CATSTRAND AUDIENCE SURVEY REPORT

MARCH 2024



Word cloud generated by answers to 'What do you value about the CatStrand?'

CatStrand
Creative Hub of a Cultural Landscape

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

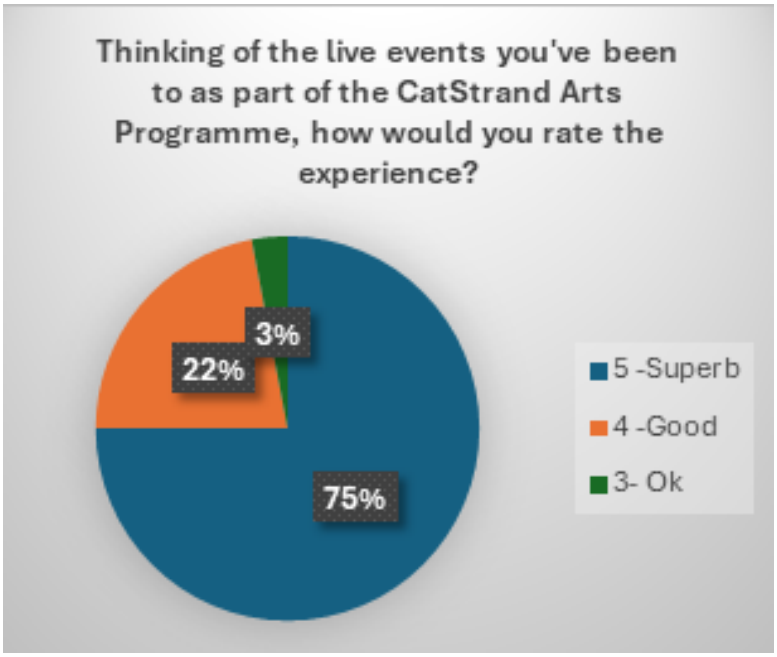
ABOUT OUR AUDIENCE

The CatStrand Arts Programme typically delivers 140 events a year through its Touring arts programme and Cultural Glenkens strand. Ticket sales since Covid are around 4,000 tickets per year, generating £35,000-£40,000 in ticket income. CatStrand Young Creatives delivers an additional 500 regular sessions per year, engaging 260 individuals in regular and one off sessions, over 3,120 attendances.

Our audience survey (March 2024) shows the extent to which CatStrand acts as a hub for the Glenkens and surrounding area here in SW Scotland.

202 people from our mailing list of 1,415 filled in the survey, giving an excellent response rate of 14%. This is a useful and representative sample of our more engaged audience members. We would like to thanks everyone who took the time to compleate the survey.

The totality of the survey responses show an overwhelming degree of support for our work and a real emotional connection to the venue. For a great many people, CatStrand is a big part of their lives and we do live up to our aim of being at the heart of the Glenkens communities.



Asked to rate their experience of live events at CatStrand

- ***75% responded '5 - Superb'***
- *22% responded '4 - Good'*
- *3% responded '3 - Ok'.*

That's a 97% Good or Superb rating. *Not one of 202 respondents rated their experience as '2-below expectations' or '1- bad'.*

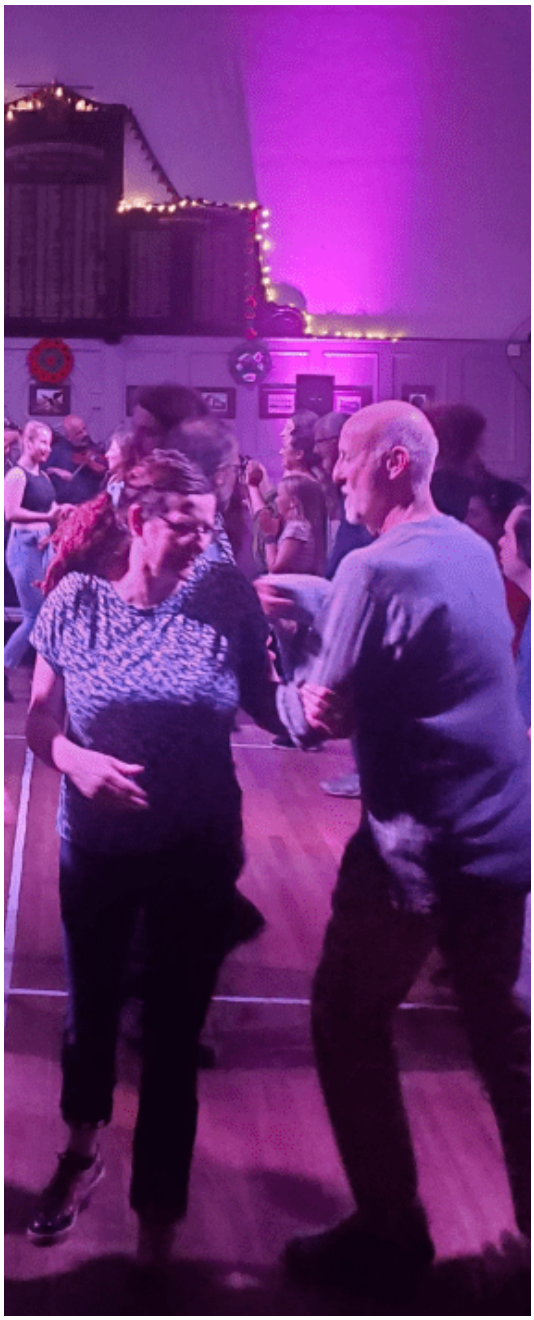
Overwhelmingly, people have a positive view of the CatStrand Programme and their experience at events.

WHAT OUR AUDIENCE VALUE & THE IMPACT IF WE COULD NOT CONTINUE

We asked *'What do you value most about the CatStrand Arts Programme, including Cultural Glenkens and CatStrand Young Creatives? How does it benefit you?'*

And

'If CatStrand could no longer run an Arts Programme due to lack of funding, what difference would it make to you?'



The responses are listed in full in Appendices 1 & 2 and are a real testimony how much people value the CatStrand.

What do you value?

98% of responses were positive.

Themes around things that were valued included:

- **Opportunity to access and engage with performing arts.**
- **Local & 'on our doorstep' arts programme.**
- **Bringing artists into the region we would not otherwise be able to see.**
- **The importance to a rural area.**
- **The high quality & diversity of our programme.**
- **The intimate space, connection with artists, good production values.**
- **Acting as a community and creative hub.**
- **Welcoming, friendly & safe environment.**
- **Space for creative exploration, participation in classes & workshops.**
- **Opportunities for children & young people.**
- **A valuable asset to our community.**

THE IMPACT IF WE COULD NOT CONTINUE

If CatStrand could no longer run?

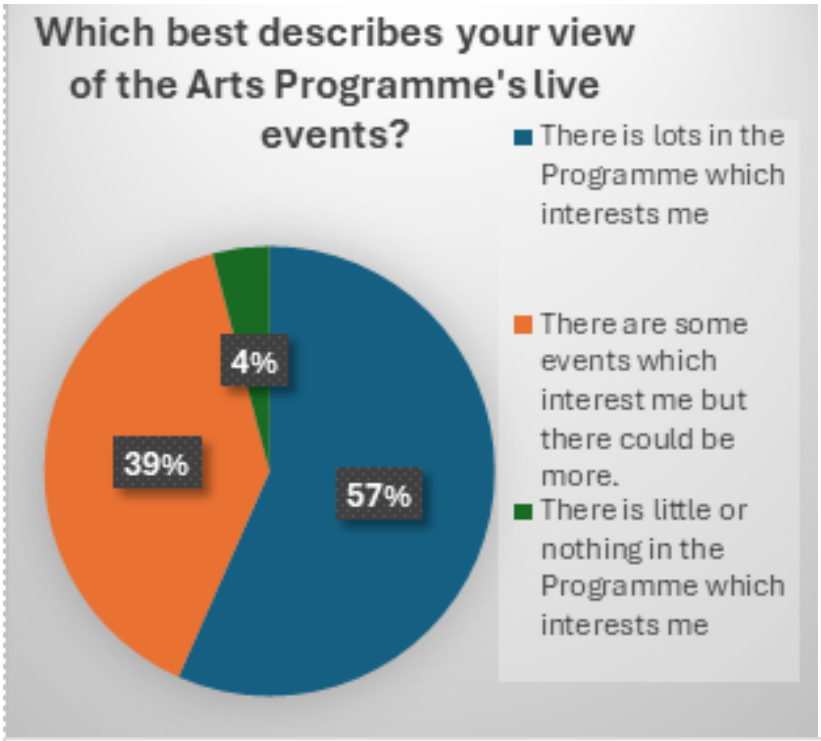
97% of responses described a negative impact.

