



# WICKLOW CRAFT FOUNDATION

**Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements  
2022 – 2023**

# Wicklow Craft Foundation

## CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

The last year has been very busy for the Wicklow Craft Foundation Committee, working towards establishing awareness by interactions with members, potential members and interested parties.

One of the aims at this time last year was to increase awareness of the Wicklow Craft Foundation (WCF) and make a concerted effort to increase membership. In that regard, membership numbers have increased from approximately 24 in 2022, to 58 members in 2023. Not huge numbers, but a steady increase all the same. Regrettably, some members have not renewed this year and we hope that they will be drawn back into the fold.

As planned, a Craft Strategy Committee was established under the watchful co-ordination of the County Wicklow Partnership (CWP). This committee meets once a month in the offices of CWP and has the task of realising the aspirations as laid out in the Craft Strategy. The Craft Strategy Committee is directed by a facilitator appointed by CWP and attended by no less than four sitting members of the WCF committee. It has recently been agreed that this number will be increased to include all sitting members of the WCF Committee. This places your representatives at the forefront of the development of the craft sector in Wicklow. Others attending are staff from CWP and members of the CWP Board. A Strategy timeline structure has been laid out and both aims and achievements are duly noted.

It was agreed that a maximum benefit scheme that would help a majority of members, and should be realised as soon as is possible, was the creation of a Digital Craft Trail. An attractive and effective Craft Trail would require a larger capacity website and this in turn would require significant funding in order to achieve maximum results. In this regard, CWP have generously agreed to front load a grant application to LEADER, for the purpose of fulfilling various Strategic Goals and helping to realise numerous objectives. But with particular attention to the Craft Trail, funding has now been secured for use by CWP to upgrade the existing WCF website and establish the Digital Craft Trail. This funding will also cover ancillary projects such as:

- A limited number of videos showing Master Practitioners exercising their craft. Such videos will serve not only to record the work of individuals but help to preserve traditional practice. The videos will be available on the WCF website and will also be distributed to various primary and second level schools for educational purposes.
- A limited number of product shots for some twenty of those included on the Craft Trail. Selection for those to receive grant aided product shots will

be decided by creating a county wide geographic distribution, and by diversity of discipline.

- Using quality photographs from the above noted product shots and other suitable shots that may be available, it is proposed to augment the Craft Trail with the publication of a 'Brochure' that will showcase the best of Wicklow produced craft for the current year. This will provide a physical presence for Wicklow Craft outside the educational arena, placing the work firmly within the open public domain. Although the first 'Issue' may be modest in size and scale of production, it is hoped that this initiative will become an annual production which will act as a record of craft production in County Wicklow.
- With education playing a key role in the successful development of the craft sector in County Wicklow, the first phase of funding also makes provision for a Library Education Programme. This will consist of 26 Lectures / Demonstrations delivered by experienced crafters in a number of disciplines. The events will be fielded in seven county libraries and will take place before the end of 2023.
- Last, and by no means least, funding has been put in place to secure professional assistance to run a Social Media Campaign to raise awareness of craft in County Wicklow. This campaign will begin before or at the end of September and will run, in earnest until the end of the year.
- The Social Media funding includes a maintenance/ training package in order to assist in a hand-over for continuity of the campaign into the new year 2024.

The above noted activities and developments towards bringing craft and design into the public domain represent a significant contribution towards creating a healthier environment for the craft sector in County Wicklow.

It should be noted that the funding that is being made available this year, is not only a major step forward in the promotion of the craft sector in County Wicklow, but sets a precedent for other counties to follow suit. This aims to manage a vibrant craft sector on a national level but directed through activities conducted at a community level.

The overall amount of funding realised is probably only second to the funding budget provided to the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCI).

This is, in no small way, a cause for celebration, as the Wicklow Craft Foundation and the County Wicklow Partnership have succeeded in another first for County Wicklow.

On a community level, the Wicklow Craft Foundation have been successfully accepted into Guilds, Associations, Networks & Societies (GANS) under the

auspices of the DCCI and was represented for the first time at a conference of GANS members in Kilkenny last May. The WCF was officially announced as a new member.

