



ArtsLink

Your link to art and culture

Annual Review
April 2016 - March 2017

Creativity for All

During the year 2016 – 2017 our work was focused across the community:

- **Cultural engagement and art education for an adult audience**
- **Participation for children and young people through the Big Lottery funded TakeArt programme**
- **New wellbeing projects delivered to specific target groups.**

ArtsLink knows that participation in creative activity brings great benefit to both individuals and communities. Research has shown that taking part generates improvements in personal wellbeing, enhances self-esteem, increases self-confidence and generates a sense of community and belonging.

The class is encouraging, informative, it is a joy to be here

Front cover image courtesy of Jane Bryne, artist, author and ArtsLink tutor.

Creative participation is the vehicle by which we can improve lives, celebrate talents, build skills and enhance 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, socialising, 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 many more.



Arts Education Programme

During the year our arts educational programme was attended by 436 people of which 376 were on a weekly basis for 3 terms. Subjects delivered included painting in a variety of mediums, portraits and life drawing; applied art workshops in stained glass, woodcarving, fused glass, pottery and etching; plus experimental open studios for artists wishing to explore and develop their own practice further.

Cultural Trips and Lectures

To enable people to access and enjoy events in Dorset and beyond ArtsLink offered trips to Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in Poole and the 'Hockney' exhibition at Tate Britain London.

A lecture was offered in the spring linking to a local garden heritage site. 94 people joined us in these cultural activities.

It really helps me get out the house and meet such great like-minded people

Exhibition

ArtsLink staged its Summer Show 2016 on the last weekend of June. This show provided an opportunity to showcase the talents and work produced by all those involved with ArtsLink – students, volunteers, tutors, children, young people and staff. Over 100 pieces of visual art were displayed and a children's art workshop, plus a performance by the TakeArt Drama Club were enjoyed. This event is an important way to celebrate the achievements of all those in the ArtsLink family and disseminate Artslink's work to the wider community.

I can't believe how proud it made me seeing my work on display; I never thought I could do that

ArtsLink Flicks

Our monthly film screening continued to be popular this year with a total audience of 1458 drawn from Sherborne and the wider rural community, viewing eleven shows in total. At the December showing of Absolutely Fabulous we had a party theme with the audience invited to dress up and enjoy bubbly to drink with a wonderful Christmas hamper donated by a local business as a raffle prize.



TakeArt

For children, young people, families

This year saw the conclusion of our successful TakeArt Project. A £365K grant from the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund enabled us to deliver this youth orientated project for five years from July 2011 to September 2016.

815 separate creative activities took place and all the targets set for the project were exceeded with total participation of:

- 4793 children
- 1354 young people
- 24 young people volunteering
- 2 paid internships leading to employment
- Many adults as part of family sessions

This was truly a community project and we could not have delivered it without engagement and support from many individuals, clubs and organisations including the: Youth Centre, Learning Centre, Children's Centre, Sherborne Centre for Wellbeing, Rendezvous, Community Development at Gryphon School and local primary schools.

The legacy from the TakeArt project includes:

Continued children's clubs – The Drama Club, Story Club and Creative Explorers

Changes for individuals brought increased confidence, improved coping strategies, new friendships, greater personal ambition and a sense of being part of the community.

Employability increased for youth volunteers and interns

Partnerships between organisations in town improving community cohesion and support

Family bonds have been strengthened through listening, sharing ideas and working together

The Art Cabin building and the Sherborne Mural are permanent physical legacies for all to enjoy

Artslink will continue to deliver the popular Arts Buffet and a programme of summer theatre schools

A separate and full TakeArt report, along with a full colour Project Review is available upon request.

I started off quite timid and shy and I feel TakeArt has helped me grow in confidence in day to day life



Parkinson's Dance

In April 2016 we launched a new partnership with Pavilion Dance South West, teaming up to deliver weekly Parkinson's Dance sessions – 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.

Before coming to dance I couldn't stand, but now I can and find standing and walking easier

During 2015-2016 ArtsLink researched, developed, wrote and submitted a new bid to the Big Lottery Reaching Community Fund. We heard in February 2017 that our bid was successful with an award of £298K to deliver a new art, health and wellbeing project for four years. **ArtsLink Fizz!** was born!

With a start date of 1 May 2017 the project works with three targeted groups in the Sherborne area to reduce identified barriers, help them manage their conditions and improve their lives and prospects.

The groups are:

- People living with Parkinson's who will be supported by continued Parkinson's Dance sessions
- Those experiencing mild to moderate memory loss who will be offered weekly cognitive stimulation sessions via creative activities
- Parents experiencing additional challenges who will join weekly art and craft sessions to improve skills, self-confidence and reduce isolation.

Art for Parents

This group was supported through our TakeArt project until September 2016. Recognising the huge support it provided to those taking part ArtsLink decided to use its own funds to ensure the group could continue, supporting the group to work towards independence or the point at which it had fulfilled its need.



ArtsLink is looking forward to a vibrant and worthwhile future.

We will:

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

Increase partnership work for the benefit of the community.

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

Offer further lecture, film, theatre, exhibition and cultural trip opportunities.

Continue to offer accessible activities for the whole community.

Support community events and strengthen our presence in the community.

Investigate and apply for new sources of funding to support specific projects and the charity as a whole.



During this challenging time for the voluntary sector, we will work tirelessly to offer continued creative support

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
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

Helen Chaloner	Director, retired September 2016
Jennie Loader	TakeArt Project/Co-Director from October 2016
Helen Priest	ArtsLink Co-Ordinator/Co-Director from October 2016
Rea Lilywhite	Intern May – September 2016

Finance

ArtsLink's total turnover for 2016-2017 was £114,755

Main grants received:

West Dorset District Council	£23,642
Big Lottery (TakeArt)	£29,305

Other income came from activity fees, Friends subscriptions and fundraising events.

Full account details are available from our office, via Companies House or the Charity Commission.

Registered Charity No 1007680 Company No 2471382

A huge thank you to all who have helped Artslink this year

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!

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.



DorchesterARTS



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, Parkinson's Dance sessions, lectures, special events and other creative engagement activities.

Sherborne ArtsLink

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