
### Lizzie Lovejoy

Lizzie is a Northern creative practitioner whose work focuses on concepts of community, heritage and cultural identity. They have developed illustrations, animations, poetry, and spoken word works for a range of different projects.



### Lauren Vevers

Lauren is a multidisciplinary artist who is interested in the magical and the mysterious, queer stories, and points of human connection. She founded Papaya Press, which brings artists together to make zines, host events and run workshops.



**'WE KNOW THAT WE  
NEED TO FIND NEW WAYS  
OF WORKING IF WE ARE  
TO CHANGE WHO GETS  
TO MAKE AND  
EXPERIENCE ARTS AND  
CULTURE.'**

**WE ARE OPEN TO  
CHANGE AND WANT TO  
LEARN, SO HOPE THIS  
WILL PROVE TO BE  
ANOTHER WAY OF  
GIVING ARTISTS AND  
COMMUNITIES A BIGGER  
STAKE IN OUR  
ORGANISATIONS.'**

**Annabel Turpin, Chief Executive & Artistic Director, ARC**

# Providing Cultural Experiences

From June 2020, ARC offered a diverse range of cultural experiences for people to enjoy at home, as well as in-person when guidance allowed. This included commissioning and supporting eight new productions, which were responsive to COVID measures.

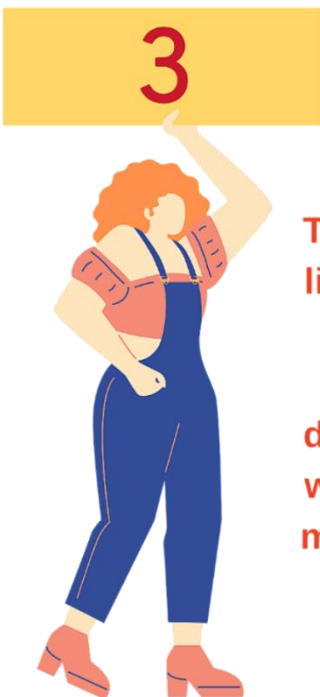
We also continued to support artists to make high quality and accessible work.

The amount of cultural experiences ARC's communities have watched remotely is equal to...

**OVER** **28,000**  
HOURS

**MORE**  
**THAN** **3.2**  
YEARS

**3**



The brief return of live performances to ARC offered audiences three different shows to watch with COVID measures in place

**3**



People engaged with performances in three ways: online, via phone, and in-person



# Enjoying Cultural Experiences Remotely

## The Festival of Light and Colour

**The Festival of Light and Colour** is Stockton's annual celebration to mark the festival of Diwali, funded by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. In November 2020, ARC delivered the whole festival online, with 4,253 people taking part in activities and opportunities across the day.

The event featured a storytelling session from ARC Associate Artist **Umar Butt**; a poetry writing workshop with poet Nihal; a Bollywood dance workshop; a singing session with Aradhana teaching a traditional Diwali song; a Diya painting workshop demonstrating simple and fun designs; and a lantern making craft session.



Activities carried on throughout the evening, where online attendees joined in with cooking demonstrations of traditional recipes, and listened to the story of Diwali.

**The Festival of Light and Colour** 2020 culminated with a spectacular, celebratory dance performance from a local Teesside company.

Thank you very much for  
the resources and videos.

They're excellent and  
have really brought the  
festival alive for the  
children."

Barley Fields Primary School



## Joe's Speakeasy, Virtual Valentine's Special, and A St Paddy's Day House Party - Mike McGrother

**Mike McGrother** and his band brought 811 audience members together to enjoy music, songs, stories, and their well-loved style of entertainment, at three shows live streamed from ARC.

**The Wild Rover's Speakeasy Virtual Valentine's Special** saw audiences celebrate with loved ones at a time where romantic evenings out couldn't take place. As part of the event, Mike encouraged those enjoying the stream at home to send in messages, which were included in the performance.

In March 2021, their **St Paddy's Day House Party** saw hundreds of audience members celebrate virtually from home, in an evening filled with energetic St Patrick's Day entertainment.



## Unheard Stories – Yolanda Mercy

**Unheard Stories** was a storytelling experience, performed to audiences in February 2021 via phone. 133 audience members dialled in to listen to four short stories by four different artists, on a range of themes curated and directed by Yolanda Mercy.

This was the first time ARC had presented a remote performance by phone. As well as taking an innovative approach to sharing work, **Unheard Stories** offered audiences a new way to engage in remote experiences, whilst addressing access requirements for those without internet access.