In June, the WCF hosted our first Network Event. This was co-hosted with County Wicklow Partnership and was held in the Woodenbridge Hotel. Updates of our efforts to secure funding were discussed. This was supported by questions opened to the assembled group to try to ascertain a grass roots opinion on what was required as a priority towards craft development in the county. After a series of questions, the results clearly favoured the development of a Social Media platform and campaign. We can now confirm that will be put in place very shortly, as mentioned above. Those who attended the Network Event amounted to about 70 persons, which we would deem to have been a great success. Notably, many of those attending were not members, and we would like to encourage as many people as possible to lend their support to this initiative by signing up.

August was the national month of Craft and WCF aimed to field a first public outing. Working closely with Lana Condron at the Schoolhouse for Art, a two-day event was held in Enniskerry village. The format was a hybrid of exhibition, craft fair and demonstrations. The event was well attended by the public with some of the 14 exhibitors reporting reasonable sales, while other reported making reasonable contacts. The demonstrations were recorded and zoomed live, and the videos are now available for use in other educational arenas. Overall, for a first-time experience, thanks to Lana and our exhibition committee Muriel Beckett and Geoff Healy, with significant supports from Mark Wilkes and Peir Leonard, the event was as successful as it ever could have been.

This brings us up to date, to September and to our Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Our final event of the year is also co-hosted with County Wicklow Partnership. We should gratefully acknowledge their support in helping to achieve the objectives of the Wicklow Craft Strategy. Without their belief in this project and their unwavering commitment to further development in the craft sector, we could not be progressing at such meteoric speed. Their acknowledgement for the need for significant funding and their generous offer to deal with the mountainous paperwork of the application to LEADER has been of enormous help. But the fact of their agreement to front-load the application with funding is a very clear demonstration of their determination to provide the best possible opportunities for the realisation of the complex aspirations and vision that drive the process forward.

Although there are numerous exciting proposals for the near future, not one will be achieved without the committed support of the craft community. We need all interested individuals to participate in the successful implementation

of the Craft Strategy. Please become members, and encourage your family and friends to join in, or to become patrons and to offer their support.

Finally, I would like to give a big shout-out for our WCF committee members who have given their very best to keeping this heavy ball in motion.

To Muriel Beckett – for her unwavering dedication to supporting craft development in so many areas.

To Lana Condrón – for bringing an infectious enthusiasm to the table with her ‘We can make it happen’ mantra. Lana has recently resigned from the committee.

To Geoff Healy – for his unending commitment to the greater project with particular interest in the potential for educational opportunities for our younger crafters.

To Peir Leonard – for bringing her extensive committee expertise to the table. Her grounded, calm approach to recognising the achievable and helping us to see it through.

To Tony Monaghan – for helping us to create our visual presence through his graphic design work. Tony is also an outgoing committee member this year.

To Gerald Sullivan – Treasurer, for his unique understanding of management and financial accounting in particular. But also, for his innate ability to appreciate the vagaries of needs within the craft sector.

To Mark Wilkes – Secretary, for sharing his unique talents and genius in so many ways, but in particular for creating the existing website and social media presence. Also, for sharing his sharp wit and wisdom.

Lastly, our sincere thanks and gratitude to our patrons, who have generously supported the Wicklow Craft Foundation and the vision of the Craft Strategy.

To Brian Cleary – CEO, Superior Express Freight.

To Sarah Slazenger – CEO, Powerscourt Demesne.

Signed

Chaim Factor

Chairperson. Wicklow Craft Foundation.

September 2023.



# Wicklow Craft Foundation

## August Craft Month

### Schoolhouse for Art - Enniskerry



Figure 1: Emma Jane Rushworth



Figure 2: Alan Clarke



Figure 3 Helena Brennan



Figure 4: Yana Factor



# Wicklow Craft Foundation COMMITTEE

The names of persons who were Committee Members during the year ended 31 July 2023 or who have since been appointed are set out below. Except where indicated they served as Committee Members for the entire period up to the date of approval of these financial statements.

