



**Annual Review**  
April 2017 - March 2018

# *ArtsLink*

Your link to art and culture

### Our Vision

Enhancing and improving lives through access to the arts and culture for the whole community.

### Our Mission

To deliver a high quality, socially inclusive programme of arts engagement and participation based in Sherborne.

#### During 2017 – 2018 ArtsLink...

- Delivered cultural engagement access through films, stage performances, lectures and trips
- Delivered a programme of arts education and engagement
- Offered participation for children and young people through a programme of summer theatre workshops, holiday art and craft activities and partnership work
- Launched and established ArtsLink Fizz!, an arts wellbeing project supporting targeted groups within the community
- Provided creative participation at town community events

Creative participation continues to be the vehicle through which ArtsLink actively improves lives, celebrates talents, builds skills and enhances future prospects. By linking people to the arts and encouraging community participation we enhance wellbeing, community cohesion and quality of life.

People take part in ArtsLink activities for all sorts of reasons: learning a new skill, improving artistic technique, meeting with old and making new friends, sharing experiences, support in managing health conditions, respite from caring duties, to be part of something, to get out of the house, to achieve a goal, to have fun .....and more.



*Thank you for an excellent and challenging course*

Front cover image: detail of Cottage in the Woods by Suzanne Salisbury. Watercolour and ink

Thanks to our tutors and participants for generously providing images for this review. Copyright remains with the artists.

### Arts Education Programme

Our adult arts education programme delivered 3531 learning sessions which were attended by 456 people who engaged with a variety of subjects including ceramics, stained glass, printmaking, life drawing, acrylic, oils, pastels, watercolour, ink, mixed media, drawing, sculpture and experimental open studios.

### Cultural Trips, Lectures and Performances

To enable access to cultural activities ArtsLink offered:

A performance in Sherborne by the World Famous Players Theatre of London

A lecture titled 'Amadeo Modigliani and Bohemian Paris 1906-1920', which had the added benefit of providing extra depth to those visiting the Modigliani exhibition at Tate Modern, London.

A trip to see the ballet Swan Lake performed by St Petersburg Classical Ballet at The Lighthouse in Poole.

337 people joined us in these cultural activities.



### ArtsLink Flicks

An audience of 1376 people attended our 11 monthly community film screenings. This year the experience was enhanced by a partnership with the Sherborne Lunch Club who provide a pre-film supper, offering a whole evening out package. This has increased the reach of our audience which now includes Sherborne, the wider rural community and other towns with good train links.

*Excellent tutor full of encouragement and help*



*Projects for children, families and young people*

**Take the Lead**

An immersive theatre project during the 2017 school summer holidays for children aged 8–11 years and young people aged between 12 and 18 years. Professional theatre company Action Track Performance Company were engaged to lead and co-ordinate production of two performances, written and created by each group of students and delivered to a community audience. In addition, training and experience was delivered to 2 young people wishing to become Theatre Youth Leaders.

Evaluation of the project demonstrated the benefits to those who participated included: higher levels of self-esteem, increased confidence, more ability to express themselves and development of a greater understanding and interest in art education and the community of which they are part.

**Partner work**

ArtsLink teamed up with both the Sherborne Youth Centre and the Rendezvous Centre to support delivery of creative activities to young people.

At Sherborne Summer Festival 2017 ArtsLink added to the entertainment by providing craft activities and a storyteller



*It was incredible what we managed to achieve in the week, including a music video on top of the songs, dances, script and set design*



**Arts Buffet**

No food, just a huge spread of art materials and ideas for families with children under the age of 12. All who came brought their creative ideas and inspiration with them making many amazing structures, creatures and images. The two events this year, October 2017 and February 2018, saw a total of 548 people being creative together.

*My children's favourite holiday activity*

**ArtsLink Fizz!**

ArtsLink Fizz!, our project funded by the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, was launched on 1st May 2017 to develop ArtsLink's engagement with specific target groups in the community and support health and wellbeing through creative activities. This project has three main strands:



**Parkinson's Dance** - Led by trained specialists this dance class is designed to physically support posture, strength, coordination, balance, creativity and suppleness for those living with Parkinson's.