Common words used to describe the impact included ***Devastated, Huge, Gutted, Loss, Despair & Bereft***. Comment themes included:

- **Loss of cultural opportunities and access.**
- **Loss of opportunity for creative engagement and expression.**
- **Losing enjoyment and vibrancy in life.**
- **The need to travel to get similar provision, and the difficulty in doing so.**
- **Loss to the community and impact on rural area.**
- **Increased isolation, lack of social opportunity.**
- **Concern about the impact and loss of opportunity for children and young people.**
- **Loss of a significant asset at the heart of the community.**

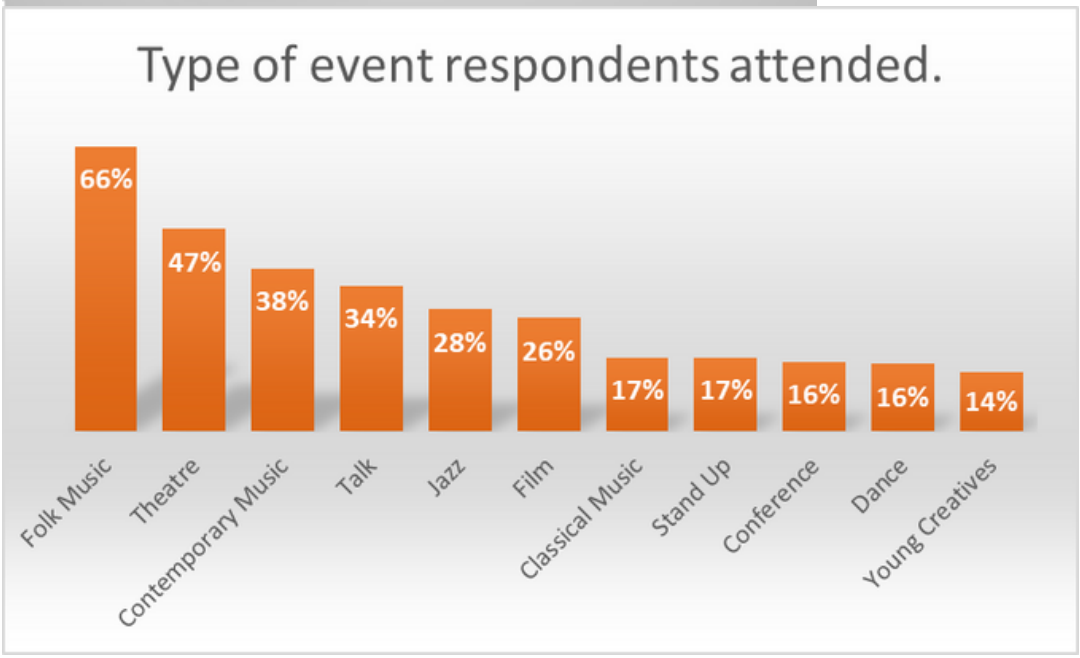


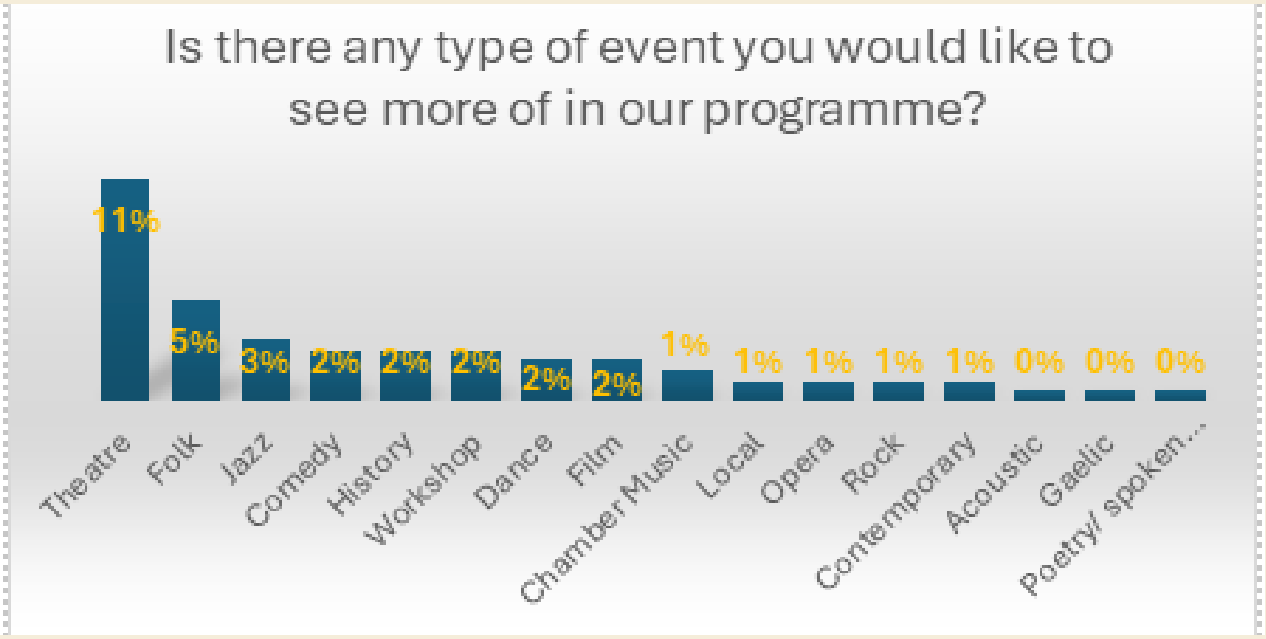
GENRE & INTERESTS



96% of respondents said there was either 'lots' or 'some' events that interest them.

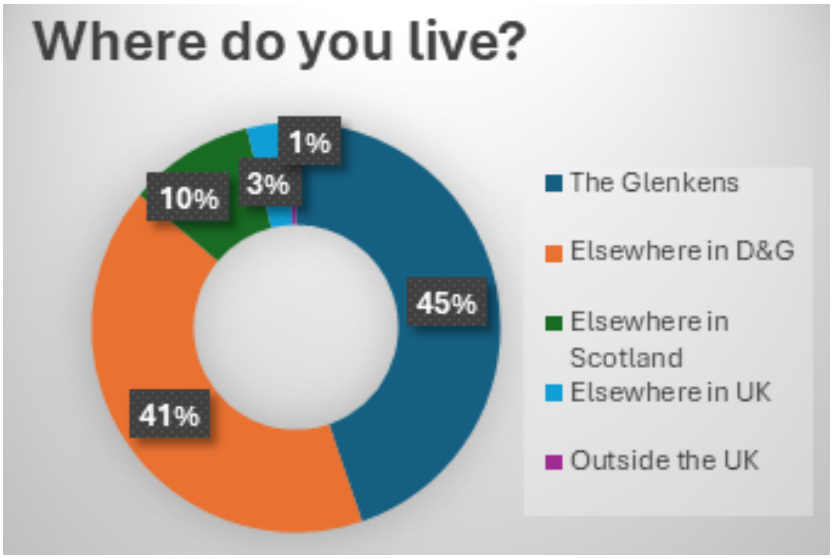
The audience have diverse interests and will attend a range of events. 39% are engaged with the programme but would like to see more of the type of events that interest them.





30% of respondents had suggestions for what they would like to see more of. These are spread over a number of genres, reflecting the diversity of interests. More theatre was the main request, which we endorse wholeheartedly. There was also some notable suggestions for more modern, contemporary & 'Radio 6' style music, which could attract more of the under-represented 25-45 age bracket.

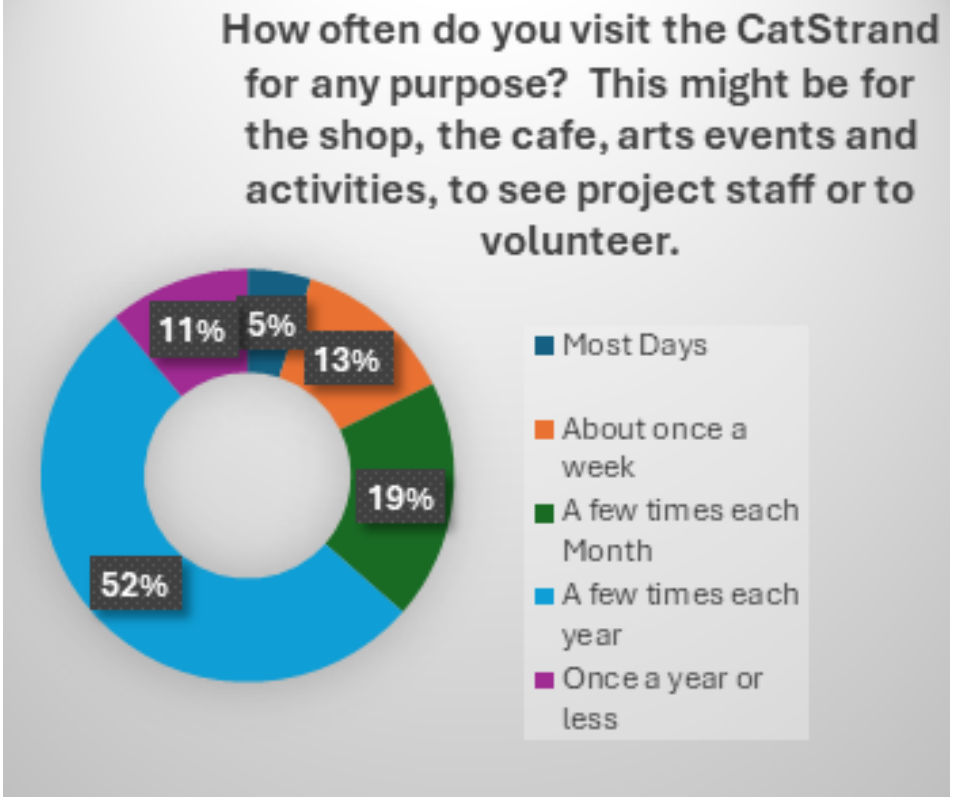
WHERE OUR AUDIENCE COMES FROM & FREQUENCY OF VISITS



Survey respondents were 45% from Glenkens, 42% from elsewhere D&G, 10% from elsewhere in Scotland and 4% from outside Scotland. This is in line with analysis of ticket buyers' postcodes.

