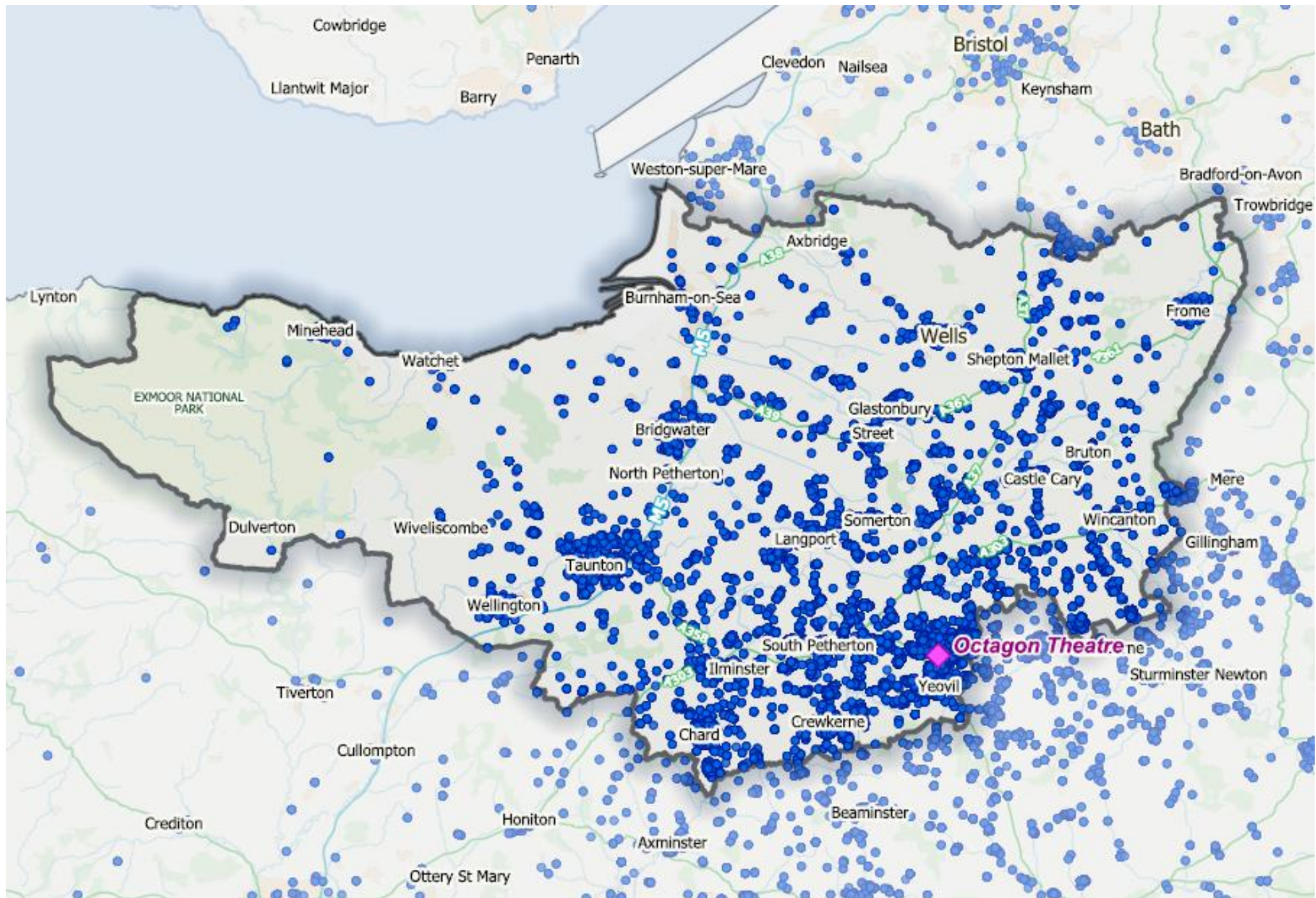


Octagon Theatre's Arts Engagement & Outreach programme

Katherine Beverley, Arts Engagement & Outreach Manager





Our achievements in numbers

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Total number of participation classes/workshops/sessions	982	1,291	1,536
Total number of shows & events	18	20	28
Total number of participants	6,159	10,693	16,221
Total number of participations	12,699	22,259	34,468
Total number of practitioners/facilitators	121	160	196
Total number of employment hours	None recorded	3,606	4454
Total number of voluntary hours	282	501	896

Participation

- **Over 7,300 people** aged from just 3 months to 90 years took part in activities, classes and workshops at our venue and across the county.
- **22 weekly participation classes** for all ages and abilities, resulting in **1,095 employment hours** for local teachers.
- Over **6,500 children, young people and families** attended our free Summer and Winter **PlayDays** held in Yeovil, Wincanton, Langport and Chard.



Arts for Health & Wellbeing

- **Parkinson's Dance** *in Langport*
- **Movement Through Cancer** *in Yeovil*
- **Time Together** *in Wincanton*
- **Somerset Wellbeing Orchestra** *in Chard*
- **Memory Choir** *in Yeovil*



Creative Learning & Education

- **93 primary & secondary schools**
- Delivering dance, theatre and music with **Wise Children, Motionhouse Dance** and **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO)**.
- **800 students** took part in workshops with inspirational performers and musicians.
- **2,171 students** watched live professional performances.
- **50 teachers** benefitted from CPD training



Talent & Career Development

- **Creative Careers Event @ WEV: 120 secondary school students**, got to have a go at lighting, sound and stage management, and be producers, directors and performers for the day.
- **Careers Talks: Over 1,000 students aged 8–25**, learnt about different jobs in the Creative Industries.
- **Work Experience: 27 students** got hands-on experience and insight into running a busy receiving and producing venue.
- **3 apprenticeships:** Marketing, Technical and Catering teams.
- **1 internship** in partnership with Exeter University
- **Paid work experience** to 3 local emerging facilitators.



Artist Support

- **200 hours of Free Studio Space** for artists to create, rehearse and develop new work.
- **1:1 mentoring** support for **44 artists**.
- **20 Piano Nights & Acoustic Afternoon** sessions giving a platform to **13 local musicians** to perform live to over **770 audience members**.
- **8 Creative Commissions** awarded to local artists.
- **21 Artists Blogs and Vlogs**.



Access & Inclusion

- **Over 1,200 tickets at £3** to low-income customers across 60 performances.
- **20 participants supported** to attend weekly participation classes through our SHiNE Bursary Fund.
- **Free buddy support** offered to anyone who feels unable to attend shows and events on their own.
- **17 schools supported with travel costs** to enable over **1,890 students** to experience the magic of theatre.
- **Improving access** by actively listening to disabled, D/deaf, and neurodivergent people about barriers they face.



Productions & Events

- **Outdoor Public Performances** – across Somerset. Over **26,000 people** watching live performances where they live.
- **Relaxed Wellbeing Productions** – e.g. BSO dementia-friendly Cake Concert
- **Community Productions** – Over **500 performers** of all ages and abilities taking to our regional stage to perform in our community productions.
- **Positive economic impact** in locations where events and productions were staged.



How we are funded...

Arts Organisation – managed & funded by the Local Authority

- Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Organisation (NPO)
- Somerset Council – discretionary service
- Town & Parish Councils
- Trusts & Foundations
- Earned Income
- Donations & Sponsorship

