

Lichfield
Arts

FUSE festival

BEYOND THE ORDINARY

2026 IMPACT





Overview

Fuse Festival 2026, the 26th edition of Lichfield Arts' flagship event, brought three days of free live music, arts and community activity to Beacon Park in July.

Delivered by Lichfield Arts, an independent local arts charity with a 50-year history, Fuse is a significant part of the cultural life of Lichfield. It provides high-quality experiences for audiences, opportunities for artists and emerging talent, and a welcoming space for the community, regardless of ability to pay.

The 2026 festival was delivered against a challenging backdrop, including prolonged extreme hot weather, England's Football World Cup match on Saturday evening, rising event costs and a difficult funding environment. Despite these pressures, Lichfield Arts remained committed to protecting Fuse as a free event and maintaining the quality and accessibility of the programme.

The festival also demonstrated the importance of strong partnerships in sustaining free cultural provision. Support from sponsors, partners and funders helps Lichfield Arts to invest in the programme, support artists and volunteers, and remove financial barriers to participation. This report sets out the reach and impact of Fuse 2026, highlighting what was achieved for audiences, artists and the wider community, and the contribution made by our sponsors, partners and funders in making the festival possible.

2026 Reach

15,300 VISITORS

151,917 WEBPAGE VIEWS

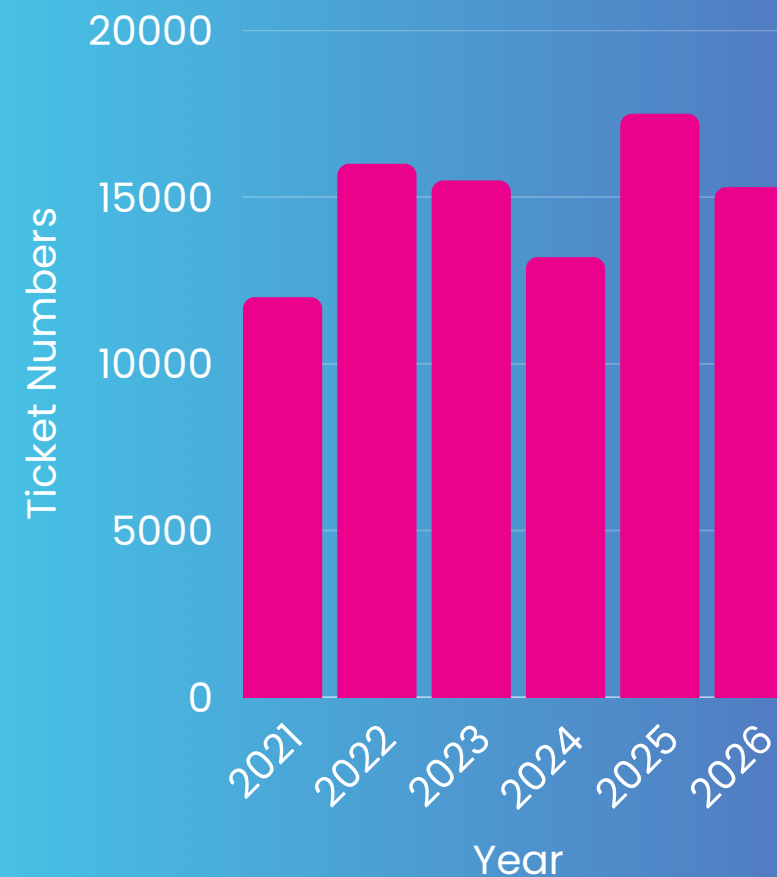
Child Ticket U18
31.7%

Adult Ticket
68.3%

**9,288 EMAIL
SUBSCRIBERS**

7,787 FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

3,436 INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS



Feedback

A festival run with so much passion and care. Genuinely one of the best festival experiences we've ever had, the stage team was awesome. This festival deserves to be protected at all costs.

I really loved being part of Team Fuse. I'm proud to have played a small part in making the festival happen.

We feel so lucky to have this on our doorstep. Thank you for making it free and accessible.

Another brilliant weekend. Had such a brilliant time. You've made it impossible to miss! Thanks to everyone who made it possible!

Absolutely loved it!! Amazing music, special times, and all free, so accessible to all. Fantastic work by all the volunteers and organisers

Thanks for giving the young bands the most amazing experience. The crowd was fantastic ...what an atmosphere! All the volunteers were superb and the backstage u18 VIP area was great! Thank you

Volunteering at Fuse has been one of the best things I've done. I've learned loads of new skills and felt part of something special. It's given me confidence I didn't know I had.