Unsurprisingly, people living closer to the CatStrand are more likely to be repeat visitors. Based on booking data, an *average audience is 55% from Glenkens, 34% elsewhere in D&G, 11% rest of Scotland and further afield.*

WHERE OUR AUDIENCE COMES FROM & FREQUENCY OF VISITS



From the survey, we found cumulatively that 18% of our audience visits the CatStrand once a week or more, 37% a few times a month or more, 52% a few times a year and 11% visit once a year or less.

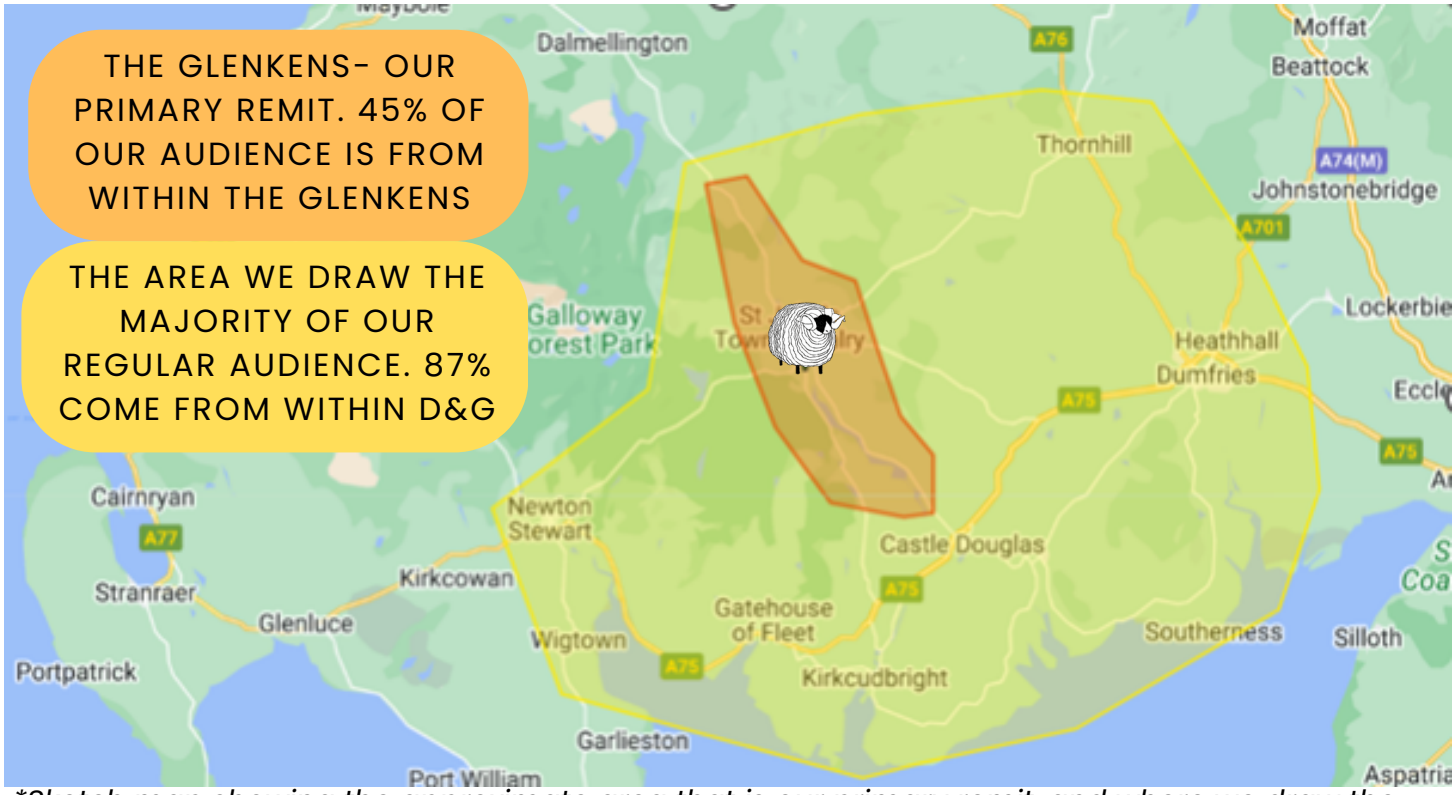
We could infer therefore that **for 37% of our audience CatStrand is acting as a Creative Hub & a regular part of their lives.** 63% will come when they see something in the programme that particularly appeals.

The regular visitors are primarily from the Glenkens. The biggest component of those who visit a few times a year are people traveling from elsewhere in D&G and from within the Glenkens, but we also draw from the whole of Scotland and the UK

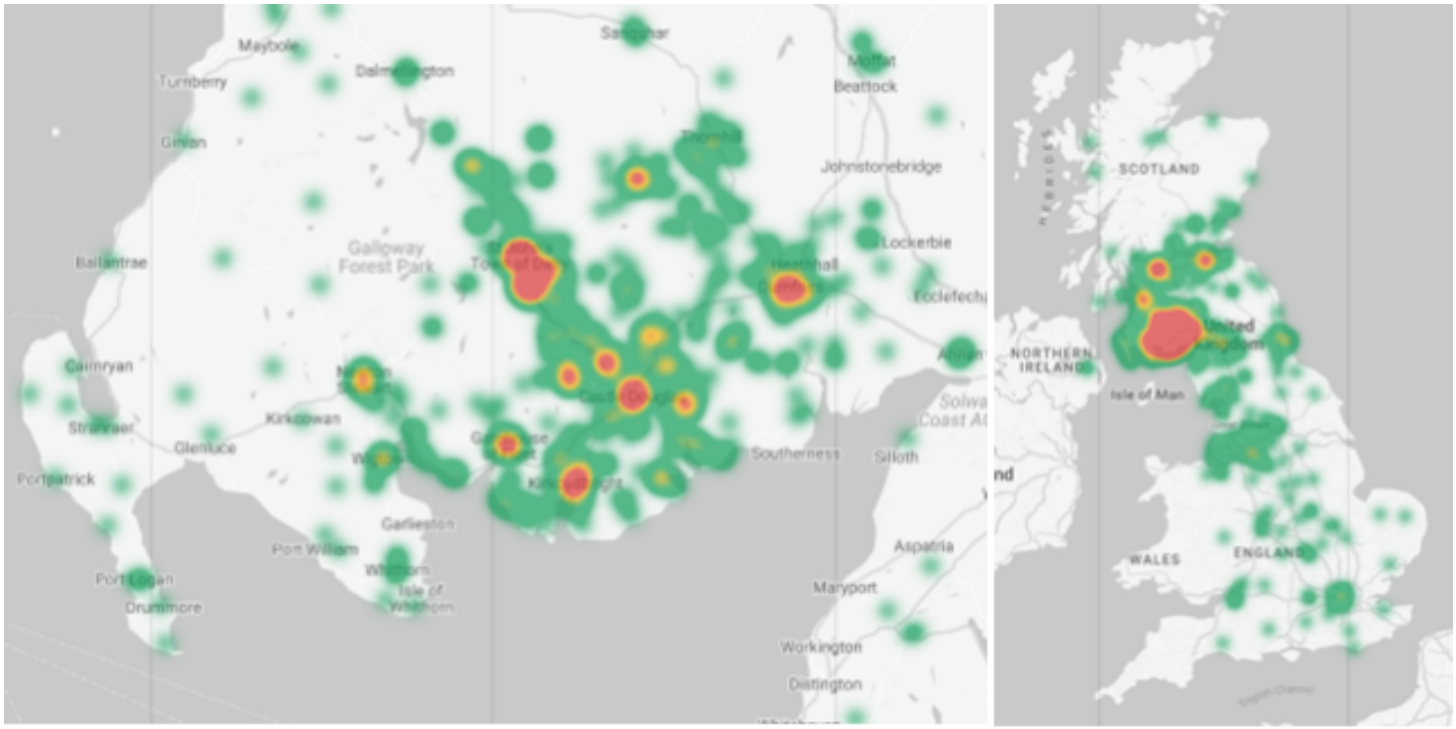
		How often do you visit the CatStrand?				
		Most Days	About once a week	A few times each Month	A few times each year	Once a year or less
Where do you live?		5.0%	12.8%	18.3%	52.8%	11.1%
The Glenkens	45.0%	4.4%	11.7%	13.3%	13.3%	2.2%
Elsewhere in D&G	41.1%	0.6%	1.1%	4.4%	28.3%	6.7%
Elsewhere in Scotland	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	7.8%	1.7%
Elsewhere in UK	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%
Outside the UK	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%

MAPPING OUR AUDIENCE

These maps have been produced by analysing customer postcodes from our box office and show we have good reach across our region and extending across the UK



Sketch map showing the approximate area that is our primary remit, and where we draw the majority of our regular audience from.



