

Shop Front Theatre

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I've had so many lovely times at the Shop Front Theatre, and met so many amazing people – obviously Julia and Chris included. Sometimes some of the events were actually theatre productions, but all of them were inspirational. It really was a space that had the community right at the heart of it. Holding events such as the Earlsdon WI's pop up shops brought a whole new crowd of people into the theatre space, that might not have known about it previously.

The WI's committee, including the amazing Charlotte Reed, no longer with us, approached Theatre Absolute with the idea to hold a pop-up event – and her enthusiasm for it was just incredible. They even organised the amazing posters to be produced, one of which is still framed and displayed in my home.

We met to plan and decorate the space, with hundreds visiting the venue on the day of the sale. I remember standing outside with Julia, literally dragging people off the street – and none of them seemed to object. As well as just being a sale we had a talk from Coventry artist Stuart Easton and invited a local publishing house to take part. A second Christmas sale was also a roaring success.

You always knew an event at the Shop Front Theatre was where the interesting and talented people were going to be. And it will always serve as a reminder of happy times with Charlotte.

I wish Julia and Chris every success with their next ventures.

Vanessa Pearce