

Common Players

# Evaluation Report

## *The Tuck Inn*

### Summer Show 2021



Hannah Reynolds

How did we do?

# Evaluation Report

## *The Tuck Inn*

### Summer Show 2021

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How did we do?

## Summary

Common Players created a high quality event that was enjoyed by audiences predominantly made up of families, sometimes three generations together. The performances, on the well-known themes of Robin Hood and the Greenwood but with a modern satirical twist, attracted audiences who were not regular attenders at local live community arts events. Through the Common Players' professional marketing team working directly with local amateur community promoters in 24 venues, there were 30 performances of *The Tuck Inn*. Only one performance had to be cancelled due to very bad weather. There were some events for which local community promoters were able to generate funds by organising other community events and workshops alongside *The Tuck Inn* performances, heightening the extent and enjoyment of community engagement in the process. Although overall the income did not reach the estimate of £30,478 the fact that 54% of income was raised by local subsidy is impressive.

Estimated Income	Actual Income	Local Subsidy
£30,478	£23,561	£12,821 (54% of actual)

### The following pages outline:

- The methodology for the independent evaluation of *The Tuck Inn* project
- Assessment of the extent to which Common Players' stated aims were achieved.

### Aims for the Evaluation – to find out whether:

1. Common Players created a high quality event
2. The professional event galvanised communities to generate connected local activities and what value these are given
3. Community promoters working with the professional team attracted audiences for live outdoor performance who are not regular arts attendees
4. Working with amateur promoters can leverage micro grants and support for arts activities
5. Common Players were flexible enough to be able to deliver *The Tuck Inn* project according to changing Covid-19 circumstances

Appendices of the logic model for the evaluation, audience survey questions and responses/comments are available at the end.

‘It was my first outdoor theatre show. I’ve always wanted to come to an outdoor theatre event. Very talented performers. It was very relaxed and thank you for the subsidy. A very enjoyable event.’



How did we do?

## About *The Tuck Inn* Show

Common Players went back to their roots with an outdoor family event that re-told the legend of Robin Hood. As Common Players said in their promotion...

**'In an outdoor space you'll be welcomed into The Greenwood by the irrepressible Friar Tuck, introduced to a band of Merry men and women and treated to some fast-paced action, music and storytelling. Along the way we'll meet a Viking warrior-ess, an Alchemist, a Sheriff with a dastardly plan and of course Robin Hood. Bring a blanket or seat and join us for a festival of theatre, fun, participation (if you want) and feasting. In many places local talent and other attractions are set around our show.'**

The show visited 23 outside venues, mostly in villages and small towns across Devon and 1 in Somerset. There were 30 performances, mainly on village greens and playing fields – in rain, wind and sunshine. The show was seen by over 2500 people.

Common Players worked with 24 local community promoters helping them co-produce *The Tuck Inn*, building skills in marketing and promotion and bringing in other local events, stalls and activities to run alongside the performances.

For *The Tuck Inn* show, Common Players gave a paid opportunity to 2 young actors in training to be an integral part of an experienced cast.

Whilst any audience member could bring a picnic and folding chair to watch *The Tuck Inn*, an innovative partnership was struck between Common Players and social enterprise Catch 77 Community Food Project in providing reasonably priced food and drink so that the audience could literally 'tuck in at 'Tuck Inn'.

Audience members were encouraged to book food at the same time as booking tickets for the show – a precaution against food waste and also a planning tool to avoid crushes and queues for food during the interval – part of Common Players detailed Covid-19-safe planning. In addition to their partnership with Catch 77, Common Players partnered with Live West Housing Association, The Biophilia Association and St Petrock's in Exeter, together with East Devon District Council Routes for Roots, all of whom provided local knowledge, funds and expertise.

Where local promoters recruited amateur actors, Common Players provided an afternoon workshop in acting skills and the amateur performers had a line or two in the performance that followed.

‘Food excellent and ready. Play excellent, great fun, loved puppets and audience participation. Sheriff was brilliantly acted. Good value for money and a very worthwhile event. Nice to go somewhere so local. Exeter needs more of this!’



‘Excellent food available at very reasonable prices’

How did we do?

## What Common Players wanted to find out in evaluation

Common Players brought in an independent evaluator for *The Tuck Inn* Show. The evaluator first created a Theory of Change Logic Model as a framework for the evaluation and the following methodologies:

As a starting point to answer the question ‘to what extent did Common Players create a high quality event?’ the evaluation framework used the Core, Participatory and Cultural Dimensions of the Arts Council England Toolkit for evaluations.

Although there is no mandatory requirement for Common Players to use the Toolkit, its Question Dimensions of:

- Core Dimension – Self-Review and Peer Review – by actors at the start of the process and at the end of the project
- Core Dimension – Self Review – by local promoters of their skills and confidence levels at start of process and at end of the project
- Core Dimension – public respondents (audience members at each event)
- Participatory Dimensions – participants in workshops and extent to which local activities feel they are part of the whole ‘Tuck Inn’ event
- Cultural Experience Dimension – audience, local promoters, local activities – the extent to which the project/programme/event had been a worthwhile, quality, cultural experience

All proved a useful frame for evaluation methods and provided helpful examples of questions in the audience, actor and local community promoter online surveys undertaken as below:

Target	Method	Return
Audiences	Online survey	75
	Paper surveys x 2 performances	73
Local promoters	Online survey pre event	11
	Telephone interviews	2
Common Players actors, director, marketing	Pre-rehearsals survey	5
	Post show survey	3

In addition to the above, the evaluator attended one performance of *The Tuck Inn* in Cranbrook, witnessed a high level of audience interaction with characters in the style of the show and discussed the show with the local authority promoter.



‘It was something different to do with my 9 year old daughter she really enjoyed herself would definitely come again’

‘Came as a family of 10. We all enjoyed it. My daughter (14) wants to join (a workshop) as her friend was in it.’