Amazing that something this good is completely free, We couldn't afford a weekend like this anywhere else.

Brilliant weekend, giving our Youth reps the opportunity to volunteer with us, local bands the opportunity to perform on stage, opportunities behind the scenes in the music production. Big Thank you from all of us for providing the arena to make this possible



Impact

289 performers

31 Emerging Talent artists supported

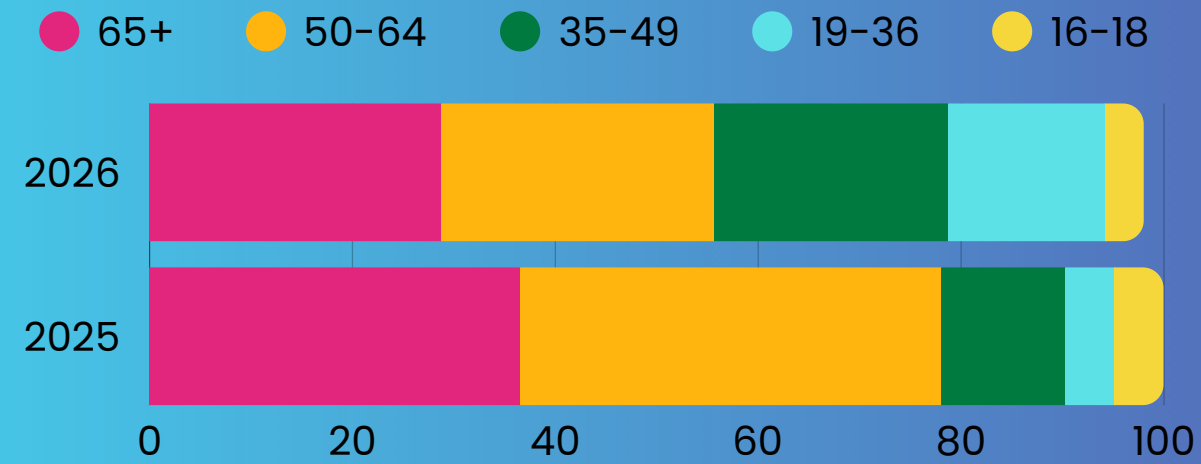
37 hours of free live music

115 free activities

**1500+ volunteer hours given
over the weekend**

130 volunteers

VOLUNTEER AGE RANGE



**92%
AUDIENCE
ENJOYMENT
SCORE**

Local Impact

100% of our infrastructure & tech service suppliers were based within 25 miles of Lichfield