## Your Story, My Story, Their Story Now – Natasha Davies

In early April 2021, the pandemic turned what was supposed to be Natasha Davis' new promenade performance around Stockton into the online film **Your Story, My Story, Their Story Now**. Recorded around secret corners of Stockton and the surrounding area, audiences were encouraged to get involved in the conversation during a post-screening Q&A session.

Natasha delivered 1:1 workshops with members of the local refugee and asylum seeker community to create material for the film. The show took the form of a film collage, made up of images, mini performances, text messages, poetic lines, diverse voices, music and transformative moments, whilst incorporating mini contributions from the public. Together they provided a snapshot of the moment we were living in at that time, how we felt about it, and its joys and pains.



Natasha also led discussions about **Your Story, My Story, Their Story Now** at the finale of the Refugee Week conference in 2020.

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## Rewinding the Welfare State: A Social History of the North East on Film – Benjamin Lamb

In March 2020, we streamed Benjamin Lamb’s cinematic documentary, **Rewinding the Welfare State: A Social History of the North East on Film**.

Through local news reports, Tyne Tees Television documentaries, trade union campaigns, community films and more, the film examined how the welfare state has impacted on the social development of our region from the 1920s to today. Many of these films hadn’t been seen since they were first made.

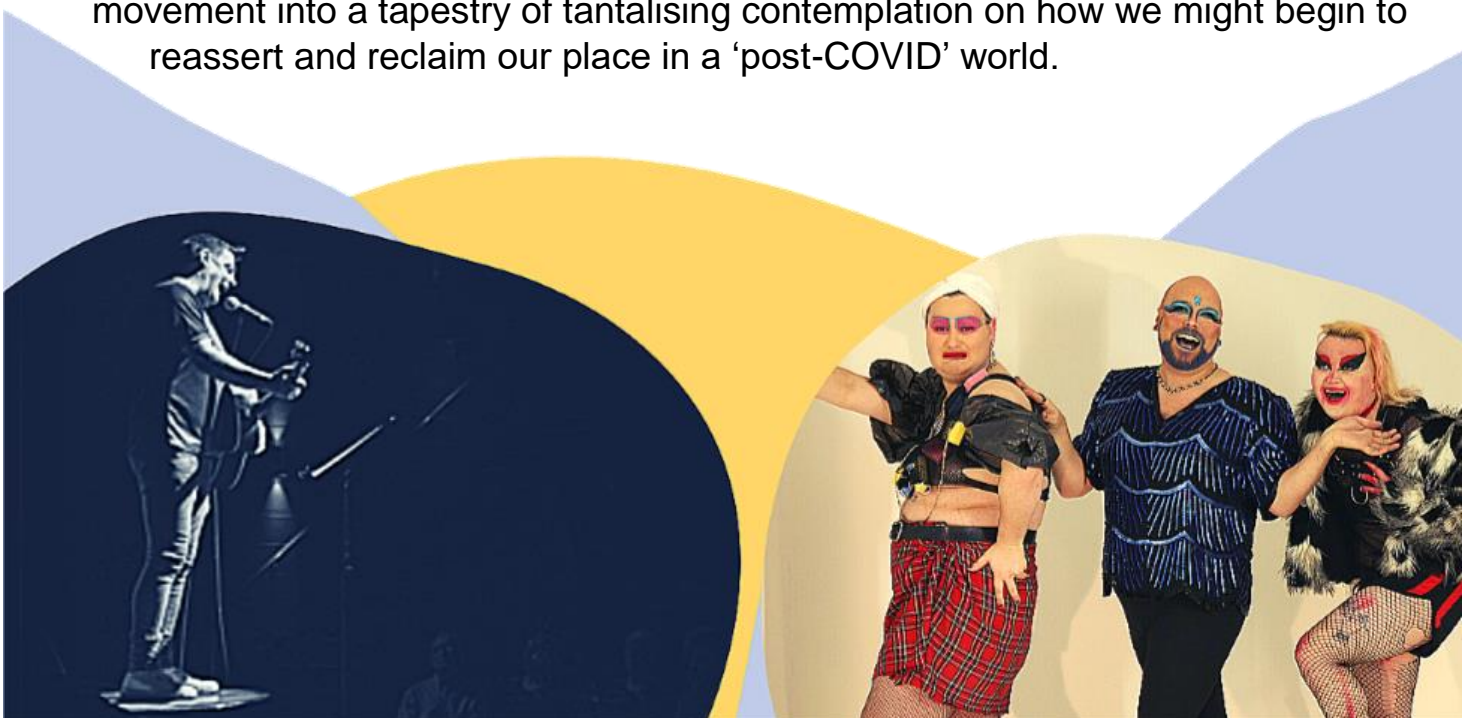
75 audience members took the opportunity to join the film’s director for a live Q&A, and share their thoughts together after the live stream.