How did we do?

## Stated aims 1 and 2

*Stated aim 1*

**Common Players created a high quality event**

*Stated aim 2*

**Community promoters working with a professional team can attract audiences for live outdoor performances who are not regular arts attendees**

**Was it a high quality event which attracted non-regular attendees of arts events?**

The audiences were overwhelmingly composed of families, parents with children and sometimes three generations of the same family. 82% of audience responders saw the performance at their local venue (criterion within 5 miles). As can be seen from the responses below, the audiences who answered the surveys felt overwhelmingly that the show had been of high quality and value for money. The audience free comments in the survey also bear this out. 35% of them had not been to a local arts event in the 12 months before Covid-19.

20% of those who responded had been to see Common Players before. It was significant to see that 87% of audiences responded 'None' or '1-5' to the question about whether they had been to local arts events in the year leading up to Covid.

**Answer Choices**

**Responses**

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<i>The Tuck Inn</i> show was well produced and well presented	84.92%	107
I/we had a good time	88.10%	111
The show held my attention	73.81%	93
It was different from things I've been to before	55.56%	70
I would come to something like this again	81.75%	103
It was good value for money	80.95%	102
It is important that community events are supported by local people	79.37%	100
Common Players Covid-19 safety measures helped me to feel safer about going to this event	47.62%	60

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**Answered: 126**

**How many local arts event had you been to in the 12 months before Covid-19?**

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None	35%
1-5	52%
Over 5	9%
None (after survey closed)	1%
I seldom go to local arts ...	3%

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**Answered: 134**

‘We had a fabulous time and thoroughly enjoyed the play. So much so that this was the second time we went. So grateful to have had the chance to see some quality outdoor theatre again. Thank you.’



‘It was my first outdoor theatre show. I’ve always wanted to come to an outdoor theatre event. Very talented performers. It was very relaxed and thank you for the subsidy. A very enjoyable event.’

How did we do?

## Stated aims 3 and 4

*Stated aim 3*

**Common Players' professional event galvanises communities to generate connected local activities – and these are given value.**

*Stated aim 4*

**Working with amateur promoters can leverage local micro grants and support for arts activities.**

**Did *The Tuck Inn* galvanise amateurs in communities to generate additional activity and leverage local financial support?**

The income figures bear out the audience survey findings that on average 25% of tickets were sold locally and 75% were made on the internet via the Common Players website. The show exceeded the target figures for ticket sales in some areas although it is difficult to find patterns across the run. Some small parishes such as Puddington exceeded their estimated income (the local subsidy from running local activities alongside the show) by some margin, whilst others found it difficult to reach estimated levels of income from local activities. Some broad conclusions may be drawn by comparing locations such as Torre Abbey, Coldharbour Mill and Tapeley Park where the quasi-professional local promoters are regularly booking events 'on the circuit', with areas where the local promoter is the local arts group, village hall committee or playing field committee and which has been more proactive in organising local organisations to run an activity, such as in Atherington.

### Mini Case Study – Atherington

The offer from Common Players of partnering to promote *The Tuck Inn* came to the Playing Field committee at Atherington, a small village in North Devon. Two members of the committee pooled their skills to co-ordinate the promotion – posters and leaflets and promotion through Facebook. They designed publicity and a colleague on committee with social media skills did the Facebook promotion. 'We worked as a team and got early messages out that this event was on offer. We thought it would be good to offer a mini fayre at same time, as we had lost our village post office and shop recently. So we ourselves operated a community café all day before *The Tuck Inn* event – teas and coffees and snacks and linked this with the other stalls that a couple of people ran – mainly for children. We tied in a raffle and a bar – so we made some money. In fact overall we turned over £1312 on the event. Because our local subsidy was agreed at £1300 we in fact made £12 profit! There were not as many people in audience as we had hoped but we managed to make it an all day event. People kept asking on the night – 'can they come back?' Atherington is a good space and we were lucky with the weather. The set was orientated to westwards so evening sun shone on the faces of the actors and people thought the dancing at the end was just magical.

A common theme in the responses from local promoters in their online survey was that when more than one person in the village/parish was involved in promoting the event and when it was backed by a local organisation like the village hall or playing field committee, the tasks and energy for local promotion was shared and confidence improved. Common Players engaged with the local promoters by email and phone as Covid-19 safety demanded. Broad common sense conclusions would be, therefore, that where Common Players or similar arts companies can hook into the energies and enthusiasms of local people – e.g. in Atherington to galvanise a community that had lost its shop and post office – and encourage them to see local community-based arts as part of the warp and weft of community life, then an ongoing partnership with local promoters can thrive.

In Bratton Clovelly, where the community promoters were less experienced in promoting local arts events, still they achieved locally run activities – a Jazz band – and the Parish Hall ran a bar, local people made cakes and biscuits to sell to go towards funds for local organisations. In the case of Bratton Clovelly all tickets were sold by Common Players who took the whole box office risk, and there was no local subsidy. This model was financially riskier for Common Players, and in many cases generated a lower overall income.

All of the 11 community promoters who responded to the evaluator's pre-show online survey counted themselves as 'experienced'. There were no responses to the pre-show survey from the other 13 local promoters although it is understood that there were inexperienced local promoters amongst them. And while 40% (4) of the 11 local community promoters who responded to the online survey had contacted their parish council or local trust for a grant towards the local subsidy, 60% (7) had not applied for any grant. And in Bratton

Clovelly, where there is a local trust which could financially support community arts events such as the annual Bratton Clovelly Arts Festival, the trust had not been very active since the start of the pandemic and it was thought by the promoters that an application for grant aid would not be processed. So they didn't make an application. There may therefore be scope for some early work for subsequent shows with a combined group of local promoters and parish councils/local trusts together to look at how parish council and/or trust funds may be earmarked for local arts events in the future and encourage these potential funders to see local arts funding as part of their mainstream powers and responsibilities. Post Covid-19 (if we are now post Covid-19) has shown how important social interaction, arts activity and communion with others is to foster health and wellbeing. From the audience survey for *The Tuck Inn*, Common Players, Parish Councils and local trusts can be confident that the community saw this event as very important in promoting local arts – 79% responded that 'it is important that local arts events are supported by the community.'