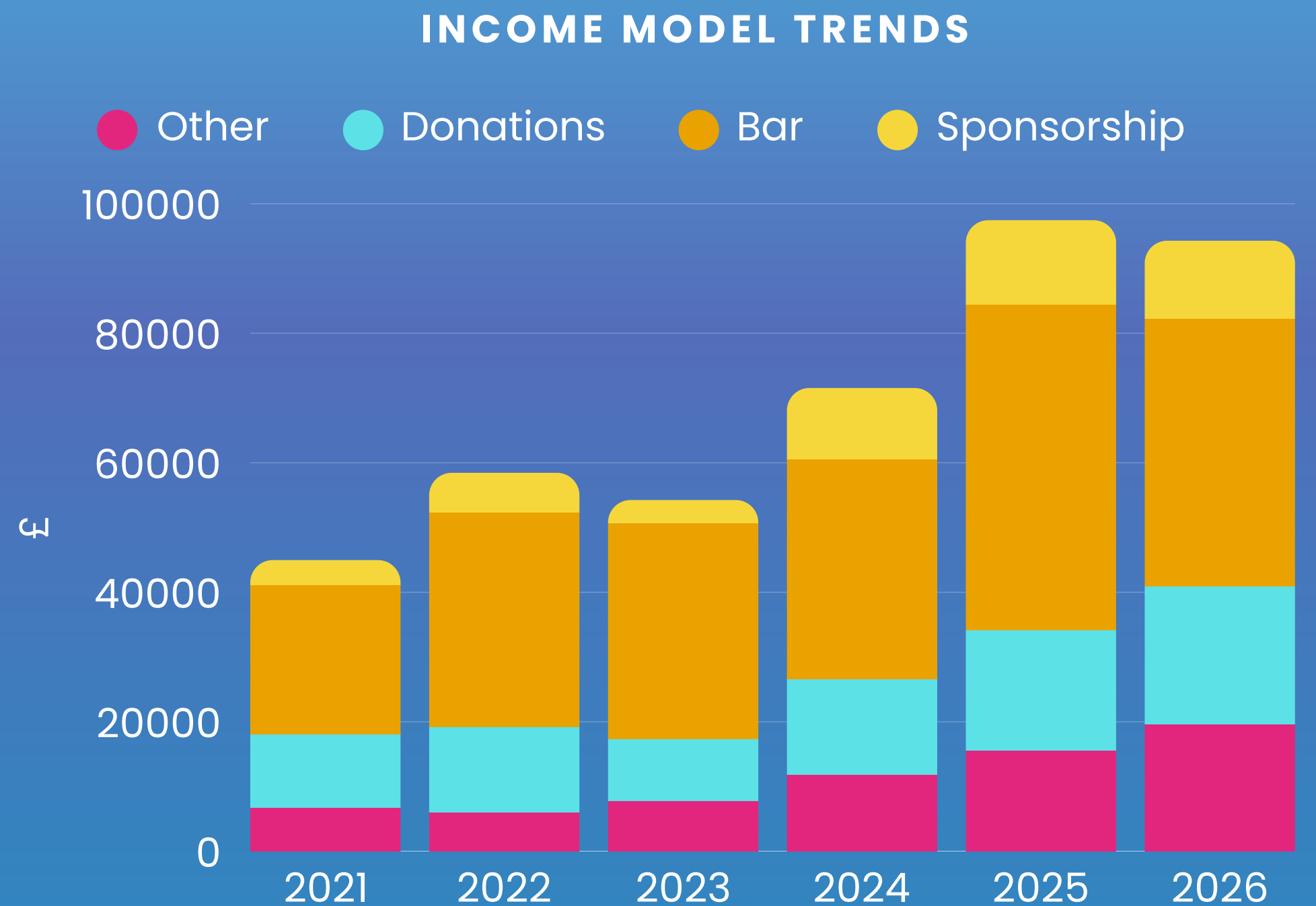
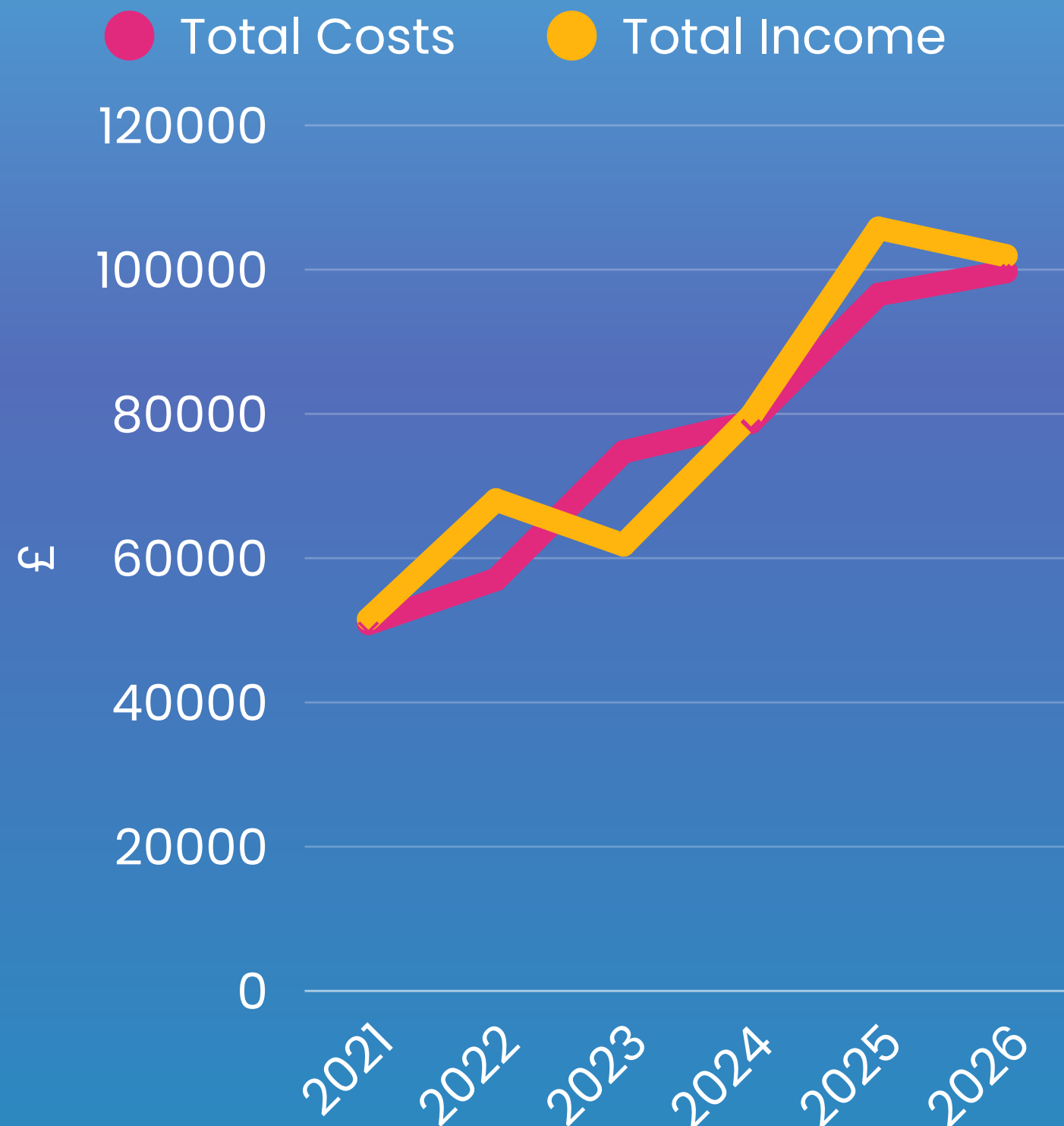
100% of our food traders were based within 25 miles of Lichfield