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## We The Queers

Local artists, **Bordello Collective** live streamed a specially curated production of **We The Queers** from ARC in April 2021. The wider collective included a range of diverse artists from across the UK, appearing through performances in multi-media film work, alongside innovative live performances at ARC with COVID measures in place.

This alt drag and cabaret platform wove lip syncs, live electronica, music, and movement into a tapestry of tantalising contemplation on how we might begin to reassert and reclaim our place in a ‘post-COVID’ world.





KO  
53  
.400



KODAK PORTRA 400  
53  
.400



## Enjoying Cultural Experiences In-person

Reopening to the public from September to November 2020 saw the brief return of live events to ARC.

Three shows, produced with social distancing and COVID measures in place, were warmly welcomed by audiences who returned to fill our new capacities in performance spaces.

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### Damn Seagulls – Mike Edwards

Featuring poetry, storytelling and sketches, **Damn Seagulls** by ARC Associate Artist, **Mike Edwards**, welcomed a live audience of 94.

After an eventful school trip to Whitby, Stephen stuck up for his brother Mike and ended up having to wear a silly hat. Years after Stephen's death, whenever Mike thinks about his brother, he pictures him in that. **Damn Seagulls** saw Mike take the audience on a funny and touching journey, looking at the hats we wear every day.

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### The Wild Rover's (First) 500 Miles – Mike McGrother

**Mike McGrother's The Wild Rover's (First) 500 Miles** was enjoyed live by 101 people in October 2020, with more than 1,000 watching a recorded version of the show on YouTube.

Told through anecdotes, projection, stories, and songs, the show looked back to 2016, when Mike flew to his ancestral home in Carrickmacross, County Monaghan, and walked back to Stockton with Ian Macallan and Mick Riley.

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### Catch 22

Live comedy came back with a bang, when **Catch 22** returned in October 2020. Brennan Reece, Martin Mor, and Anna Thomas lifted the gloom of the year for 96 audience members, in a full-length stand up show compered by Danny McLoughlin.





**IT WAS  
FANTASTIC  
TO BE AROUND  
LIVE MUSIC AGAIN  
BRILLIANTLY ORGANISED AND SAFE**

Audience Member,  
The Wild Rover's (First) 500 Miles

## Cinema

ARC's cinema began screening films as soon as the building was able to reopen in September 2020.

Featuring a diverse programme, from Parasite, Tenet, and Military Wives, to I Am Greta, Sonic the Hedgehog, and Trolls World Tour, 515 audience members enjoyed easy-to-book screenings with COVID measures in place.



**ARC screened 20 different films with COVID measures in place between Monday 7 September, and Wednesday 4 November. 515 people visited our cinema, across 73 individual screenings.**

All of the films ARC offered continued to include accessible options; including relaxed, captioned, and audio described screenings.









# Supporting Artists

## Full Circle – Stomping Ground

Throughout ARC's closure, our resident learning disabled theatre company, **Full Circle** continued to develop their critically acclaimed creative work via Zoom.

**Full Circle** will present **Stomping Ground** digitally as part of the main programme for Stockton International Riverside Festival 2021.



## Vici Wreford-Sinnott - Siege

**Siege** was created by **Vici Wreford-Sinnott**, as an ARC Stockton commission in partnership with HOME, Manchester. This new work streamed online during May and June 2020.

**Siege - Part 1** took the form of five short films through The Wrong Woman Discussions; a space where disabled performance makers discussed transgressive women.

**Siege - Part 2** was a short, filmed character monologue exploring what it means to be disabled and 'looked at'.

The performance centred on Mim; a funny, edgy radical, trying to live a subversive lifestyle in the middle of the radar, with a shame-free approach to the disabled female body.



## Scott Turnbull, Mike Edwards & Luca Rutherford – Lost in Space

In June 2020, 268 people watched **Lost in Space**, presented by **Scott Turnbull** and Milly Blue; a scratch night of new work streamed via YouTube.

The sci-fi themed show, supported by ARC, also featured performances from ARC Associate Artists, **Mike Edwards**, and **Luca Rutherford**.