**Art for Memory** - Social and creative activity sessions for people living with some memory loss, before or after a diagnosis.

**Art for Parents** - This group offers a chance to be creative, learn new art skills and meet new people. A supportive, child free environment, provides time for just parents, with permission to play and explore art and craft ideas which can be shared with their children or developed at home.

Each of these groups include a social element offering hot drinks, biscuits or cakes and a friendly environment.

Parkinson's Dance has been delivered weekly all year, with regular attendances of 20 people – in total 30 people with Parkinson's (aged 56-88 years) and 16 carers have benefitted, supported by 2 specialist dance tutors and 8 volunteers.

Arts for Memory and Art for Parents will be launched in April 2018, and the first of an annual community celebration event 'Celebrating the Arts' will take place in June 2018.

During it's first year the project has developed strong partnerships within the local community.

*The encouragement it gives me...helps me forget what is going on*



ArtsLink is moving into a challenging time, during which we will use our knowledge and energy to provide a vibrant and positive future.

### Our plans:

Develop our programme of subsidised courses and classes, responding to the evolving needs and interests of participants, stakeholders and the community.

Develop the means to raise revenue through new income streams including a new fundraising strategy.

Continue to seek suitable premises that allow us to deliver quality and inspirational creative activities.

Focus on bringing a wider range of performance and cultural events to Sherborne, replacing trips.

Continue to offer children and young people's activities and develop specific projects where grant/additional funding is available to support.

Support community events, increase partnership work and strengthen our presence in the community for the benefit of all.



### Who is on the ArtsLink team?

ArtsLink is governed by a Council of Management (the Board of Trustees) with development, control and management of activities delegated to two Co-Directors and staff.

### Board of Trustees

Colin Lloyd	Chair
Mike Balfour	Vice Chair/Big Lottery Projects/Staff relations
David Lyscom	Treasurer – Risk Management
Gillian Hornby	Member – Flicks, theatre/concert advisor
Mary Jacobsen	Member – Study Trips and Lectures
Julian Halsby	Member – Cultural Trips and Lectures (retired September 2017)
Mary Strover	Member – Staff Management/Complaints
Sarah Tait	Member – PR and Press

Council of Management meetings are also attended by a representative from both Sherborne Town Council and West Dorset District Council.

### Staff

Jennie Loader	Co-Director
Helen Priest	Co-Director
Kate Osman	ArtsLink Fizz! Project Manager

*Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of ArtsLink this year*

### Grants and Donations

£23,642 West Dorset District Council. Annual funding to enable Artslink's Service Level Agreement to deliver arts education in Sherborne and the surrounding area. This funding will cease in March 2019.

£298,326 over 4 years (1 May 2017 – 30 April 2021) restricted to the delivery of our wellbeing project ArtsLink Fizz!. From the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund.

£2,402 Grants specifically for the delivery of the Take the Lead project Summer 2017. From Rotary Community Fund, West Dorset District Council, Sherborne Town Council and The Arts Society Sherborne.

Donations were gratefully received from: Leigh Art Show, Sherborne Art Club, Sherborne Summer Festival, Individuals and many others who put money into our collection boxes.

## Volunteers – a vital part of our team

Through a volunteer scheme ArtsLink offers opportunities to people of all ages to gain confidence, learn new skills and have an enjoyable experience, whilst supporting our programme of events and activities. Volunteers support the operation and delivery of the monthly Flicks, assist in routine office tasks, support youth activities and ArtsLink Fizz! sessions. A total of 45 volunteers joined us this year offering over 980 hours of support.

## Our Friends

The Friends of ArtsLink support us by making an annual donation of £20 per individual friend or £35 joint friendship. In return we offer discounts on activities, advanced booking, a copy of our printed programme and discounts at retail outlets in the area.

Your Friendship really makes a difference – thank you!

## Partners and Supporters



**DorchesterARTS**



Plus  
Sherborne Lunch Club • Friends & Individuals



## Grants, sponsorship and donations are vital

As a non-profit making charity grants, sponsorship and donations are vital to us – without them we could not offer you creative opportunities. Thank you to all individuals, groups and organisations who partnered, supported and helped us during this year – we hope you will continue to support us in leading community art provision into the future.

Sherborne ArtsLink

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