80% of our non food traders were based within 25 miles of Lichfield

More than **30** local organisations and charities partnered with us

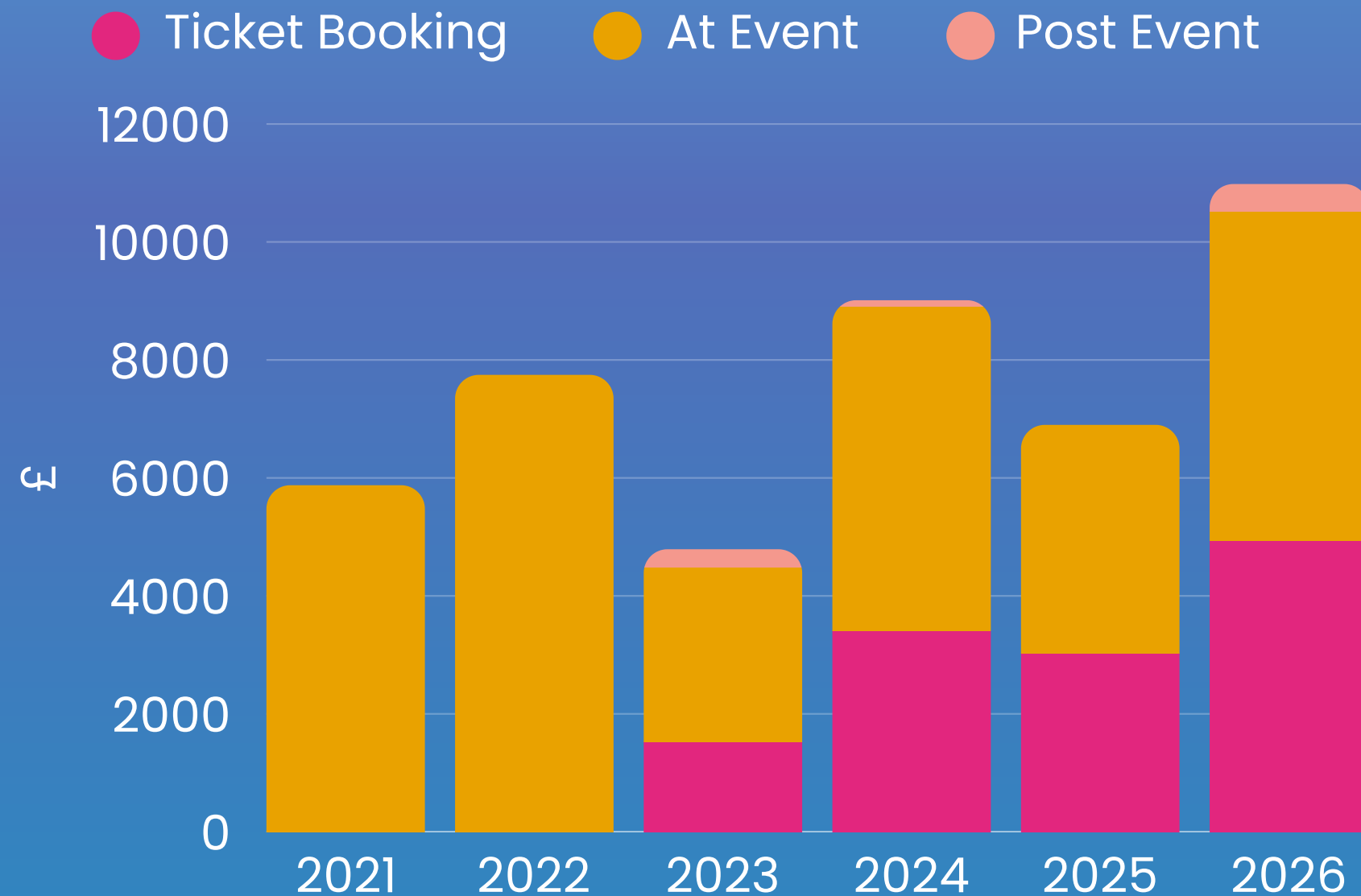


Financial Trends

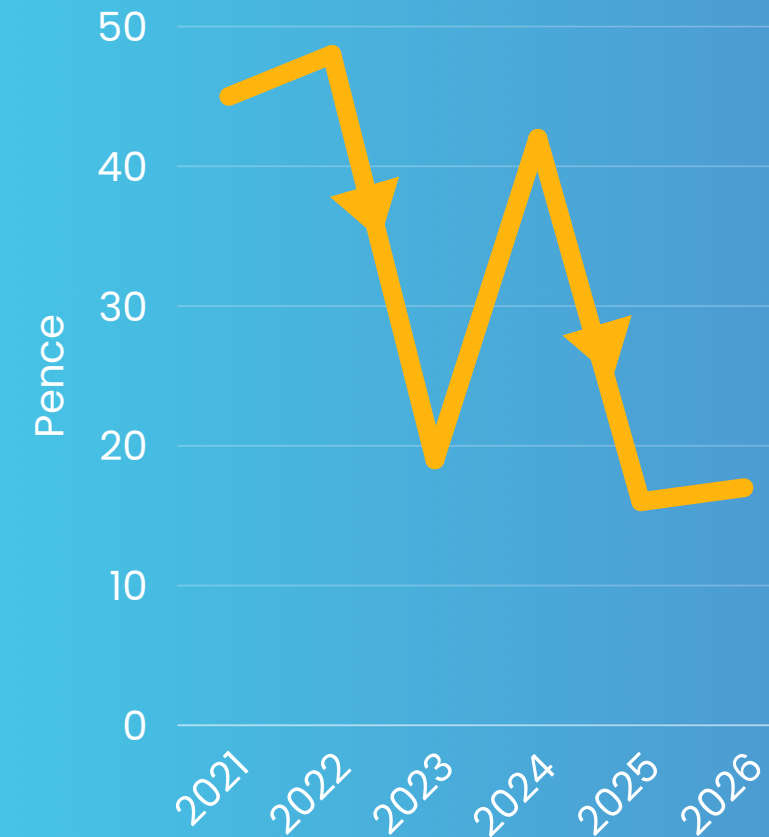


Financial Trends

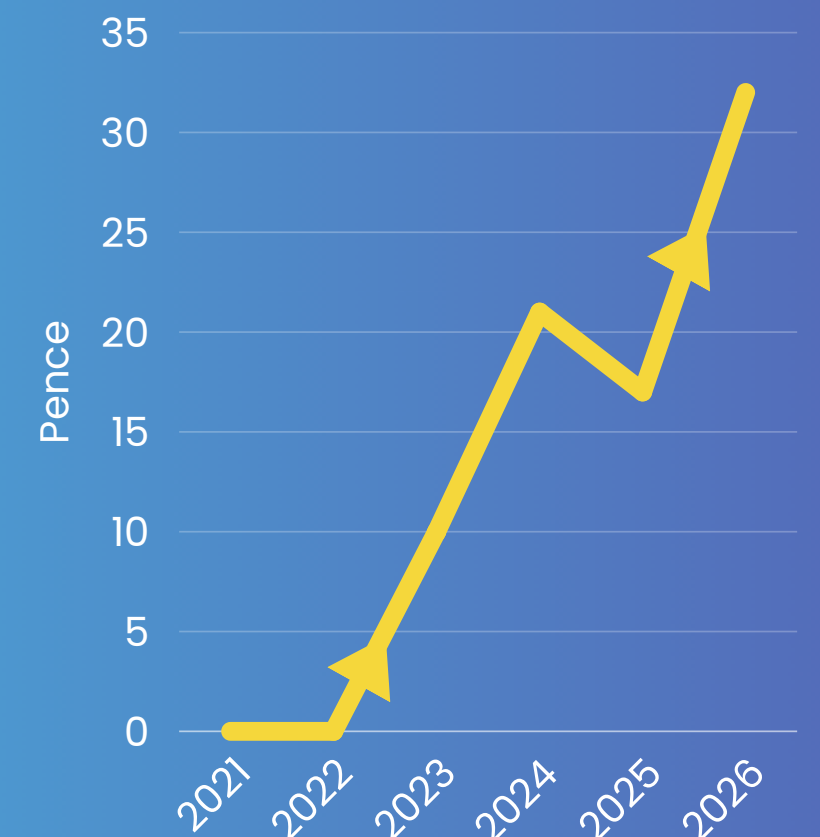
PUBLIC DONATION TRENDS



AVERAGE ON SITE DONATION



AVERAGE TICKET BOOKING DONATION





Thank You

To our sponsors, funders and donors:

Thank you for investing in a free festival that welcomes everyone. Your support helps Lichfield Arts continue to provide high-quality arts and music experiences, support artists and emerging talent, create opportunities for volunteers, and remove financial barriers to participation.

To our partners and supporters:

Thank you for sharing your expertise, resources, time and enthusiasm. Fuse is a genuinely collaborative festival, and the contribution of local organisations, businesses, community groups and individuals is a huge part of what makes it possible.

And to everyone who believes Fuse should be here:

Thank you.

We'd love you to be part of its future. If you'd like to explore sponsorship, funding, partnership or other ways to support Fuse please get in touch.

2026 Sponsors, Donors & Funders

SPONSORS

Headline Sponsor – Davisons Law

Creative Catalyst Sponsor – South Staffordhsire College

Sustainability Partner – Shire House

Spotlight Partner – Lichfield Live & Lichfield Independent, Lichfield Round Table

FUNDERS

