

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 6 November 2023

Title: Public Halls Events Report

Contact Officer: Venue & Events Officer

Background

The Venue and Events Officer and the Venue and Events Assistant work to put on events which are run by Witney Town Council. Third party events are also put on and supported and facilitated by Witney Town Council Staff, these will contribute to approximately 60% of events with the Council run events making up the other 40%.

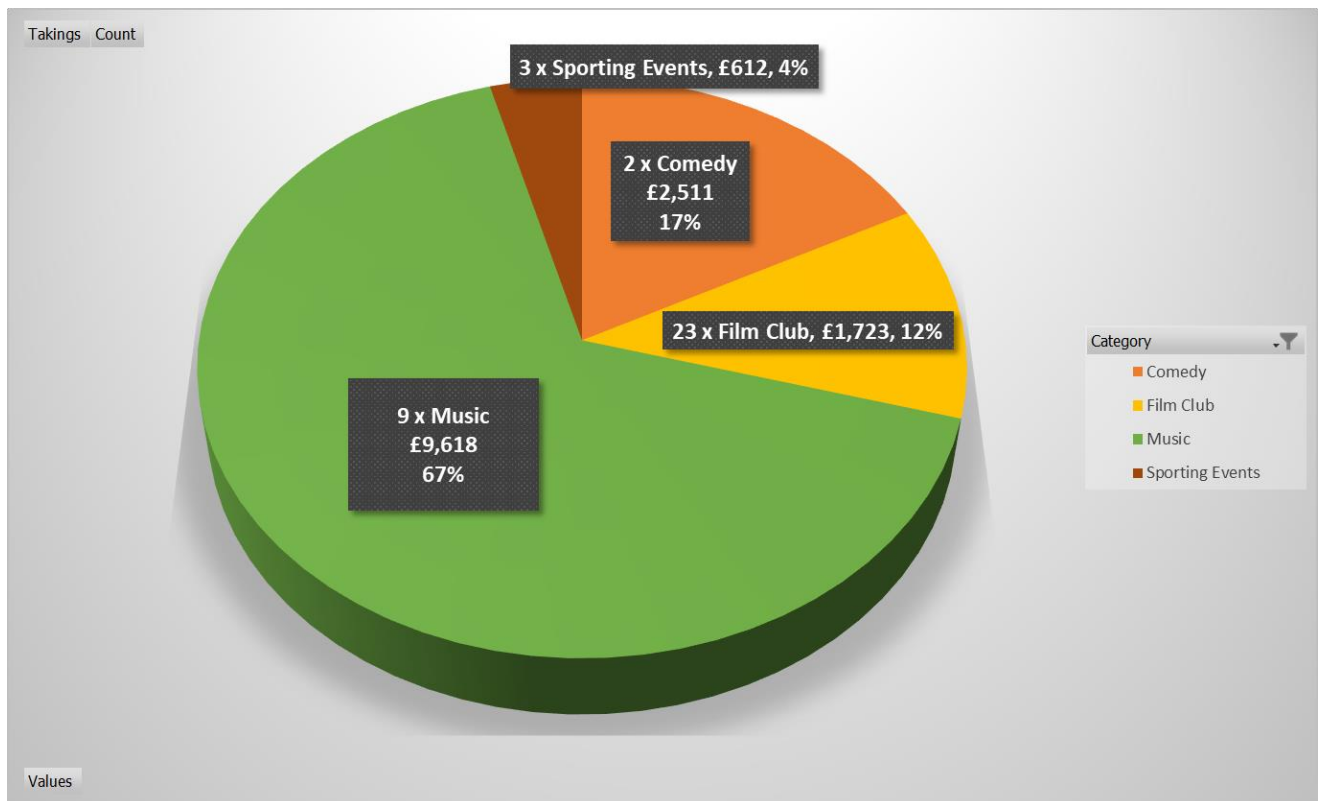
Current Situation

The past three months have seen a wide variety of events in the Corn Exchange, and with the Autumn/Winter season in full swing the Corn Exchange is about to welcome more.

So far, we have had:

- Music Tributes (Elvis, George Michael, Franki Valli etc.)
 - All very well attended (80-100%) with many visiting the Corn Exchange for the first time commenting on what a wonderful venue.
- Stand Up Comedy
 - As always very popular and well attended (over 80%) with a loyal following
- Monthly Jazz Club
 - Always a sell out every month, again with loyal following
- Monthly Open Mic
 - Held on a Thursday evening in the café with new young local talent performing with excellent customer feedback
- Cinema Screenings
 - Introduced in July and building a programme to suit targeted customer profiling. Pricing has been carefully considered to make affordable to the community with excellent feedback from families who attended during the summer holidays.