*Heatmaps of the distribution of customer postcodes at a regional and UK Scale

ACCESS & INCLUSION

Gender

Our programme appeals to all genders at a ratio typical of the local demographics. Non-binary and Trans people are represented in our audience.

60% of respondents are female, 38% male, 2% non-binary. 1% stated that their gender was different from that assigned to them at birth

Sexuality

We're very pleased to see that sexuality is not a barrier to accessing our programme. LGBQT+ people are represented at a slightly higher level than the Scottish Population.

87% of respondents identified as Heterosexual, 2% Homosexual, 1% Bisexual, 1% Queer and 1% Celibate. 9 % preferred not to answer. These figures are in-line with ScotGov figures for the population as 95% heterosexual, 1 % Homosexual, 1% Bisexual or other, 3% don't know/ no answer.

Socio-economic inclusion

Our programme benefits people from all economic backgrounds, but the survey shows that more people who are better educated or from wealthier backgrounds benefit from it.

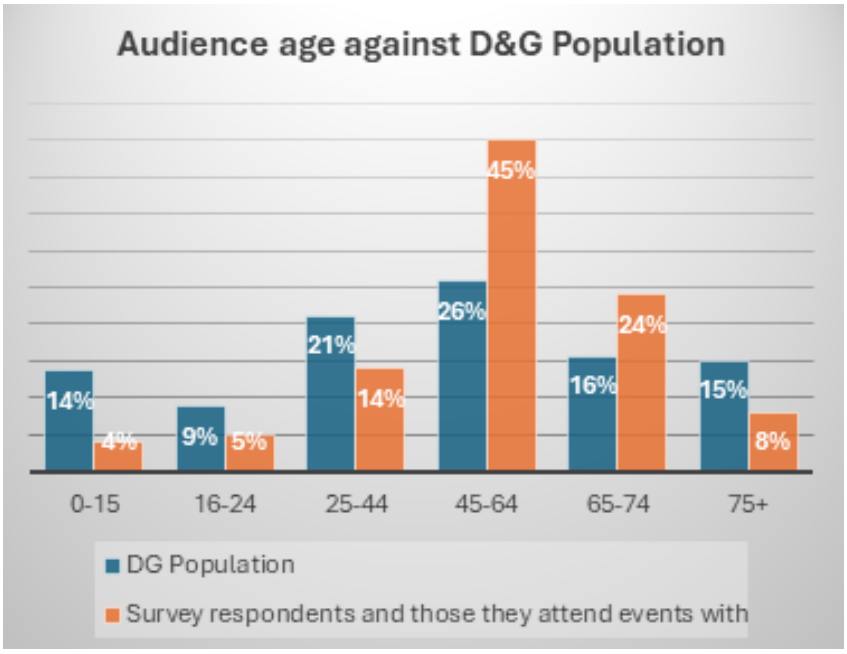
- 74% of the respondents are educated to degree level or higher, compared with the Scottish average 32%
- 7% of the respondents have highest academic grade of SCQF Level 4 or below, 1% with no qualifications. The Scottish average is 10%.
- 14% of the audience come from fee paying schools. The Scottish average is 4%
- 14% had access to free school meals as a child. The current Scottish average is 38%
- Only 0.5% of respondents raised cost as a barrier to accessing the programme.

Ethnicity

Our respondents represent the wider ethnic make-up of Dumfries and Galloway., with inclusion rates slightly above published figures of local populations of different ethnic groups. Figures published on citypopulation.de show Dumfries & Galloway has a low but increasing population of ethnic minorities. In 2011, 98.8% of the population were white, 0.7% Asian, 0.3% mixed multiple,0.2% other.

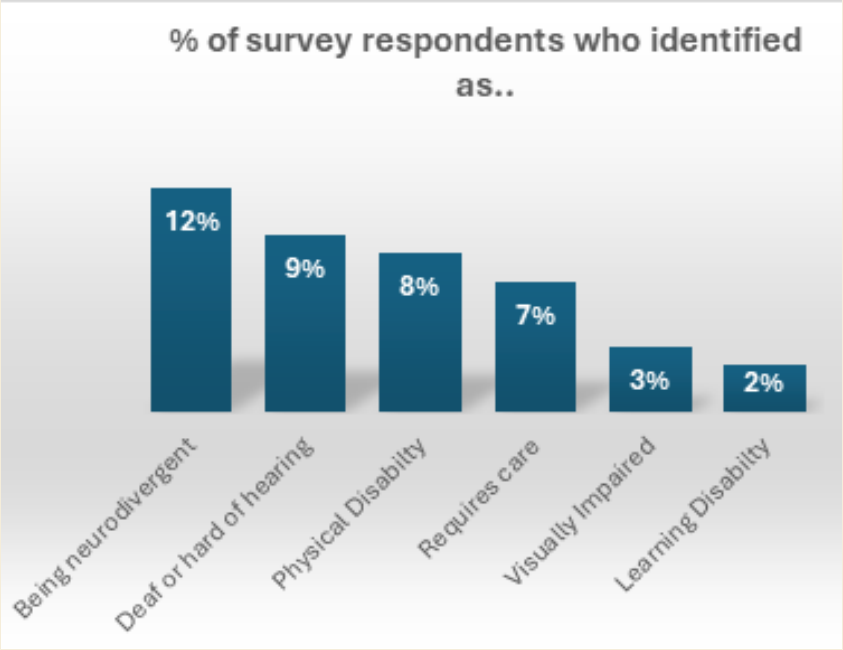
- 95% of our audience identified as white Scottish, British or other Caucasian,
- 2% identified a mixed or multiple ethnicities.
- 1% identified as Asian British or Scottish Asian
- 2% identified as Other

AGE DISTRIBUTION



69% of respondents are aged 46 - 75. This is common with many theatres and also particularly reflects the Dumfries and Galloway demographics.
CatStrand Young Creatives provides significant additional engagement opportunities for children and young adults aged up to 25, which are not reflected in these figures. We know however that there is a gap in engagement for adults aged 25-45, and are developing programme strands targeted at this group. The reduction in access by those aged 75+ is likely to reflect difficulty accessing transport & concerns about night driving.

DISABILITY & ACCESS NEEDS



Our respondents have a range of disabilities similar to the local population. In the Glenkens, 22% of people have a limiting long-term illness and 11% of people are providing unpaid care, (2020 Glenkens Community Action Plan)

25% of respondents described having one or more disabilities or requiring care

12% described being a carer.

These high levels make the overall positive responses to the CatStrand Arts programme (detailed in Appendix 1) even more pleasing.

DISABILITY & ACCESS NEEDS

5% of respondents stated there were barriers which limit or prevent them from attending events. A further 4% can access the programme of events, but their experience could be improved.

Transport was the primary barrier. 50% of the group experiencing barriers identified a lack of public transport as a barrier and 28% would like **more day time events** to avoid night driving.

There was a limited number of other barriers identified by the group. Two respondents found the reception crowded pre-show, two would like events for people with learning disabilities who are afraid of being disruptive and one person with mobility issues found our seats uncomfortable.

Further comments from the 91% of respondents who could access the programme easily included parking, difficulty navigating our website, the suggestion of running a shuttle bus for events and concern that people with access requirements may not be able to access and enjoy the programme.

This response suggests that apart from the issue of public transport and a demand for daytime events, our established audience does not face significant barriers to accessing our events. However, it is important to remember that there are likely to be people who are not engaging with the CatStrand Arts programme due to access needs who are not represented in our audience survey.

In our rural venue serving a low population it is a challenge to put on events specifically for people with access needs, for example by putting on additional ‘relaxed’ performances. We instead look to accommodate access needs on a case by case basis within our main programme. However, we recognise that there is more to be done to reach out to disabled communities and find solutions with them.