**'We liked that the morris men, archers and owls were there too. The coffee in *The Tuck Inn* looked more appetizing than the coffee in the tent. The players were very good at interacting with the children before and after the event. We really liked the combination of puppetry and live actors; that was cleverly done'**

For the Cranbrook performances, where these and a local workshop connected to the school were backed by a grant from the District Council and LiveWest, the community response in the survey was particularly positive. The ticket price was also substantially subsidised through the grant, making the performance affordable for those with young families.



‘We had the local Brass Band, the Parish Hall ran a bar and local ladies sold cookies. Of course it’s weather-dependent, but here it was nice weather, and local people enjoyed it. They sat out on the grass and had a picnic or bought food and drink.’

‘So on the whole my thoughts about it are very very very positive – and you can quote me on that!’



How did we do?

## Stated aim 5

*Stated aim 5*

**Common Players approach was flexible enough to be able to deliver this project according to changing Covid-19 circumstances**

**How did the project evolve to take account of the changing context created by Covid?**

The process of rehearsal and working with local promoters came right in the middle of the pandemic and its Covid-19 safety restrictions. This very much affected the style of interaction with the local community promoters – from the beginning until performances the Common Players’ marketing team’s contact with local promoters was via email and telephone. It is arguable that had the marketing team been able to provide more early 1:1 support with individual inexperienced promoters, local marketing would have been more assertive and a greater percentage of tickets could have been sold locally. Local promoters could also have been supported early on to make an application to their local District and Parish Council for grant subsidy or underwriting. The success of this approach in Cranbrook would seem to bear out the benefits of this kind of early support.

The effects on the rehearsal process and style of set and performance were outlined in interview with Anthony Richards, the Artistic Director of *The Tuck Inn*,

**‘We conceived of the whole event with Covid in mind, from the premise that The Tuck Inn was a safe outdoor gathering, hosted by a character who could speak direct to the audience to implement any safety protocols necessary. Planning made provision for social distancing in bubbles, hand sanitation, relaxing the audience pre-show by distanced playful interaction, online ticketing to reduce handling of items and operating socially distanced collective dancing! For the company in the rehearsal phase and during the tour we operated protocols of bubbling, testing and social distancing.’**

Responses in the audience survey showed that 48% of responders ticked the box to agree that they felt that ‘Common Players’ approach to Covid-19 safety measures helped them feel safe.’ This is an unexpectedly low percentage given the overwhelmingly positive audience reaction to the show and how much they enjoyed it. It could perhaps be explained by the changes in Covid-19 regulations – the pandemic had been going on for a long time but was now moving into ‘recovery’ phase with events and venues re-opening. So people were perhaps less sensitised to the safety measures than before. It is also the opinion of the evaluator that because of the relaxed and warm welcome given by actors to audience and audience to actors and seeing live performance again, that Covid-19 safety measures were not then a big issue for those that had chosen to attend. It is also noticeable how audience numbers which were disappointing early on in the tour (beginning in July) improved as confidence built within in the overall population to go to collective events.

‘It was great! It was exactly what was needed after a tough time of things. Very heartening and fun.’



‘It was the first group event I’ve felt ok / safe enough to attend’

How did we do?

## Actors' Evaluation of *The Tuck Inn* show

There were 6 actors in the cast, including the Artistic Director in a modest acting role as Friar Tuck.

Of these, 2 young, inexperienced actors were brought into the cast, as 'new to career', taking on roles equal in size to those of the more experienced actors, but with an awareness that these new to career actors may need the mentoring and support of more experienced members of the cast.

The actors' expectations of the tour were sought at the beginning of the process, by group interview during rehearsals and individual survey response. The actors were asked to tick if they agreed with the following statements:

- It will be a totally fun experience
- Experienced actors will be happy to support new to career actors to build their confidence
- Experienced actors will need to make allowances for the lack of experience of new to career actors
- New to career actors will need to let experienced actors take the lead on how the new show develops
- It will be difficult to work together at first but by the end of the run we will know and trust each other
- I know who to turn to if I need support from Common Players
- I expect to learn lots of new skills

In the pre-run actors concentrated their ticks on the first two of the bullet points – the expectation that the experience would be fun and that more experienced actors would support new to career actors.

### Comments during rehearsal:

**'I'm looking forward to the challenges of touring a show following the last year of Covid lockdowns. I'm interested in seeing how audiences respond to live theatre after such a psychologically difficult time and hope to learn how performances translate to this new artistic climate. I'm also excited about working with a cast of familiar and unfamiliar practitioners and developing a new experience for audiences.'**

**'I've positive expectations due to previous experiences, and also I know that the work can sometimes be hard and require resilience and flexibility. So delighted to be working with the team who span such a broad age, experience and range of complimentary talents.'**

Surveyed again with the same questions at the end of the run actor responses centred less on the fun element of the process and more on how the actors company had gelled together and supported each other during the run. It was clear from the responses that the new to career actors had learned a lot from the experience.



‘I found the cast and crew one of the best that I have ever worked with. The professionalism and positive attitude of all concerned with the production was outstanding. One of the best tours that I have been involved with.’