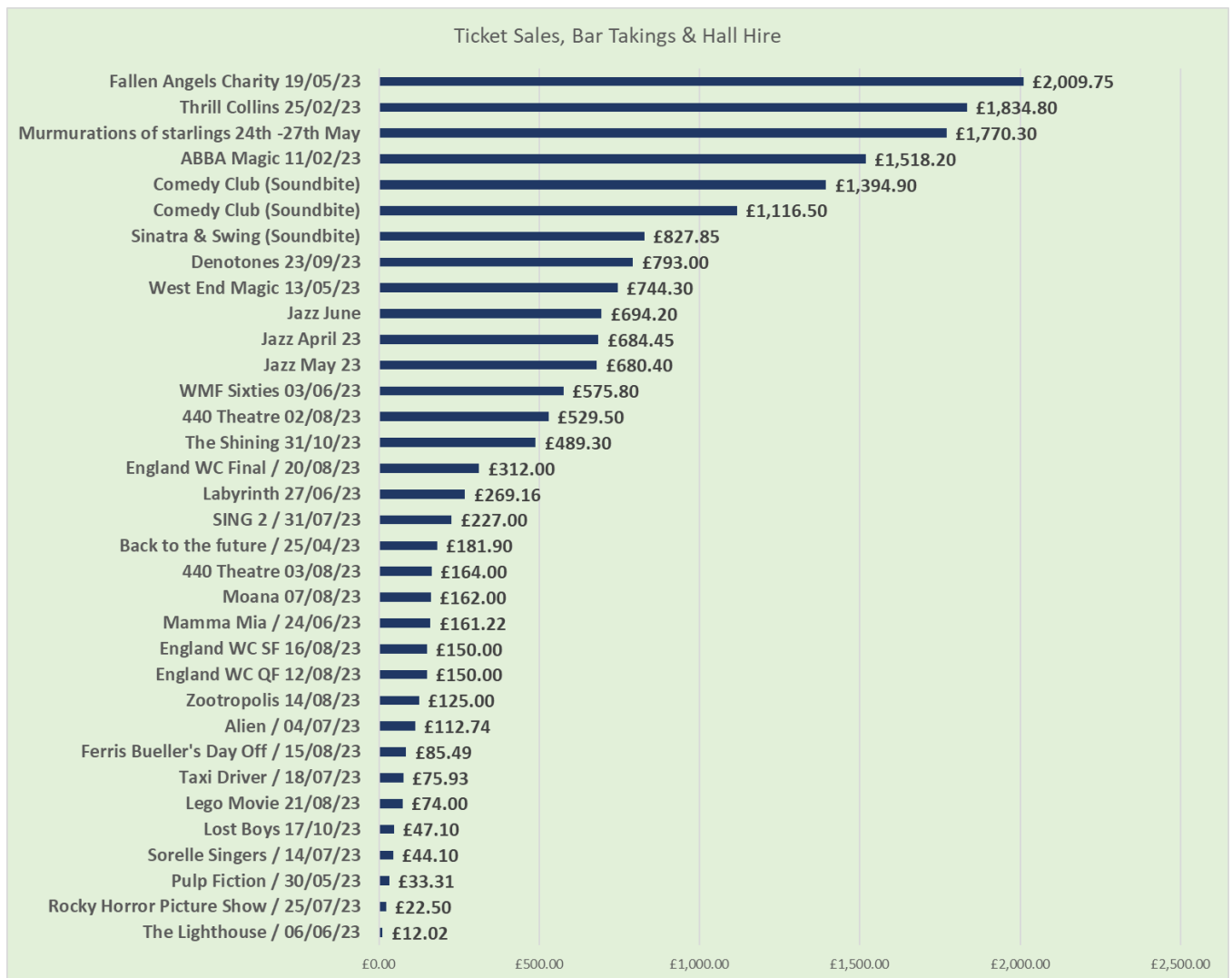
To demonstrate the usage of the main hall the chart below details the most common categories of events held this year including the total income received. As mentioned before, the operational costs will be included to report when in an available format to do so.



The Corn Exchange is hosting its first immersive event in the form of a murder mystery on Saturday 18th November. "A Murder at Goodbottom Manor" presented by Little Chico Productions accompanied by a 4-course meal from a new local restaurant, Grand Bangla. The venue & events team will be busy advertising this event over the next few weeks and feedback on this new type of event will be provided in the next report.

The events calendar for the larger shows that include popular local band Lucile & The Lightning Soul Train, Buttercross Theatre Pantomime, Hank Marvin tribute, and many more is fully booked up for the remainder of 2023. Full details of our upcoming events can be found on the Corn Exchange website.

The following table provides further detail of the events held noting the top line was a charity event and not income received by the Council.



Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implication

The Corn Exchange is operating to budget with no forecasted risk of annual overspend.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following;

1. Members are invited to note the report.