In response to the feedback, we will:

- Look at re-establishing a programme of daytime events.
- Where practical open the auditorium earlier.
- Will re-examine the viability of running event buses.
- We will make alternative front row seats available on request or when we know there is an issue.
- We will commit to engaging with Neuro-diverse and learning difficulty groups to explore inclusion and staging appropriate events.

APPENDIX 1:
WHAT OUR AUDIENCE VALUES

What do you value most about the CatStrand Arts Programme, including Cultural Glenkens and CatStrand Young Creatives? How does it benefit you?

The CatStrand offers the opportunity for local people to participate in cultural events but also gives everyone the chance to see top-class performers from outside the area.

A broad spread of activities engaging the surrounding community - particularly good for drawing in and engaging with local youngsters- a most important and valuable regional facility.

Catstrand young creatives is fantastic. Has been great opportunity for my son to pursue his drama and music interests with young people of a similar age. It is something he wants to pursue into higher education and professionally, so is also a pathway into that.

I go and see live music that I wouldn't necessarily otherwise get to experience or consider listening to and I enjoy the new experiences.

Not me personally, but I believe it benefits the young creative community in the region greatly by giving them a platform and an outlet
Seeing artists in a small intimate setting

A community hub to attend events, join in activities and a place to be insightful of new artists and events as well as an activities for the kids.

"The experience they gave me for years as a member of the castrand players.
Connections for life."

It provides opportunities for people, especially young people, and is a cultural hub for rural Glenkens and Dumfries and Galloway, which is very important.

Catstrand is the place we prefer for music, book promotions and social occasions, we would attend more if nearer to our home.

It benefits myself and my daughter who is on the autism spectrum. She feels safe and welcome in the auditorium. Because she loves the theatre, puppets and Sherlock Holmes there have been a great variety of events that we have been able to attend over the past few years. The Time Machine and The Speckled Band are two that immediately spring to her mind when asked.

"It's such a benefit to the local community. Having music and theatre etc on our doorsteps (relatively speaking) is so wonderful. Certainly we wouldn't get the opportunity to see these things if they weren't so local. Adults and kids would miss so much.
The dance classes for the kids with Sara are currently much missed."

That we get to see top class artists without having to travel outside of the area, as well as celebrating the outstanding talent we have in the area.
I love the variety of performances and really appreciate having such high quality provision locally.

APPENDIX 1:
WHAT OUR AUDIENCE VALUES

What do you value most about the CatStrand Arts Programme, including Cultural Glenkens and CatStrand Young Creatives? How does it benefit you?

Access to gigs by first class musicians in a comfortable, intimate, friendly venue not too far away from home. Always keen to support community initiatives especially in rural areas.

"It gives a great amount of options for things to do that are always ran great.
It benefits us socially and most of all our children aged 7 & 10. Lots of groups for them to attend building their confidence and abilities in many different ways and it acts as a hub for children from many different schools to meet/play/engage"
I think it is a great programme for all ages of the local community.
Having great programme of events on our doorstep.

A welcome, accessible & communal feeling to all events & gigs
High quality shows and local.

Catstrand's programme and activities appear to be aimed at a small elite section of the community

Having access to great artists, musicians, creative workshops and events. In such a rural area I would be unlikely to be able to access these if it wasn't for the Catstrand arts programme. I don't access the young creatives programme as I am not young and my children are now grown up, but without it I can imagine that opportunities for you people in the area would be seriously limited.

It provides a base for a wide range of activities and brings the arts at a high standard to a community which I would otherwise have to travel a long distances to enjoy

The fact that CatStrand is on our doorstep, just down the High Street from our new home, and we can amble along to enjoy a variety of arts events, is the most valuable thing to us. It feels like home, a creative home. The event this evening, Margaret Elphinstone's book launch of her new novella, Lost People, was salutary and energising.

A reason to visit New Galloway.

Good access to a range of live music, some by musicians well known to me and others new to me. Always feel welcome and like the size of the venue and the enthusiasm of staff, volunteers and audience. Usually performers seem to be particularly happy to be there, I guess they are well looked after.

Opportunity to attend a diversity of high quality workshops and events.
Mixture of events Burns night, comedy, exhibitions and cafe all great to connect with others. Enjoyed history talks too .

I value eclectic music from across the world.

Brilliant performances available locally.

APPENDIX 1:
WHAT OUR AUDUIENCE VALUES

What do you value most about the CatStrand Arts Programme, including Cultural Glenkens and CatStrand Young Creatives? How does it benefit you?

Entertainment, relaxation gives you feel good factor! Enjoyment/laughter.
My family and I have seen some absolutely fantastic music, theatre and dance at CatStrand, in this beautiful and intimate space. We feel very lucky to have this venue in the area (we live in Newton Stewart). My children have also benefited from subsidised arts workshops and a range of other engagement activities.

A great venue, comfortable, welcoming, intimate, opportunity to see acts I wouldn't ordinarily get to see as I wouldn't travel. Offers opportunities to enjoy with other local residents.

Feel so fortunate to have easy access to the Catstrand. Perfect venue and atmosphere to be made welcome. Good central hub for the community.
Good mix of events.

It's fantastic to be able to access the arts without having to travel many miles to the nearest large town.

As said before the genre of arts and entertainment provided does not float my boat.
Variety and high quality

Nice to have somewhere close (20 mins driving)that puts on a variety of events,
I live locally to the Catstrand and I find it to be a great source of social activity and an a great cultural asset to the Glenkens and beyond.

Supportive and encouraging ethos.

I Particularly value the proximity to performers ,and the relationship with the audience.
Has to be more on the best rooms in Scotland to experience live arts.

It's really astonishing to have such an asset on our doorstep, it gives access to the arts in a way that we just wouldn't have otherwise. The U26 discount on tickets also allows me to bring the children to live events that they're not fussed about - if they were full price, I wouldn't bother. And sometimes they love it!

Great artists and great sound!

Living in the Glenkens is wonderful as far as the countryside and community are concerned, but as someone who has previously lived within a short distance of Liverpool and Manchester, having access to the arts is really important to me. The CatStrand events programme was one of the reasons that drew me to buying a house in the Glenkens as there is such a brilliant range of fantastic music and drama taking place, all of high quality, and so well supported by locals. I have seen some fantastic bands and have been introduced to new artists and spread the word about them to family and friends who have then bought tickets to see them elsewhere, and have probably seen a number of acts that I might not have driven a long way to see which have turned out to be really good.

APPENDIX 1:
WHAT OUR AUDIENCE VALUES

What do you value most about the CatStrand Arts Programme, including Cultural Glenkens and CatStrand Young Creatives? How does it benefit you?

I love the wide variety of events at the Catstrand, there is something to suit all tastes happening at different times throughout the year. I love live theatre and music and the Catstrand provides the easiest access for me to see quality performances. I travel 50 miles to attend, 100 mile round trip, this is the closest venue to me that operates throughout the year.

Having a local venue that is set up for events allowing a good view & good sound rather than traditional village hall set ups.

It provides a very varied programme of events in an excellent setting.

Ability to see diverse musical artistes without having to travel far.

The diversity of the program, especially for such a small venue
Variety and high standards.

I particularly value Ken Words' Writers' Cafés and CatStrand Singers and I am a member of both. It benefits me by giving me the opportunity to meet other people, by giving me a creative outlet, and by being local so saving me having to rely on public transport.

Some great artists performing here

The variety of events/performers

"the quality of performance

friendly staff"

The diversity of the performers. Each brings their own valuable show and their own views, which are often very interesting and entertaining.

Allows us to see stage shows and exhibition without the cost of travelling into a city.

supporting musicians who would not normally come to the region.

Local, quality events. Fabulous opportunities for youth to develop confidence in an area where their opportunities might otherwise be limited.

It's tremendous that we can attend live music concerts with talented artists.The hall is a perfect venue .Comfortable good acoustics intimate and a space that not only gives the audience a great experience but also allows the artists to feel able to perform at their highest level.

Having such a variety of high quality performances on our doorstep. Otherwise we would struggle to find theatre and music accessibly. Benefits? Makes life better!

APPENDIX 1:
WHAT OUR AUDIENCE VALUES

What do you value most about the CatStrand Arts Programme, including Cultural Glenkens and CatStrand Young Creatives? How does it benefit you?

It's great to hear live music in a relatively small and intimate space. Anything that provides live in-person events, of whatever sort is worthy of support.

"An amazing asset to The Glenkens and wider area.

To have an arts space in a rural area is wonderful and we are so lucky.

It is a warm, welcoming and creative space which allows a voice to so many people." Amazing to see some high profile performers in our very rural situation.

It fits like a glove. Fell inlove with Catsrand many moons ago. Loved volunteering for a spell & helping promote the Programme. Warm, kind and wonderful folk from all airts & pairts-all are welcome & everyone is a VIP 😍

Variety.

Fantastic to have first class arts and cultural activities on our doorstep

I like to see live Folk Acts as very few come to perform in this area.

It's diversity.

