

# Arts Link

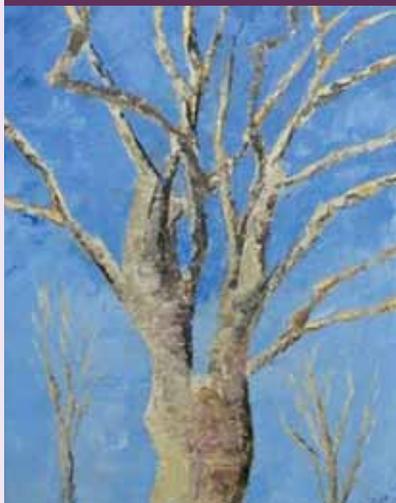


**Annual Review  
2013 - 14**

# ArtsLink

**ArtsLink** provides high quality courses, classes, trips and events for the whole community in Sherborne and the surrounding area. Our work is about learning, but also about activity, engagement and interaction - vital ingredients in **enhancing well being, community cohesion and quality of life.**

ArtsLink's work embraces two areas - core activities for a general adult audience, and the Big Lottery funded TakeArt programme for children, young people and families. Core activities reached 2668 people in 2013-14, and TakeArt 1821.



## Courses and classes

During the year, ArtsLink's courses and day classes were attended by 614 people, 80 more than the previous year. Continuing classes such as life drawing, the Sherborne Carollers and pastels were complemented by new subjects including wood carving, indigo dyeing and Getting to Grips with your iPad.

New tutors continue to add their experience and professionalism to the programme. Additional subjects planned for the future include linocut printing, classical music in England on the eve of the first world war and playing the ukulele.





## **ArtsLink Trips**

By providing door to door transport to concerts and exhibitions, ArtsLink makes it possible for everyone to access and enjoy events in Dorset and beyond.

Music and opera enthusiasts were delighted by two concerts by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in Poole, the Welsh National Opera's Tosca and Manon Lescaut at the Bristol Hippodrome.

Three popular trips took a total of 46 people to see *Relatively Speaking* at the Theatre Royal in Bath, *Newton House* near Yeovil, and *Kemp's Jig* at the Marine Theatre in Lyme Regis.

## **Overseas Study Tours**

A sold out trip to Venice, guided by a native Venetian and masterminded by Julian Halsby, enabled participants to access parts of this glorious city not usually visited by the public. The tour was hugely well received and raised over £1200 for ArtsLink's funds.

## **Sherborne Flicks**

Over the year, the monthly ArtsLink Flicks, held in partnership with Moviola, attracted an audience of over 1280. *Philomena*, starring Judi Dench sold out completely. Film screenings continue to be both very successful and well attended.

## **Other events**

Art History lectures at the Digby Hall and in partnership with the Eastbury Hotel attracted over 200 people. The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School's annual touring show, an adaptation of *Moonfleet*, was again excellent and much enjoyed by over 130 people.

## **ArtsLink Summer Show**

The annual Summer Show was a delightful opportunity for everyone connected with ArtsLink to demonstrate their creative achievements and this year included *TakepArt's Art in the Garden*, a free creative event for young people and families.



# TakeArt

Through this Big Lottery funded project (2011 – 2016) ArtsLink continues its creative work with the children, young people and families of Sherborne and the surrounding area.

The TakeArt project is actively supported by six Sherborne stakeholder partners:

**The Youth Centre**  
**The Children's Centre**  
**The Learning Centre**

**The Gryphon School**  
**The RendezVous**  
**Centre for Wellbeing**

TakeArt's free creative events reached 1821 people. 896 children and 381 young people took part, with five young people joining our volunteer scheme.

Evaluation from young people aged 10 - 16 after the Youth Centre Focus on Youth activities in August 2013 showed that:

- 86% felt happier
- 86% were more interested in attending arts events
- 83% felt more creative
- 79% felt more self-esteem
- 77% felt more confident
- 67% were more interested in education and training



## What people say about *TakeArt* activities:

*"Thank you all for another super fun filled colourful morning of arts and crafts. I am a childminder and we love coming along to buffet mornings. The children love the range of materials in such wonderful colours. Also it's great having such big working table spaces where they can explore so many textures and spread everything out!"*

Adult attending an Arts Buffet

*"This is so much fun it should be called the Heart Buffet."*

8 year old attending an Arts Buffet

*"I was really pleased with the workshop Nina delivered yesterday. Her approach, both in terms of the way she worked with the young people and also the artistic content of the session were excellent. The session achieved a great deal and really had an impact on some of the young people taking part, enabling them to open up during one-to-one sessions with youth centre staff."*

Youth Centre Manager regarding a Kaleidoscope group art session.

*"A life changing experience"*

14 year old participant - Summer Theatre School 2013



## Sherborne ArtsLink Ltd

is a registered charity (number 1007680) and a company limited by guarantee (number 2471382).

ArtsLink is governed by its Council of Management, chaired by Julian Halsby. The day to day running of the charity is delegated to its three part time staff members:

**Helen Chaloner** Director  
**Jennie Loader** TakeArt Community Arts Co-ordinator  
**Helen Priest** ArtsLink Co-ordinator  
who are in turn supported by a team of highly valued volunteers.

ArtsLink receives funding from West Dorset District Council to deliver arts education under a Service Level Agreement.

*If you are interested in finding out more, please do get in touch  
- we'd love to hear from you!*



Thanks to ArtsLink's tutors and participants for the images used in this brochure. Thanks also to our generous supporters:



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