‘Having access to hot food and drinks throughout the tour was a real bonus and added to overall morale and general energy levels. It meant it was one less thing to have to think about during the rural tour where often we were in places with very limited facilities. Having the food and drink on site also contributed to the overall joyful, festive atmosphere of the piece and made it more of an event rather than just a show. Community involvement around the show also increased audiences using local bands, sellers, raffles etc. I enjoyed the involvement of the local extras but felt perhaps this wasn’t advertised as well as it perhaps could have been. Perhaps with more advanced planning tapping into local primary schools could be useful. The social media marketing could also be increased in the future with more of a strategic plan. I realise that funding came through very late in the day so marketing probably suffered as a result.’

‘It was an amazing experience to be on tour with such fabulous people. Learning new things everyday and having fun.’





‘We had a fabulous time and thoroughly enjoyed the play. So much so that this was the second time we went. So grateful to have had the chance to see some quality outdoor theatre again. Thank you’

‘Fantastic show with great cast who gave excellent interaction with the kids and audience in general’



How *will* we do?

## Making *The Tuck Inn* even better next time round

The evaluation report text has highlighted an opportunity where, without Covid-19, the Common Players' marketing team may increase local subsidy and ticket sales by working early more directly with the local community promoters. More direct 1:1 contact and bringing them together more as a group to share skills and experience in promotion and attracting local audience and funding support would be worth considering.

The audience survey and interviews with promoters highlighted only two other areas where Common Players may need to re-think their approach.

The first is to review the quality and use of the microphones and sound system generally, which had intermittent failings regularly throughout the run, despite some new equipment being bought by Common Players to bolster the older microphones and speakers. The patchy quality of the sound was commented on in more than a few responses in the survey to the Question 'what could Common Players do to make *The Tuck Inn* even better'. Linked to this would be the benefit of voice training in projection for outdoor performance with the younger, inexperienced actors as part of the rehearsal process. As was commented on several times in the survey response (and noted by the evaluator at the Cranbrook performance) the older, more experienced actors compensated for the difficulties with

the microphones by excellent voice projection coupled with an engaging of the audience attention before speaking e.g. via body language, pausing and eye contact.

The second consideration may be to review the use of online ticket purchase and booking software which charges a significant admin fee on each ticket, rather than one fee for all tickets in the customer's checkout basket. Common Players used the software programme Ticketsource for *The Tuck Inn* online sales – and online ticket sales made up 75% of the ticket sales overall for the run. Although this was not mentioned as an issue in the audience survey, it was mentioned by one promoter that those who had purchased tickets online rather than locally did feel that the admin charge per ticket on, say, a family of 4, made the tickets much more expensive than if purchased locally.

‘Just beautiful and lovely and all goodness and spiritual loveliness and joy and hope and fun and laughter and much merriment Thank you so much Can you do more please.’



‘Watching my grandchildren’s faces was magic during the fighting. Very well choreographed. Congratulations.’

How did we do?

## Links to other resources

The following was received from Common Players as supplementary resource links for more information about *The Tuck Inn Show*.

We appointed a marketing officer with responsibility for propagating a social media presence. We focussed on Facebook as the mechanism that most family leaders would interact with.

Our strategy was two-pronged: To have a Facebook page which Common Players owned and managed, and to supply resources to community promoters for their distribution around additional local social media groups.

A trailer video was commissioned from Preston Street Films from the first performance, and this was widely circulated, along with production photo imagery:

See here → <https://fb.watch/73-aDecNhS/>

Additional venue specific short videos were created by the acting company announcing a future arrival in each community and these were also shared with community promoters:

See here → <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=368633854954571>

We have compiled some comments into an image available here:

See here → <https://fb.watch/81oV5yWH3y/>

The Common Players Facebook page, received over 40 very positive comments and none of complaint or containing development suggestions. The interactive nature of the mechanism allowed for simple questions from audience members to be answered and became a useful way of communicating in real time about potential weather-related cancellations. This facebook page was linked to many individual community pages:

See here → <https://www.facebook.com/CommonPlayersTheatre>



[common-players.org.uk](http://common-players.org.uk)

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‘As a family we had a wonderful time, it was entertaining for both myself and my partner and also my two children (6 and 3 yrs old). They both sang your songs all the way home and insisted we go to the woods the next day to protect the “Greenwood” from the sheriff! They’ve since re-enacted your play several times, they loved it that much! Incredible value for money also! Thank you for a wonderful evening!’

