

# Arts Link



**Annual Review  
2015 - 16**

# 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 social 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. In 2015-16, 2,758 people participated in core activities and 1,718 in the TakeArt programme.



# ArtsLink

## Courses and classes

During the year, ArtsLink's courses and day classes were attended by 475 people in 2015-16. Subjects included anodised aluminium jewellery, sculpture from found objects, linocut printing, stained glass, as well as drawing and painting in different media.

## Trips

ArtsLink provides transport to concerts, operas and exhibitions, enabling everyone to access and enjoy events in Dorset and beyond. 102 people enjoyed this year's trips including Don Giovanni (ETO), BSO in Poole, the Escher and Painting the Modern Garden exhibitions in London and a visit to the new Hauser & Wirth Gallery in Bruton.

## ArtsLink Flicks

The monthly ArtsLink Flicks, held in partnership with Moviola, attracted another best ever annual audience of 1,778. Three sold-out showings included *The Imitation Game*, *Testament of Youth* and *Far from the Madding Crowd*.

## Lectures

183 people attended Julian Halsby's outstanding lecture *Painting the Modern Garden*, which tied in with the Royal Academy's London exhibition.

## ArtsLink Summer Show

The fourth Summer Show was again a well-attended showcase for creativity in Sherborne, with over a hundred entries and many delighted visitors.

## Awards

Artslink was delighted to be a finalist for the Western Gazette 2015: *Pride Awards* for our contribution to the arts and *Love Sherborne Awards* for our involvement in the Sherborne Mural project



# TakepArt

This Big Lottery funded project (2011-2016) enables ArtsLink to continue its creative work with children, young people and families in Sherborne and the surrounding area.

The TakepArt project is actively supported by many organisations and groups within Sherborne and has stakeholder partner agreements with:

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

**The Gryphon School**  
**The RendezVous**  
**Four Leaf Clover Club**

In 2015-16, TakepArt's free creative events reached 1,718 people. 1,025 children, 167 young people plus 526 adults took part.

As well as regular weekly creative clubs and one off events through the year, TakepArt organised a vibrant summer holiday programme. This included a week long *Theatre Summer School* where 31 young people worked with Actiontrack Performance Company to improvise, devise, rehearse and then perform an unique show. Post event evaluation showed that as a result of taking part all the students felt:

- more confident •
- more ambitious for themselves •
- better able to express themselves •
  - part of the community •
- increased interest in education and training •
  - happier •



A new TakepArt initiative this year is an *Art for Parents* group. Weekly art and craft sessions support parents of primary school age children experiencing challenges such as mental health problems, loneliness, relationship problems and children with additional needs. *Art for Parents* has evidenced positive change for participants; ArtsLink has identified this project as a model to continue and develop into the future.

A paid 6 month Internship from March to September 2015 led to Adam successfully securing permanent employment with a local school the day after he left us! Nine young people joined our volunteer scheme and gained valuable experience, whilst enhancing their CV's.



# The Sherborne Mural

One of the highlights of the year was the completion of the Sherborne Mural, which was unveiled and gifted to the town on Friday 12 June 2015. Sited in the centre of the town, the mural depicts the history of Sherborne from the 700's to the present day in dramatic, colourful images.

**TakeArt** both provided funding for, and played a major practical role in, the creation of this large scale piece of public art. We supported this community project by joining the steering committee, hosting public painting sessions and funding street artist Peter Sheridan to support the project through to a professional completion.

This ambitious project offered local people an opportunity to help produce a quality piece of art work which enhances Sherborne for locals and tourists alike. Designed locally and painted by the local community, the Sherborne Mural mural both enhances the town and supports its economy.



## The Future

ArtsLink is looking forward and planning for a vibrant future:

TakepArt funding from the Big Lottery will continue until the end of September 2016. Beyond this date ArtsLink is committed to continue offering creative opportunities for the younger members of our community, starting with our ever popular Arts Buffet in the October half term.

In April 2016 we launched Parkinson's Dance in partnership with Pavilion Dance South West, as part of our move to deliver projects of specific benefit to new groups within our community.

ArtsLink has also made another application to the Big Lottery to further advance our commitment to provide specialised activities to Sherborne and its population.



## 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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