The Arts Programme is fantastic for the area. It is a great mix of live performances and other cultural and social events. We are relatively new to the area but will be attending many more events in the future.

High quality, local and entertaining.

It brings the community together

Seeing work of high quality which often has an inflection towards rural storytelling and culture

"It's a beautiful venue, the audience really connects with the performers, presenters.

The cafe is lovely, but more vegan food please and the shop has supplied random presents for family.

A larger exhibition space would be great, but you can't have everything."

Catstrand is such a lovely venue, just the right size and ambience. We haven't been much since covid, but have visited the cafe and shop. It would be great if you did more film screening of an afternoon (eg at a weekend), especially during the winter months and dark nights.

APPENDIX 1:
WHAT OUR AUDIENCE VALUES

What do you value most about the CatStrand Arts Programme, including Cultural Glenkens and CatStrand Young Creatives? How does it benefit you?

High quality arts events in a relatively remote area. A local alternative to travelling to bigger towns and cities.

films, the Smiddy cafe, good meeting place

I have the opportunity to attend good quality events not available elsewhere, in a pleasant environment.

Small venue gives a more intimate feel to the performances.

Great and sometimes unique events in a small venue. I enjoy being in close proximity to the performance it creates a special atmosphere.

Fantastic entertainment, great atmosphere, and I usually see friends there.
I enjoy the live music and the cafe

Seeing up and coming musicians as well as some classic acts

"Live performances (all genres) within easy access of the local community.

A varied programme of events that unites the community, young and old."
I particularly value the opportunity to hear live music - of all genres

Variety- something for everyone. Accessible and welcoming environment. Affordability
The sheer variety and quality of the programme available locally is so important to the quality of life for us. We trust the programme and this encourages us to go to events. For example I would not have thought I would enjoy dance events and found attending a wonderful experience. Avoiding travel time is so important so local provision is valuable. It is always welcoming and a very friendly audience. We have met so many people through attending

It brings shows and singers to our rural area , I would not otherwise have access to.

I visit the art exhibition, and commissioned a painting as a result.

Being able to get to cultural events

Programme quality and intimacy of the audience experience.

Just amazing to have this facility on our doorstep. To access a broad range of cultural events in rural Galloway - is literally quite amazing!!!

The opportunity to experience first class entertainment in a lovely atmosphere.

The experience of a live event is always very special and even more intimate in a small venue.

APPENDIX 1:
WHAT OUR AUDIENCE VALUES

What do you value most about the CatStrand Arts Programme, including Cultural Glenkens and CatStrand Young Creatives? How does it benefit you?

It is all brilliant. Especially things for children to do they love it.

"My son attends Catstrand Young Creatives, it has been so good for his mental health and confidence. It has been a constant since we moved to the area 2 years ago.

We as a family value everything the Catstrand has to offer but as parents to young children, probably the young creatives groups are the most valued like the art club, dramarama and music lessons. Also the activities put on in school holidays for kids and the theatre shows for kids too are excellent. We also enjoy nights like Mambo Jambo, something completely different and family friendly entertainment and when family films have been on like Elf. We also enjoy the cafe and use it regularly and the shop too. Our family and friends when they visit have been to music nights here as well.
I love that Catstrand keeps arts and culture live in this very rural area. I enjoy attending the odd music event, and would attend events more broadly if I had more energy and childcare.

My kids (aged 6 and 8) benefit from young creatives activities

The young creatives is an outstanding provision especially given its location nothing like it in the area!

It is vital to the local community and especially rural areas where culture is less accessible

"I feel very fortunate to live where such a variety of cultural opportunities exist it enhances my life enormously and I hope to access more shows in the future.
My child undertakes a wide and wonderful variety of activities with the Young Creatives which she absolutely adores. She has gained wonderful new skills, much confidence and new friendships. My daughter has 2 health conditions which leave her living with a disability and that means that a lot of sporting activities just aren't achievable for her so being able to participate in group activities is especially delightful. As a creative young person it is so important she has the access to skilled practitioners to build her up. She also sees a path to more experiences with the older children and young people providing role models."

"Enhanced sense of community.

Being local really helps us to access many of the programs on offer."

"We are so lucky to have the catstrand young creatives programme without it out children would miss out

On so much there's nothing for miles and miles around, the young creatives has something for everyone my children benefit for the huge array of activities, I wish there was more on for children under 6 years though as I do feel they miss out on what they could access near the city."

APPENDIX 1:
WHAT OUR AUDIENCE VALUES

What do you value most about the CatStrand Arts Programme, including Cultural Glenkens and CatStrand Young Creatives? How does it benefit you?

It's our closest opportunity to see live theatre - my passion. all other things on offer at CatStrand are good but not unique in a 20 mile radius of where I live. The programming for theatre is brave, bringing in high quality work that I'd not be able to see otherwise . The variety and quality of the events visited have been outstanding. It allows us to see fantastic and world class acts and performers when it would be difficult to go further afield. This is a unique venue. It is at the heart of the local community and provides an essential service culturally and socially to the immediate local area and beyond.
"Always a friendly welcome. Professional performers.

Small intimate performing space.

Time to appreciate the Art space"

It's versatility. Let's me hear quality music at reasonable prices at a safe venue.
You put on some very interesting and sometimes unusual concerts and events, in a beautiful and comfortable setting.

It has a great atmosphere is welcoming and puts on a great programme of events that suit me culturally.

The opportunity to see live, top-quality, diverse, culture-wide musicians, whether national culture (I was at the Fara concert recently) or international (I've just booked to see Lulo Rheinhardt and Yuliya Lonskaya).

Such a wide variety of events.

A warm and welcoming environment with engaging activities across a range of interests, all delivered with a strong sense of community involvement

Great variety of live music in a superb, intimate auditorium with great acoustics. A very well run venue by people with a clear passion for the Arts and live entertainment. A real asset and feather in the cap for The Glenkens!

Gives me a chance to participate in events that would otherwise be unavailable.

Catstrand attracts performers that do not normally appear at other locations in the area. Just love looking forward to a good night out ...Great atmosphere...friendly staff and great entertainment.

The intimacy of the venues, welcoming and friendly.
Friendly, intimate venue with enthusiastic performance and appreciative audience.

Intimate atmosphere and rapport with the artists

APPENDIX 1:
WHAT OUR AUDIENCE VALUES

What do you value most about the CatStrand Arts Programme, including Cultural Glenkens and CatStrand Young Creatives? How does it benefit you?

Local entertainment

The benefits are many. I am intellectually stimulated, I have pleasure, and I am kept connected to friends, to ideas and to the Arts that is otherwise be out of reach. I find it valuable to be part of a community in which my voice is heard.

There is no other venue where I can attend a live event with world class musicians without having to travel even further, probably to the central belt.

"Diversity

Welcome

Affordability

Gap fills what is missing my towns offerings (castle Douglas)

Imagination and contacts of of management team in bringing into such a small population area such a high calibre range of arts offers
Gets me away from my town"

Bringing folk groups to the area.

Live theatre & music events

Seen some excellent folk artists. Acoustics are really good and well raked and comfortable seating.

If I want to attend something, I do.

Variety, accessibility, having such a varied and high quality programme of events in such a rural area is really valuable for sense of community

Good programming. The benefit is a satisgyingvfeeling that I have engaged with a cultural event and enjoyed it.

"Access to good quality Arts events without travelling for hours.

Stimulating conferences relevant to where we are living and beyond. Exposure to music and drama that I otherwise would never have. Somewhere to meet friends and enjoy events together. It definitely hugely enriches my life!"

The opportunity to see both well known and new artistes in an intimate setting and to have the venue right on our doorstep.

APPENDIX 1:
WHAT OUR AUDIENCE VALUES

What do you value most about the CatStrand Arts Programme, including Cultural Glenkens and CatStrand Young Creatives? How does it benefit you?

"Catstrand provides a great variety of performances and events to meet the needs of the local community and beyond.

To be able to access these within walking distance in a rural location is fantastic."
Enjoyment and communal spirit

Brings community together, stimulates creativity, keeps the arts alive, gets people off the couch to see real live art

Entertainment of a high standards.

It enriches my life in many ways. It would be tragic if any of it's faceted service were to be withdrawn.

Access to excellent performance in a friendly and affordable setting.

An enriching experience, meeting like minded people, ..I would be very sad to loose this wonderful facility.

A good night out

The quality of the performing arts programme has been very high. the programming of the performing arts programme is varied and always interesting.
"The broad range of events is most appealing

Local venue mean easy access"

The ability to see first-class acts in a local and intimate setting

The arts are essential to my well being. The Importance of the shared experience as a member of the audience. The sociable atmosphere.

It is a very varied programme, really relevant for the area, building community and offering new learning. I would definitely come more often if I lived closer!

Giving young people opportunities to develop skills

CatStrand Young Creatives

CatStrand always offers a diverse programme and appears to cater for everyone, especially young and local artists. It benefits me because the programme offers events for young children, that my daughter can attend.