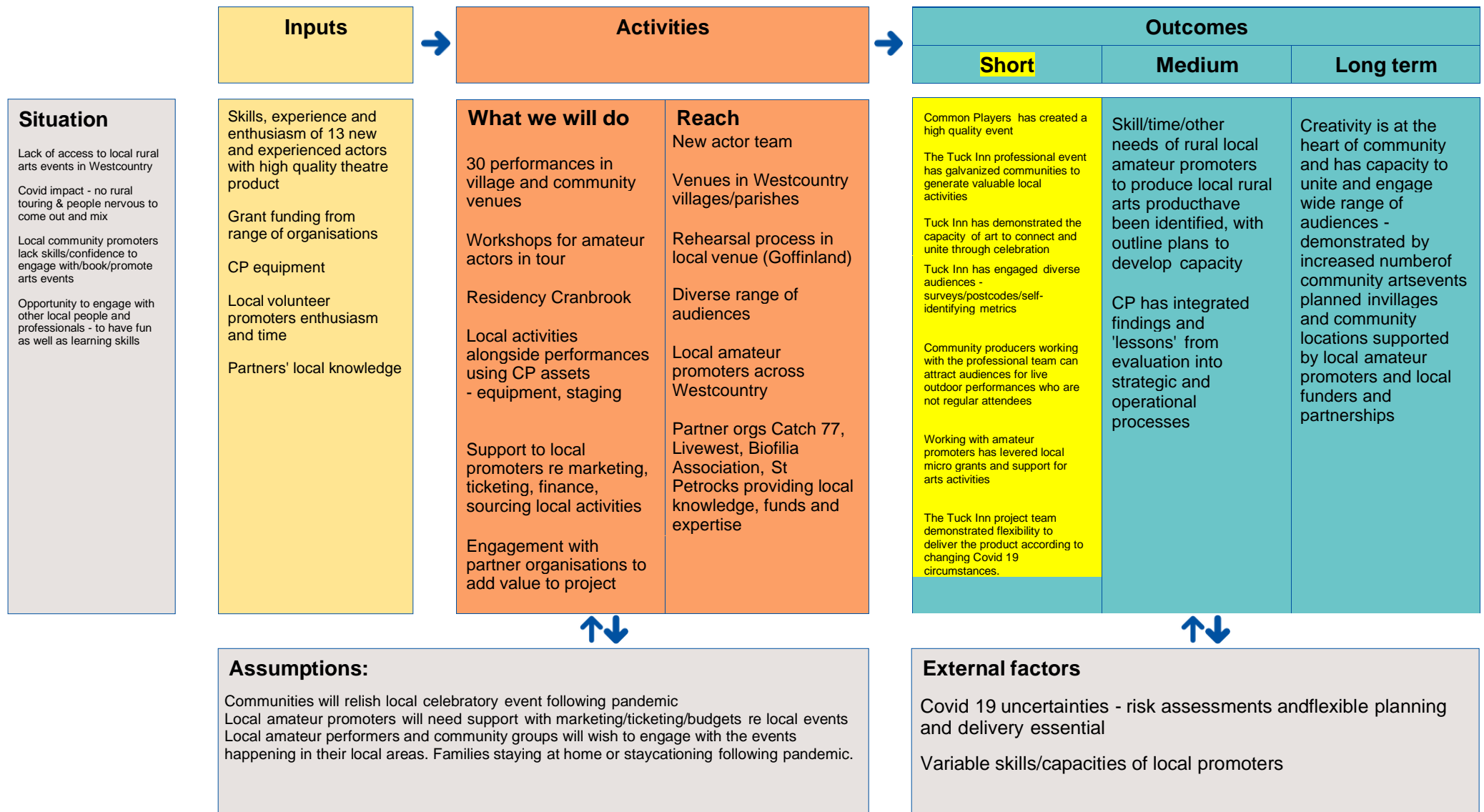
# Appendices

Appendix 1

# Theory of Change Logic Model for Evaluation of *The Tuck Inn*



# Theory of Change Logic Model: Common Players: Tuck Inn Project



Appendix 2

# Audience survey responses

## Common Players: 'TheTuck Inn' Show Audience Survey

### Q1. Your Age

Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 25	10.37%	14
25 -50	48.89%	66
Over 50	40.74%	55
Answered	135	
Skipped	0	

### Q2. Your Gender

Answer Choices	Responses	
Male	27.41%	37
Female	70.37%	95
Non-Binary	0.00%	0
Prefer not to say	2.22%	3
Answered	135	
Skipped	0	

### Q3. Your Ethnicity

Answer Choices	Responses	
White or White British	94.81%	128
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	0.00%	0
Asian or Asian British	0.74%	1
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Group	0.74%	1
Other Ethnic Group	0.00%	0
Prefer not to say	3.70%	5
Answered	135	
Skipped	0	

### Q4. Did you see the show in your local area - ie within 5 miles of where you live?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	81.95%	109
No	18.05%	24
Answered	133	
Skipped	2	

### Q5. At which venue did you see 'The Tuck Inn'

Answered	111
Skipped	24

**Q6. Did you come to The Tuck Inn with children?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	69.40%	93
No	30.60%	41
Answered	134	
Skipped	1	

**Q7. How many local arts events did you go to in the 12 months before Covid 19?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
None	34.33%	46
1 - 5	50.75%	68
Over 5	9.70%	13
None	1.49%	2
I seldom go to local arts events	3.73%	5
Answered	134	
Skipped	1	

**Q8. How did you buy your tickets for The Tuck Inn?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Online from Common Players	74.44%	99
From a local community promoter	25.56%	34
Answered	133	
Skipped	2	

**Q9. Did you bring or buy food at The Tuck Inn?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
I brought my own food and drink	14.93%	20
I brought my own food and drink and also bought some food or drink at The Tuck Inn	26.87%	36
I purchased my/our food and drink at The Tuck Inn	48.51%	65
I/we didn't bring or buy any food or drink at The Tuck Inn	9.70%	13
Answered	134	
Skipped	1	

**Q10. Before the Show: What influenced you to come to The Tuck Inn? (tick all that apply)**

Answer Choices	Responses	
I've been to Common Players shows before, they are always good quality community events	20.15%	27
It was an opportunity to go to a local community arts event with friends and family	64.18%	86

I could take the children	45.52%	61
The combination of food and theatre was interesting	38.06%	51
I wanted to support a local community event	67.16%	90
The ticket price was affordable	59.70%	80
Other (please specify)	14.93%	20

Answered 134  
Skipped 1

Respondents	Response Date	Response
1.	Sep 07 2021 01:15 PM	The tickets were a surprise
2.	Sep 07 2021 12:47 PM	committee member
3.	Sep 07 2021 12:41 PM	We love theatre!
4.	Sep 07 2021 12:37 PM	I was on holiday and my parents were attending
5.	Aug 31 2021 12:48 PM	volunteer steward
6.	Aug 31 2021 12:01 PM	It was the first group event I've felt ok/ safe enough to attend
7.	Aug 31 2021 11:28 AM	Support friend in cast
8.	Aug 31 2021 10:59 AM	Invited by friends who live in Exeter
9.	Aug 31 2021 10:46 AM	Know the team involved
10.	Aug 31 2021 10:15 AM	Friend works at the school and her students were involved.
11.	Aug 31 2021 09:51 AM	Son was taking part
12.	Aug 23 2021 01:03 PM	My mum told me to go
13.	Aug 23 2021 01:01 PM	My daughter brought me
14.	Aug 23 2021 12:40 PM	A chance for my family to spend time together
15.	Aug 23 2021 12:36 PM	My friend recommended it
16.	Aug 23 2021 12:30 PM	My wife wanted to come
17.	Aug 23 2021 12:14 PM	It looked fun
18.	Aug 19 2021 08:28 PM	it looked like a good, fun production and I wanted to support community theatre
19.	Aug 19 2021 03:22 PM	We were holidaying in the area and thought it would be fun. Unfortunately we weren't allowed to attend as we had a dog.
20.	Aug 19 2021 03:04 PM	A friend's daughter was performing