Lichfield Conduit Lands, Swinfen Broun Trust, TopCash Back Sustainability Fund, Waitrose Community Matters, Staffordshire Community Foundation, Lichfield District Councillors; Hugh Ashton, Colin Ball, Russ Bragger, Ann Hughes, Leona Leung, Joseph Powell, Janice Silvester-Hall, and Matthew Wallens (also Staffordshire County Councillor); Staffordshire County Councillor Colin Greatorex, Lichfield District Council Event Grant scheme, Arts Council England.

DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Duke of York Lichfield, The Angel Inn, Premier Pub Co, Tesco Extra Lichfield, Tesco Express Lichfield, Lichfield Rotary Club, Jerry Sykes, Iwan Griffiths, Julian Shwarzenbach, Liam Carnell and Charlotte Aspley.

2026 Partners

B:Music, Birmingham Celebrating Sanctuary, Lichfield Society of Artists, Nurture Community CIC, Fun Club Hub, Spark Burntwood, Lichfield Litter Legends, Midlands Open Mic, Ripple Music, Stan Bowley Trust, Lichfield District Council, Lichfield City council, Staffordshire Police (Lichfield).

Liberty Jamboree, Pathway Project, Garrick Theatre, Active Crew, Lichfield Radio, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Three Spires Gaming, Gamechanger Gaming, Kendall & wall Charitable Trust, St Giles Hospice, Andy's Man Club, Lichfield Ladies Circle, Matt Fides Martial Arts and Dance, Voice4Cats, Greyswood Primary Academy, Jack & Jill's Preschool, Fostering Engagement Team Staffordshire County, Kirsty Louise Lockley, Care 2 Dance, Moving Together, Shenstone Library Forest School, Friends of Lichfield City Station, Lichfield Ukranian Group, Saxon Hill School.





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