APPENDIX 2:
IMPACT IF WE WERE TO STOP

If CatStrand could no longer run an Arts Programme due to lack of funding, what difference would it make to you?

Being a rural area, we treasure every opportunity to enjoy live entertainment. In general, we can't afford, or aren't able, to travel to larger venues in the central belt so we depend on performers coming to us to offer a wider range of events.

That would be very disappointing - a retrograde impact on the local and surrounding communities- it would affect all age groups.

It would mean my son would lose a really important creative outlet, and pathway into a career into the expressive arts, and other young people in the region would lose this opportunity too.

It would be a shame not to have live music to go to locally.

I would be very upset about the loss of an invaluable asset to the local creative community

Nothing local to us

Yes - HUGE impact to our community!!

"This would be absolutely gutting.

They are such an incredible organisation, an absolute necessity and gem in the community."

There would be fewer general opportunities available to me, I would lose contact with various wonderful people, it would be much harder for me to attend events, and I would have no reason to go to New Galloway or really anywhere other than Dumfries, essentially cutting me off of the rest of Dumfries and Galloway.

"A huge difference it being our preferred venue for entertainment and relaxation.
It would be a disastrous loss to the local community and people from further afield."
There would be less opportunity for my daughter to access the Theatre. We do make the effort to go to Glasgow and Edinburgh to see things but these are major undertakings for her which have to carefully planned. I know that if there's something on at the Catstrand that she would like to see then that is a relatively low cost, low anxiety evening for us for us both to enjoy.

It would be dreadful!

Very little. The events are not very mainstream and therefore often difficult to access.

It will be greatly missed as a friendly intimate space.

APPENDIX 2:
THE IMPACT IF WE WERE TO STOP

If CatStrand could no longer run an Arts Programme due to lack of funding, what difference would it make to you?

It will be greatly missed as a friendly intimate space.

Another arts venue lost to the area for local artists showing work.

I would have to travel further, possibly to the central belt, which would mean I would go less often due to cost.

It would make a huge difference to me personally and to the community, a huge loss. How can I help it to continue?

Feel sad as important to have culture and art locally produced
Find another venue and organise it myself.

I'd be bereft of a cultural life!

Very little. The events are not very mainstream and therefore often difficult to access.

Would be a shame as though I don't go a lot it's great to have this in d&g

Sad to lose such a great intimate setting with fab sound experience.
It would be such a shame!

Lack of exposure to interesting acts and opportunities to participate in cultural activities I just wouldn't have the opportunity to given the rurality of where I live

Would find it hard to leave the house n the winter without the entertainment.
I can't imagine having live events to attend when I'm in D&G

It would mean that I wouldn't be able to access live music, theatre or dance easily.

None really personally, but would effect the young people who have opportunities to get involved with theatre and production and the creative arts.

"I would miss it a lot, it's really encouraged me to go to events, which I wouldn't if I had to travel a long way. Being new to the area it also offers me a way to get involved with the local community.

I feel the catstrand has a great impact on the social and cultural life of the Glenkens and also wider D&G area. It would be a huge loss if the arts programme couldn't continue."
We would have to travel much further and may not bother.

A great deal! As locals, we rely on a great arts program for entertainment, socialising, meeting new friends and relaxing. There are no other Pubs/Inns in the village, where one would normally make social connections etc., so it's imperative that the Catstrand remain to keep the community connected.

APPENDIX 2:
THE IMPACT IF WE WERE TO STOP

If CatStrand could no longer run an Arts Programme due to lack of funding, what difference would it make to you?

I would miss on some special events that simply just don't occur anywhere else in the world.

It would leave a huge gap in being able to access arts in D&G.

Oh, the children would be much the poorer for it, and I don't know where I would ever see live events elsewhere - we couldn't afford to travel for them.

Would mean travelling much further for gigs etc

It would be a huge loss both to me and my family personally and also to the Glenkens district, particularly those who are struggling financially, as the cost of transport and the fact that New Galloway is so remote could make it completely unviable. It's also so important for young people to have access to the arts in order to broaden their horizons and potentially inspire them to make music, write or act which not only benefits them personally but can also benefit their education. In a remote rural community like the Glenkens the Catstrand arts programme plays a vital role.

This is my nearest arts venue at around 15 miles away. Next closest is Dumfries but catstrand has a far lovlier space which is so versatile and lends itself so well to more intimate performances. The program is far more interesting to me at catstrand as it's less "mainstream". Losing catstrand live events, workshops, talks, cinema etc would leave a gaping hole in such a rural area where quality social events are so crucial to locals wellbeing.

If the Catstrand could no longer run I would be devastated, I visit the Catstrand often to watch live theatre and music, as well as attending cultural events. I travel 50 miles, 100 miles round trip to attend and this is the closest venue to me that offers continuous quality performances and events throughout the year. Without the catstrand and the ability to access live performances I would lose access to a community of like minded people and my source of inspiration and sanctuary.

It means travelling much further.

We've only recently started to attend CatStrand but would miss the whole experience, from what's on to the very welcoming community volunteers.

It would reduce my access to arts. It would reduce the living experience of the Glenkens. Increased loneliness.

We would miss out on having excellent talent in our area

A lack of options for entertainment

It would be a huge loss to the area

APPENDIX 2:
THE IMPACT IF WE WERE TO STOP

If CatStrand could no longer run an Arts Programme due to lack of funding, what difference would it make to you?

..a really big difference to the way I'm able to access such events/activities
I would feel very isolated. I would lose my opportunity to socialise with friends I have made. I would not have the incentive to continue writing in particular. The next nearest place to offer similar groups would be Dumfries some 30+ miles away. It would be quite devastating for me actually.

I would miss out on seeing some great musicians without having to travel long distances to do so.

very little given range of current events

I would miss it but probably not as much as others who live nearby and attend events more regularly

I would be very disappointed

There would be very little to do in the area on an evening. It would be a very sad day for the Glenkens, who need a focal point for people to see shows, meet their friends etc...

very little really, no events have enticed us to visit since before the pandemic...

Big difference, would lose the heart of creative community in this area.
see above and not being able to see up and coming artists

Lose a link to local community.

I wouldn't get to see as many things .

It would result in my wife and I feeling more detached from the arts in our local area. The Catsrand provides a focus for the arts in the Glenkens.

We'd maybe get to live theatre once a year, not be exposed to such a range of performance arts. One of the great things about CatStrand is that it's close enough and cheap enough to encourage us to experiment - we wouldn't drive to Glasgow or Dumfries at night on the off chance a show might be good.

It would make my months more boring, especially now I'm retired. It would limit my opportunities or reasons for getting out of the house and both enjoying live events and interacting with other people; possibly leading to a feeling of isolation and affecting my overall mental wellbeing.

It would be a huge loss to the Glenkens and wider area. Having the Catstrand in the area allows people who don’t have access to live performance a chance to see and listen to some wonderful music and other creative outlets.

APPENDIX 2: THE IMPACT IF WE WERE TO STOP

If CatStrand could no longer run an Arts Programme due to lack of funding, what difference would it make to you?

I would be sadder and less culturally stimulated.

We will not let that happen - your Global audience and stable of performers, stakeholders and friends will crowdfund to ensure the Catstrand keeps flowing with creativity! Without it, the unique 'cohesion social' enjoyed by visitors from across the world and tourists in their own home town would dissipate.

Quiet evenings

It would be terrible and such s loss to the community

It would mean I have to travel further to see artists.

A massive difference. It is a place I love to be & has been in lifeline in the last 4 years as a single person moving to D& G during covid.

Be very disappointing as it is one of the very few venues in the region.

This would be terrible. There is nothing like it in the area and it would be such a loss for the locality and wider D&G.

Social and cultural life would be poorer.

It has become part of the fabric of the community. To lose it would be to lose part of who we are.

Reduced opportunity to see the arts I want to see

Would not visit the area as much.

It would make a huge difference to our quality of life.

Gutted

A lot. We would really miss coming to such a lovely venue, and it is probably our nearest too. The cinema in Newton is great, but evenings only, so not good during winter - we live outside Newton.

It would force us to travel further afield more often and leave us feeling disconnected from the community.

I would have to travel a very long way for live arts

It would be very disappointing and I would miss the kind of events provided.

APPENDIX 2: THE IMPACT IF WE WERE TO STOP

If CatStrand could no longer run an Arts Programme due to lack of funding, what difference would it make to you?

I would miss it but the real loss would be to the local community.

It would certainly reduce the choice of events in D&G. Many of the performers who appear at the Catstrand only appear there.

I hope to attend Margaret Elphinstone's writing group meetings as soon as I sell my business and have more time, and to attend other events, so I would feel very sad about this and would lose something in plan to enjoy.

New Galloway would be a power place to live

It should make my life poorer

It would be a huge miss; it's the only venue of it's kind serving a wide community and was one of the main reasons my partner and I decided to relocate to New Galloway from London. The CatStrand Arts Programme punches above it's weight in terms of quantity and quality of events which in my experience are always sold out.