### Q11. After the Show - your thoughts? (Tick all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
The Tuck Inn show was well produced and well presented	84.92%	107
I/we had a good time	88.10%	111
The show held my attention	73.81%	93
It was different from things I've been to before	55.56%	70
I would come to something like this again	81.75%	103
It was good value for money	80.95%	102
It is important that community events are supported by local people	79.37%	100
Common Players Covid 19 safety measures helped me to feel safer about going to this event	47.62%	60

Answered 126  
Skipped 9

Appendix 3

# Audience comments

## The Tuck Inn

Audience – Free Comments from Survey Q12 and Q13

### Format

Respondent. Response Date

Response

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### Q12. Is there anything we could do/could have done to make The Tuck Inn show even better?

**Answered**      **Skipped**

60

75

1. Sep 07 2021 01:15 PM  
The PA system kept dropping out - and ditch the drone!
2. Sep 07 2021 01:11 PM  
Give Friar Tuck a bigger part! Maybe could be a little shorter.
3. Sep 07 2021 01:07 PM  
children's food offering could have been more substantial than a single hotdog
4. Sep 07 2021 01:04 PM  
Audio issues
5. Sep 07 2021 01:02 PM  
Audio a little inconsistent
6. Sep 07 2021 12:58 PM  
The sound quality was't great. It kept cutting out
7. Sep 07 2021 12:56 PM  
Sort out the speaker!
8. Sep 07 2021 12:51 PM  
Dont think so
9. Sep 07 2021 12:49 PM  
Sound quality intermittent
10. Sep 07 2021 12:47 PM  
Sound quality for the performers
11. Sep 07 2021 12:43 PM  
PA system broke down a bt
12. Sep 07 2021 12:41 PM  
The drone was noisy
13. Sep 07 2021 12:40 PM  
No

14. Sep 07 2021 12:36 PM  
Sound a bit of a lottery, otherwise excellent

15. Sep 07 2021 12:26 PM  
Get a new PA system!

16. Sep 07 2021 12:25 PM  
The speakers kept cutting in and out during the show so hard to hear the content. Also more card readers needed. Annoying drone - please ban from site!

17. Sep 02 2021 11:11 AM  
N/A I thought it was excellent. We had a great time with the right mixture of humour and story continuity. Loved the puppets.

18. Sep 01 2021 10:16 PM  
Nothing it was great

19. Aug 31 2021 03:08 PM  
No it was perfect

20. Aug 31 2021 01:08 PM  
No! It was fabulous as it was!

21. Aug 31 2021 12:48 PM  
beyond your control, but the toilets were a long way from the presentation area.

22. Aug 31 2021 12:01 PM  
No! I loved it as it was. Village fete & pantomime suitable for all. Topical but with a light touch. My only "suggestion" is the sound was a bit woolly.

23. Aug 31 2021 11:27 AM  
No. It was a fantastic event and me and my family very much enjoyed it.

24. Aug 31 2021 11:08 AM  
No, we were really happy with the whole experience!

25. Aug 31 2021 10:59 AM  
Organisation at the gate/entry was a bit chaotic! It seemed to be the blind leading the blind!! We had arrived at 11.30 for a 12.30 show, as advised on website, but were told we couldn't enter - one man didn't even know the starting time! We stood around for 20 mins. We got a token for food, our friends didn't and had to go back. Not the best of starts.

26. Aug 31 2021 10:28 AM  
The microphones were a bit dodgy at times so we could quite understand what going on and the first half needed a bit more audience interaction.

27. Aug 31 2021 10:17 AM  
We went to see The Great Gatsby at Killerton but thought The Tuck Inn was far more entertaining and a better production. Encore...



28. Aug 31 2021 10:17 AM

We arrived punctually because we had someone with us with less mobility, but had to wait until about 11.40/5 to get in. Not very organised with 'box office'!

29. Aug 31 2021 10:11 AM

No! Absolutely faultless we loved the show and the whole atmosphere. Magical.

30. Aug 31 2021 10:10 AM

More shows please 🌱

31. Aug 31 2021 10:01 AM

No

32. Aug 23 2021 01:23 PM

microphones kept cutting out

33. Aug 23 2021 01:12 PM

No

34. Aug 23 2021 01:09 PM

Bit too long

35. Aug 23 2021 01:08 PM

Sound quality

36. Aug 23 2021 01:05 PM

More suitable vegan food for children - smaller snacks, cake etc

37. Aug 23 2021 01:03 PM

Better microphones

38. Aug 23 2021 01:00 PM

Microphones.

39. Aug 23 2021 12:56 PM

Nothing - really enjoyed it

40. Aug 23 2021 12:53 PM

Serve cider at the Inn

41. Aug 23 2021 12:42 PM

Better radio mics

42. Aug 23 2021 12:40 PM

Advertise and sell tickets in the Co-op. Offer some free places to people who are suspicious of theatre. Put some tickets hidden in packets, like Willie Wonka

43. Aug 23 2021 12:36 PM

No

44. Aug 23 2021 12:33 PM

I would say that the mic/speaker could be better quality and some of the actors needed louder voices

45. Aug 23 2021 12:30 PM  
N/A

46. Aug 23 2021 11:57 AM  
No, it was an enjoyable show

47. Aug 23 2021 11:53 AM  
N/A A lovely experience

48. Aug 20 2021 07:01 PM  
The event could have been better advertised locally eg I only found out about it online, I didn't see any posters or advertising in our village even though it is very near the venue. The first half of the show was a little "slow" and lacked action. A few more jokes aimed at the children would have made it better for them.