**JUST WATCHED**

**AMERICAN WEREWOLF  
IN TEESSIDE**

**IT WAS ABSOLUTELY**

**HILARIOUS**

ARC Live Stream Audience Member



## Vici Wreford-Sinnott – Funny Peculiar

**Funny Peculiar** was a lockdown production written and directed by **Vici-Wreford Sinnott**, and produced by Little Cog as part of their Staging Our Futures programme. Co-commissioned by ARC, Northern Stage, and supported by Arts Council England, the production was free to watch online from November 2020, with captioned, BSL, and audio described versions available.

This new work starred Liz Carr, Mandy Colleran, Bea Webster, and **Vici Wreford-Sinnott**. Set during quarantine, the performance told the stories of four disabled women challenging the ‘tragic-but-brave’ tropes around vulnerability, through four original, cross-cutting, witty and wise monologues.



## Scott Turnbull – An American Werewolf in Teesside

In April 2021, more than 80 people watched Melody Sproates, **Scott Turnbull**, and Lee Mattinson live streaming a theatrical response to one of the best cult horror films of all time.

Specially commissioned by ARC, **An American Werewolf in Teesside** was described as ‘what happens when scenes are shredded and stuck back together with lip sync remixes, poetry, live animations, and handmade costumes... blended together with the creative team’s macabre and unique sense of humour’.



## Kitchen Zoo – Bumbling About

Created by **Kitchen Zoo**, **Bumbling About** was a series of free pocket sized online stories and crafts about busy bees, co-commissioned by ARC Stockton and Queen’s Hall, Hexham and presented via YouTube in early April 2021.

Each episode supported the access requirements of families during the pandemic by being available to watch on demand, with captions and BSL.





***'ACTED WITH  
VERVE, WITTIPLY  
SCRIPTED, BOTH  
FUNNY AND  
HARD-HITTING.'***



**FUNNY PECULIAR,  
THE STAGE, 28 SEPTEMBER 2020**

# Thank You!

We would like to acknowledge the support we have had from:



We also want to thank everyone across ARC's communities who has taken part, connected, watched or listened to experiences, created work, and supported us in so many ways.

After all... **'ARC isn't just about a building. It's about relationships.'**

Well Again Words by Lol Gallagher Insp

**E7** **Am**  
We'll meet again we all know where we all kn

**D7** **G7**  
In the Arc some sunny Friday afternoon

**C** **E7** **Am**  
Keep strumming through just like you always

**D7** **G7** **C**  
'Til we drive this virus dark cloud far away

**C7**  
'Til then we'll Zoom Halo to the best Group we

**F**  
Every Wednesday night

**D7**  
Till then it won't be long 'til we're singing our

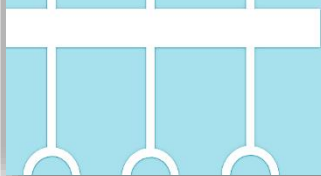
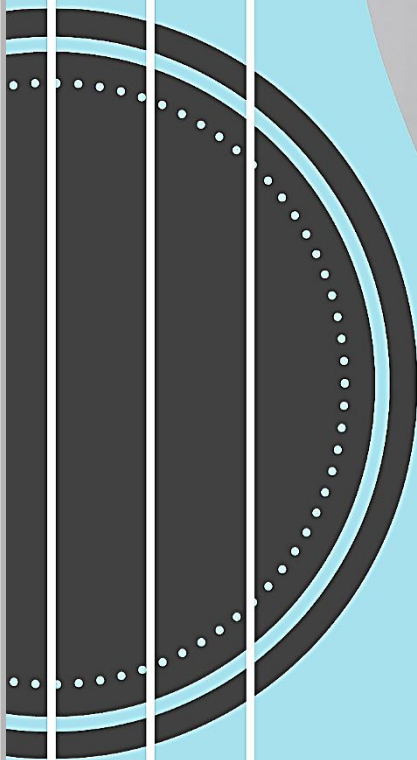
**G7**  
All together smiling bright

**C** **E7** **Am** **A7**  
We'll sit together again in our Arculele Den

**D7** **G7**  
our basement every Friday afternoon

**C** **E7** **Am**  
Parissa inspiring us through the bum note

**D7** **G7**  
laughter drives all blue thoughts far a





Cover illustration of ARC by Artist of Change, Lizzie Lovejoy (2021)

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Stockton Arts Centre

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