It would be a significant loss to the community as a whole and to me in particular as both an opportunity to hear live music and, importantly, as an opportunity to meet other people from the local community

That would be a real loss. Catstrand is such a good hub, not only for attending events but nurturing local networks of audiences and arts practitioners. I've found it a great place for meetings and informal chats which so often lead to the development of new projects.

Isolation

I would hugely miss the ability to see great events and to get out the house and meet an socialise I doubt I would travel to the central belt for a concert The quality of life would be reduced. I miss events in the summer when less are programmed

It would mean I wouldn't have a local access to events the catstrand run and therefore would miss out on a lot.

None directly, but I enjoy seeing the artists' work.

Living rurally there's little opportunity for live music and theatre, so this would be a big lack.

Disappointment

Massive difference - we would have to travel miles to Dumfries, Newton Stewart, Castle-Douglas and beyond to access such quality programmes.

It would mean less likelihood of me attending live music performances.

APPENDIX 2: THE IMPACT IF WE WERE TO STOP

If CatStrand could no longer run an Arts Programme due to lack of funding, what difference would it make to you?

I would be upset and have to travel a long way to get an equivalent fix
Heart breaking for my nieces who just moved up here and haven't been part of any groups before .such a shame if can't continue gets the kids out doing stuff.

My son wouldn't be able to do so much. He has had many unique opportunities since being involved in the Young Creatives programme. The Catstrand is able to offer an experience for him that he couldn't even get when we lived in Kent, we are so lucky to live so close.

I would miss the opportunity for nights out in the local area

Huge! There is very little to do here for children or for adults! It is invaluable to have a place like this here.

It would be a massive cultural loss to the area. Catstrand offers so many opportunities for young creatives (and old creatives) to grow, flourish, and perform.

Reduce the opportunities for my children to benefit from extra curricular activities
"It was be heartbreaking! My Child currently attended music lesson, art classes and drama lessons without I there would be nothing that wouldn't involve me driving for at least an hour each way."

We would not have access to live music, cultural experiences and it has recently been proven live music has a completely different effect on the brain than recorded music, so mental wellbeing would be affected. In addition, smaller intimate venues suit my autistic son far better, so Catstrand is ideL

We'd be absolutely devastated. While the adults would miss things our daughters life would be immeasurably poorer without the Young Creatives. As I said earlier The Young Creatives have provided so much encouragement, new skills, confidence and friendships and it would be incredibly distressing to us as a family and the community if that were no longer available.

There would be far less opportunities for our daughter to engage with the arts.
It would be debating for us, we live in the middle of nowhere the children already have limited access to provision and extra curricular activities if the young creatives a programme wasnt in place there would be nothing for them to do especially as they get to teenage years, they need to be engaged in the activities now so they are inspired for when they become teenagers without things to do who know what mischief they would get up to!
Not too much because we live in Perth but would hate to see nothing much happening at the Catstrand

I'd be devastated if the arts programme for theatre was cut. As a playwright I'm so cut off from quality theatre. As an older audience member music and theatre are vital to my mental health and well being.

APPENDIX 2: THE IMPACT IF WE WERE TO STOP

If CatStrand could no longer run an Arts Programme due to lack of funding, what difference would it make to you?

Would miss the variety and quality of exhibitions and performers. Always a nice space to browse.
It would certainly be a loss to my social life and outlook.
I don't think I'd find such high quality and music and such interesting innovative programming elsewhere.

It would be a tragic loss not just to me, but friends that I know who visit the centre.
In terms of musical appreciation, I'd be the poorer for it. It would be very unlikely that I'd travel to venues much further afield - not out of the question, but unlikely - it would mean an overnight stay, which wouldn't normally suit.

One of the reasons for moving to the area. A big loss if it closes.

The community would notice the loss and important visitor revenues would fall. Essentially the lights would go out with the loss of a significant cultural asset being replaced by bleakness within the wider community

It would be a major disappointment and a tremendous loss to the cultural fabric of the area.
Quite simply, losing the Arts Programme cannot be allowed to happen!
It would mean the end of any availability of Arts programme events. A huge loss both personally & to the community.

Would really miss having somewhere close at hand to visit and in such a lovely location. I can't think of

It would remove valuable cultural events from our rural area.

As a holiday visitor, I would just be disappointed at the loss of a very pleasant facility.

Would miss it greatly

Would limit opportunities for local events

"My life would shrink. I would become isolated. It would lead me to consider living elsewhere. In my youth it was possible to travel to cities with relative ease, or participate in creating our own events, but in my retirement the

Arts programme at Catstrand provides a vital sustenance."

I would miss the opportunity to hear live music from a diverse range of performers. We are fortunate in having a venue and organisation that can attract such musicians. If Catstrand could no longer run the Arts Programme there is not an alternative venue.

Shortage of diversity of arts, cultural and other audience community offers.
I would lose the opportunity to see & hear theatre & music events in a small community-based venue accessible from my home

APPENDIX 2: THE IMPACT IF WE WERE TO STOP

If CatStrand could no longer run an Arts Programme due to lack of funding, what difference would it make to you?

Would miss an excellent venue for live music.

It wouldn't not make a huge difference to me personally, but I know it would make a massive difference to folk living in the communities around it and beyond, i.e. Dalbeattie, Castle Douglas etc. I think The CatStrand is great and holds loads of different kinds of events to cater to many different folk's tastes. It should not be lost.
It would be horrific

It would take away part of my feeling of connection with the area. When I made the decision to move to the Glenkens from Kirkcudbright over 10 years ago, the existence of CatStrand as a local arts venue was an important consideration.

Yes, sadly I might not attend Catstrand

"Life would be much less interesting!

The Arts Programme brings events to look forward to and enjoy. Living in a rural area means we are far from arts venues. The Cat Strand has brought some very good quality events which improve the quality of life here enormously!"

A huge amount of difference - live music and arts are very important to me and we are so lucky to have local access to them.

"Culturally the community would be a
much poorer place. We'd have to travel great distances to find similar quality events, many would have to involve overnight stays. Having such programmes in our rural area makes CatStrand a vital part of our cultural life, offering national and internationally renowned events."

It would make a huge difference to me and my family.

I would miss it greatly

Terrible loss to our rich cultural heritage, loss to the diversity of arts, I wouldn't see friends and wouldn't meet new people. It would be disastrous for the Community and Glenkens
"The Catstrand Arts programme keeps everyone in the area in touch with the arts and gives young people a chance to be introduced to the arts which has often given them a chance to have a career in the arts or a real interest.

No arts programme would mean a huge gap within my life and that of many people. I remember going to a dance show one night and an a group from Afghanistan the next."
I would have access to great musicians.

It would leave a significant cultural gap, especially for me in the jazz and folk idiom
"Having lived in New Galloway 1980-1991 I still visit and have friends there. Catstrand has been such a major cultural force providing various events etc. It is vital that it survives."
Significant reduction in cultural experiences……..

APPENDIX 2: THE IMPACT IF WE WERE TO STOP

If CatStrand could no longer run an Arts Programme due to lack of funding, what difference would it make to you?

There would be a great hole in my life in Dumfries and Galloway. It would mean travelling to Glasgow or Edinburgh to enjoy live arts, and consequently mean that I experienced far fewer cultural events.

A huge difference. There would not be a comparative venue within travelling distance putting on the events that attract me to Catstrand.

A rural area needs an art centre to give a glimpse of the wider world both for education and entertainment.

"It would leave a huge empty hole in our finer part of life.

There is nothing like it anywhere around."

We are a long way from big cultural centres. We would feel the lack of good drama and music

My social life would be seriously depleted.

Quite a bit, I would miss it as part of my regular attendance at arts events. Disappointing

It would make a huge difference to me. There is so little opportunity to engage with quality professional work across Dumfries and Galloway. The Catstand provides a very good range of opportunities to engage with the performing arts. It would be awful if the board of trustees chose not to allocate funding for this excellent arts programme.

I would be very disappointed

I would not be ale to attend due to transport problems

Little to us, but clear from a recent packed house it is very important to locals.

Would have the choice of seeing no more such events OR less frequent viewings at remote venues

A major impact on me being here.

would be a pity

"A huge difference because there are very few venues in the area, especially for high quality folk music. It is such a beautiful venue, a very friendly atmosphere and providing a meeting point for the area.

It is also really important to give newer performers that might be less known a platform and this can only happen with funding."

APPENDIX 2: THE IMPACT IF WE WERE TO STOP

If CatStrand could no longer run an Arts Programme due to lack of funding, what difference would it make to you?

It would impact on our child as he attends Art Explorers, we do not attend evening events as we have a young child.

It would have a huge impact on the development of my daughter if the arts programme was impacted by lack of funding. Every child and young person should have access to the arts. The lack of opportunity is already present in schools, if we can't offer it locally in CatStrand then what/where do we go? Access to the arts is crucial in the development of young minds.

END