49. Aug 20 2021 01:41 PM  
No it was great

50. Aug 20 2021 11:15 AM  
Much of the dialogue was inaudible at the back. Most of the time I had no idea what was happening.

51. Aug 20 2021 08:59 AM  
it was excellent, we look forward to coming next summer

52. Aug 19 2021 08:28 PM  
we would have been interested in buying the vegan stew but it was the wrong time of the day for us to have a meal

53. Aug 19 2021 04:23 PM  
Sound system particularly in the first half made it difficult to grasp what was going on

54. Aug 19 2021 04:04 PM  
To be honest, I left at the interval because I couldn't hear a word! The actors appeared to be wearing microphones, but I'm not sure they were connected to anything.

55. Aug 19 2021 03:30 PM  
Although we pre-booked food it was not clear it was only available before the performance and not at the interval - so we missed out. The only criticism.

56. Aug 19 2021 03:22 PM  
My fault, I should have asked beforehand but I made the assumption that dogs were allowed which they weren't and we were turned away. Perhaps it would be helpful to make this more obvious.

57. Aug 19 2021 03:04 PM  
Venue/area was rather open/exposed; also 7 as it was outdoors, would have been useful to know in advance whether the venue was dog-friendly.

58. Aug 19 2021 02:18 PM  
At some points it was hard to hear

59. Aug 19 2021 01:54 PM  
The show was fine (what we saw if it - see further on) though the food situation left \*a lot\* to be desired (understatement). We ordered theatre tickets online (as requested... paid more for our tickets

as a result, only 2p but defeated the object of your request to book online) and we paid for three meals online too. On the evening, we queued for food only to told that it would be brought over to where we were sitting. 20 minutes later, no food, so we ask. 'We've run out,' they said. Disgusting. We paid in advance! We had no food with us for obvious reasons. My husband had to leave the show to find a supermarket/cafe (it was miles away; he had to drive) and we ended up leaving the show at the interval as he'd not a clue what was happened as he'd missed so much and we were totally fed up and starving. After asking (yes, we had to ask, it wasn't offered and an apology was slow to come, too) we were given a refund for the absent food, but NOT THE TICKET PRICES. NOT EVEN ONE. The actors did their best and the show was fine (for children - it was panto in style) but it's doubtful if I'd ever come to a Common Players show again.

60. Aug 16 2021 04:57 PM

No

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**Q13. Any other things you'd like to tell about your experience of the show?**

**Answered**      **Skipped**

69

66

1. Sep 07 2021 01:15 PM

I was strangely attracted to Will Scarlet and my brother would like Brunhilde's telephone number.

2. Sep 07 2021 01:11 PM

Great venue and atmosphere.

3. Sep 07 2021 01:09 PM

Good combination of acting, humour and song in beautiful surroundings. A lovely evening.

4. Sep 07 2021 01:04 PM

Nice idea of possible Robin death

5. Sep 07 2021 01:02 PM

Lovely venue. Good community feeling.

6. Sep 07 2021 01:00 PM

It was good to have something for all the family

7. Sep 07 2021 12:56 PM

I thought it was well-made and I loved the references and comedy that went into it.

8. Sep 07 2021 12:51 PM

Excellent food available at very reasonable prices

9. Sep 07 2021 12:49 PM

Really enjoyed the performance. Thankyou.

10. Sep 07 2021 12:43 PM

All did well and kept the children entertained. Well done.

11. Sep 07 2021 12:40 PM

A very enjoyable event. Keep it up!

12. Sep 07 2021 12:36 PM  
Topical/satirical/modern slant

13. Sep 07 2021 12:31 PM  
Thank you

14. Sep 07 2021 12:29 PM  
It was great

15. Sep 07 2021 12:25 PM  
Fun, friendly entertainment and loved live music and food and drink.

16. Sep 02 2021 11:11 AM  
Fantastic show with great cast who gave excellent interaction with the kids and audience in general

17. Sep 01 2021 10:16 PM  
It was brilliant. Lots of laughs had by all our family

18. Aug 31 2021 07:00 PM  
Good to see you out and doing what you do best....keep it up

19. Aug 31 2021 03:08 PM  
Lovely atmosphere. Felt very safe from Covid.

20. Aug 31 2021 02:28 PM  
It was great fun and provided a sense of community. Also, after Covid, an event like this gave one the feeling of "normality".

21. Aug 31 2021 01:08 PM  
We were a mixed age group in our party and all thoroughly enjoyed it. Excellent combination of music, drama, audience participation, puppetry! and humour. Loved the intermingling /tearing around the audience and the audience group singing and dancing at the end. Hard work from The Common Players paid off - thank you for a truly memorable evening. See you again...

22. Aug 31 2021 12:48 PM  
I came as a volunteer via the Clyst Valley Regional Park initiative. The only other stewards were EDDC employees. I loved the food (which was free to me)

23. Aug 31 2021 12:43 PM  
We had a fabulous time and thoroughly enjoyed the play . So much so that this was the second time we went. So grateful to have had the chance to see some quality outdoor theatre again . Thank you

24. Aug 31 2021 11:08 AM  
As a family we had a wonderful time, it was entertaining for both myself and my partner and also my two children (6 and 3 yrs old). They both sang your songs all the way home and insisted we go to the woods the next day to protect "Greenwood" from the sheriff! They've since re-enacted your play several times, they loved it that much! Incredible value for money also! Thank you for a wonderful evening!