Chairperson:	Chaim Factor	
Secretary:	Mark Wilkes	
Treasurer:	Gerald Sullivan	
Committee Members:	Muriel Beckett	
	Lana Condrón	appointed: 12/05/2023 resigned: 22/07/2023
	Geoffrey Healy	
	Peir Leonard	
	Tony Monaghan	

# Wicklow Craft Foundation

## COMMITTEE DECLARATION

We, being Members of the Committee of the Wicklow Craft Foundation, approve the financial accounts for the year ended 31 July 2023.

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Chaim Factor  
Chairperson

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Mark Wilkes  
Secretary

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Muriel Beckett  
Committee  
Member

## TREASURER'S REPORT

In my opinion, the financial accounts on pages 8 to 11 of the Wicklow Craft Foundation for the year ended 31 July 2023 have been properly extracted from the books and accounting records of the Foundation.

Gerald Sullivan  
2 Chestnut Grove,  
Ballinteer,  
Dublin 16,  
D16 RK12.

29 September 2023.



# Wicklow Craft Foundation

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year Ended 31 July	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
<b>Income</b>			
Membership Subscriptions		2,900.00	1,200.00
Network Meeting Fees		600.00	—
<b>Total Income</b>		3,500.00	1,200.00
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Printing		(114.95)	(65.50)
Internet Costs		(419.83)	(404.24)
Advertising		(72.52)	—
Room Hire		(60.00)	—
Catering		(75.00)	—
Subscriptions		(100.00)	—
Bank Charges		(27.87)	(15.90)
Stamp Duty on Cheques		(4.00)	—
Web Commission		(181.75)	(24.57)
Revenue Grants Released	1	250.00	—
Insurance Premium	2	(126.49)	—
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		(932.41)	(510.21)
<b>Operating Surplus for the Year</b>		2,567.59	689.79
Fund at Beginning of the Year		689.79	—
<b>Fund at End of the Year</b>		3,257.38	689.79

# Wicklow Craft Foundation

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 July	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Fixed Assets		—	—
		—	—
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Stocks		—	—
Debtors		407.36	—
Insurance Prepayment	2	632.45	—
Cash at bank and in hand		2,937.57	1,044.03
		3,977.38	1,044.03
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Sundry Creditors		—	(354.24)
Deferred Revenue	3	(720.00)	—
		(720.00)	(354.24)
Net Current Assets		3,257.38	689.79
Net Total Assets		3,257.38	689.79
<b>Represented by:</b>			
Revenue Account		3,257.38	689.79
		3,257.38	689.79

# Wicklow Craft Foundation

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Year Ended 31 July	2023	2022
	€	€
Net cash generated from operating activities		
Operating surplus for the year	2,567.59	689.79
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	—	—
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(1,039.81)	—
Increase/(decrease) in creditors and provisions	365.76	354.24
Net cash generated from operating activities	1,893.54	1,044.03
Cash flow from Investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	—	—
Net cash used in investing activities	—	—
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	1,893.54	1,044.03
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	1,044.03	—
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	2,937.57	1,044.03

# Wicklow Craft Foundation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 1. REVENUE GRANTS

The Wicklow Craft Foundation would like to acknowledge funding by Wicklow County Council under the Community Awards Scheme 2023. Grants in respect of revenue expenditure are credited to deferred income as they become receivable and released to the relevant expenditure account in the period to which the expenditure relates.

### 2. INSURANCE PREPAYMENT

The Wicklow Craft Foundation has Public Liability Insurance for the period 1 June 2023 to 31 May 2024. The Premium is debited to the Insurance Prepayment Account and released to the Income and Expenditure Account over the life of the cover.

### 3. DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred Revenue represents exhibition fees received in the current financial year, in respect of events falling in the following year. Fees are released to the Income and Expenditure Account in the period in which the exhibitions take place.

## **Treasurer's Note.**

The Foundation Accounts for 2022 –2023 are being made available to members on the Foundation website (<https://wicklowcraftfoundation.ie>) and will be presented to members at the AGM on Friday 29 September 2023 for formal approval and ratification.