25. Aug 31 2021 11:06 AM  
Loved it ... really good fun!

26. Aug 31 2021 10:59 AM

The show itself was excellent! Well done to all the actors and crew. We laughed, danced, clapped and enjoyed every minute. The Sherrif/Will Scarlet was first class!! Venue was great and well priced tickets.

27. Aug 31 2021 10:28 AM

We had a really lovely time, it was my little boy's first theatre experience and he loved the bits joining in and dance at the end. It was very relaxed and perfect family entertainment and day out.

28. Aug 31 2021 10:17 AM

It was so much better than we had expected and perhaps it needed more promotion to convey the entertainment value.

29. Aug 31 2021 10:17 AM

Food excellent and ready. Play excellent, great fun, loved puppets and audience participation. Sheriff was brilliantly acted. Good value for money and a very worthwhile event. Nice to go somewhere so local. Exeter needs more of this!!

30. Aug 31 2021 10:10 AM

Just beautiful and lovely and all goodness and spiritual loveliness and joy and hope and fun and laughter and much merriment. Thankyou so much. Can you do more please 🌱🌱🌱

31. Aug 31 2021 10:01 AM

It was great seeing all ages enjoying themselves

32. Aug 31 2021 09:51 AM

The actors were amazing and the audience participation really made the show fun

33. Aug 23 2021 01:19 PM

Just really lovely to be part of something after such a difficult year. Nice to see families having fun. The crew were brilliant

34. Aug 23 2021 01:13 PM

We had a great time, thank you.

35. Aug 23 2021 01:12 PM

It was funny, thank you.

36. Aug 23 2021 01:11 PM

Funny, touching, interactive - fabulous!

37. Aug 23 2021 01:08 PM

Great to have vegan options. Just wishing it was right for real event hire. Vegan snacks would be good.

38. Aug 23 2021 01:05 PM

It was well done

39. Aug 23 2021 01:03 PM

Good fun

40. Aug 23 2021 12:58 PM

Watching my grandchildren's faces was magic during the fighting. Very well choreographed. Congratulations.

41. Aug 23 2021 12:54 PM  
Really enjoyed it

42. Aug 23 2021 12:53 PM  
Came as a family of 10. We all enjoyed it. My daughter (14) wants to join as her friend was in it.

43. Aug 23 2021 12:50 PM  
Such a great show - thank you

44. Aug 23 2021 12:48 PM  
Brilliant. Thank you

45. Aug 23 2021 12:45 PM  
It was my first outdoor theatre show. I've always wanted to come to an outdoor theatre event. Very talented performers. It was very relaxed and thank you for the subsidy. A very enjoyable event.

46. Aug 23 2021 12:40 PM  
Chocolate, cakes, flapjack - nuts would be awesome too

47. Aug 23 2021 12:30 PM  
Thoroughly enjoyed. Thankyou.

48. Aug 23 2021 12:13 PM  
Good show, thank you.

49. Aug 23 2021 12:10 PM  
It was so good, well done!

50. Aug 23 2021 12:04 PM  
Perfection

51. Aug 23 2021 12:03 PM  
It was great! It was exactly what was needed after a tough time of things. Very heartening and fun

52. Aug 23 2021 11:57 AM  
Great fun had by all

53. Aug 23 2021 11:56 AM  
It was great!

54. Aug 23 2021 11:54 AM  
It was the best show ever!

55. Aug 23 2021 11:53 AM  
Such a friendly atmosphere. A lovely, charming, funny production

56. Aug 20 2021 01:41 PM  
Loved all the interaction. Children especially enjoyed dancing at end of show would have liked more of that. But everybody in group thought it was brilliant.

57. Aug 20 2021 12:06 PM  
Shame the mics cut out a few times, but we could still hear what was going on.

58. Aug 20 2021 11:15 AM

Enjoyed the energy, excellent variety of staging, puppetry and actors worked well together.

59. Aug 20 2021 09:20 AM

I was impressed that despite occasional bursts of rain everyone there (including the actors and crew) were determined to enjoy themselves to the full.

60. Aug 19 2021 08:28 PM

We liked that the morris men, archers and owls were there too. The coffee in the Tuck Inn looked more appetizing than the coffee in the tent. The players were very good at interacting with the children before and after the event. We really liked the combination of puppetry and live actors; that was cleverly done.

61. Aug 19 2021 04:04 PM

A good idea, an friendly event probably enjoyed by many (if not me!) and I was glad to support a local community event

62. Aug 19 2021 03:30 PM

It was great fun, interactive, had wide age appeal. Great to be in such a lovely setting .

63. Aug 19 2021 03:22 PM

It would be nice if dogs were allowed as it is an outside event.

64. Aug 19 2021 03:04 PM

Thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience

65. Aug 19 2021 02:31 PM

Was pleasantly surprised. I enjoyed the show and thought the actors were great.

66. Aug 19 2021 02:18 PM

It was something different to do with my 9 year old daughter she really enjoyed herself would definitely come again

67. Aug 19 2021 02:09 PM

It is really important to speak up well ,and you did! Uou need chicken wire on the slippery steps for when it rains! It was really nice and a relaxing evening out. Great fun,thank you

68. Aug 19 2021 01:54 PM

Given that you are Arts Council funded I find it shocking that the 'excuse' given for the poor management of the entire event was that it was run by volunteers - and one of the actors was having to make coffee for audience members. As an arts person myself - with friends who work for the Arts Council - I know it is policy that artists are paid for what they do. I'm not sure that running the coffee stand comes within an actor's remit. I'd love to hear what you have to say about our experience. You can email me: [laura@laura-wilkinson.co.uk](mailto:laura@laura-wilkinson.co.uk)

69. Aug 16 2021 04:57 PM

It was great. More please.