

SUFFOLK ARTLINK TAKES OFF!

Following a significant increase in Suffolk County Council's grant, Suffolk Artlink has moved to new fully accessible premises at Miles Ward Court in Halesworth.



The new grant has also enabled Artlink to take on two new members of staff, Gabby Cox as an additional Project Officer and Bridie Bedingfield who is the new Office Manager.



Gabby Cox



Bridie Bedingfield

FACTS AND FIGURES FROM 2007/2008

Creative activities were delivered in:

Ipswich, Sudbury, Hadleigh, Polstead, Glemsford, Newmarket, Freckenham, Mildenhall, Stowmarket, Eye, Bury St Edmunds, Felixstowe, Woodbridge, Lowestoft, Beccles, Halesworth, Reydon, Oulton Broad, Henham, Framlingham, Sudbury, Lavenham, Mendlesham.

350 half day sessions were delivered

54 artists were employed

1,283 participants were directly involved in creative activities

CREATIVE SECTOR PARTNERS IN 2007/08

Betty's Nightclub	Gainsborough's House
Bury St Edmunds Art Gallery	Ipswich Community Radio
Carousel (Oska Bright)	Museum of East Anglian Life
Colchester and Ipswich Museums	New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich
Colchester Mercury Theatre	Nutmeg Puppet Company
Cut Arts Centre	RoaR Arts
Cut Dance	SCC Library Service
Dance East	Town Hall Galleries Ipswich
Eastern Angles Theatre Company	The Quay Theatre, Sudbury
East Anglian Traditional Music Trust	Wonderful Beast Theatre Company

NEW PROJECTS FOR 2008/2009



Clown Round

Funded by Children in Need, this pilot project will allow two female clowns to work once a week for six months on the Children's Ward in the James Paget Hospital, in Gorleston.

Hospitalised children will be able to take part in artistic play that aims to bring fun and new skills and relieve children of fear and insecurities.

Skills4Jobs

Artlink is a member of Creative Learning in Partnership (CLiP), a consortium led by Theatre Resource, which has secured funding from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

Artlink will work with 20 young unemployed adults in Suffolk to re-engage them through creative workshops, work experience and work placements in the creative sector.

Blueprint

Artlink is a member of a consortium led by The Garage in Norwich which has secured three year funding from V for volunteering projects across the region.

Artlink's project will involve people with learning disabilities from Hadleigh who will devise and implement a project within their community.

Lap of Honour

Part of the Suffolk Cultural Olympiad, this four year project will celebrate, document and record the achievements of past Olympians and Paralympians with Suffolk connections.

Oral history and memory gathering on film and the sourcing of original Olympic artefacts will lead up to three annual touring exhibitions beginning in September 2009.

It's a busy year for Culture Club, we are working with new partners to develop work in more areas of the county, giving more opportunities to raise the profile of older people's creative potential.



Reminiscence work with the Museum of East Anglian Life has developed not only to work with the residents of local sheltered housing schemes (creating a museum display in the schemes) but also with their staff, offering training in using reminiscence in order to develop activities with their clients.

At Home Library Service Reading Groups will expand to more libraries across the county after the success of a creative writing project that took place earlier this year. Members of the Bury St Edmunds, Felixstowe, Halesworth, Ipswich, Lowestoft and Woodbridge Reading Groups had the opportunity of working with poet Michael Laskey who edited the work and life recollections published in the book "Full of Life".



Full of Life is a wonderful record that will be enjoyed for years to come.

Recordings from the sessions and selected readings have been made into a podcast which is stocked in all of the county's libraries and is available to download from www.suffolkartlink.org.uk.

A new Culture Club leaflet with details of all the exciting opportunities and events happening near you is distributed through the county's libraries and GP's surgeries or contact Hayley at Artlink.

"FULL OF LIFE"
A collection of poetry and prose
Edited by Michael Laskey



The aims of the course are to facilitate either freelance or part time job opportunities for people with learning disabilities within the creative sector or to inspire and sign post further study.

Open Doors also offers learning disability awareness training to partner organisations and has started to create a legacy of awareness of learning disability issues with a range of creative sector organisations. The second course starts on 22nd September 2008.



Musical Extravaganza devised and designed by course participants in Betty's Nightclub, Ipswich.

Open Doors have involved regional Arts Organisations and freelance tutors in the running and delivery of workshops. This has enabled students on the course to access quality training and a professional insight on working in the Creative Sector.



100% of students achieved their OCN accreditation in July '08.

80% of students completed work experience by June '08.

4 participants have been taken on by arts organisations on permanent work placements during the course. These will potentially become paid employment at a later date.



Junk Funk goes to Latitude Festival

Junk Funk, the wheelie bin drumming project, continued in partnership with Whitton Life in Lowestoft. A second band was formed in Eye in April 2007.

Junk Funk bands gave a number of public performances and the Lowestoft band made a CD.



Circus Skills in Southwold

As part as Lowestoft activities week a group of young people attended circus skills workshops in a big top on Southwold common.

The culmination was a performance involving both drumming and circus skills as part of Ipswich carnival.

Music for Excluded Young People

In January thanks to a grant from the Suffolk Foundation, Artlink was able to offer weekly music workshops to Hampden House Pupil Referral Unit in Sudbury.

Since Easter 2008 weekly music workshops including African Drumming, rock & pop and DJ-ing have been delivered at PRUs in Gazeley, Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds.



Artlink received the High Sheriff's Certificate of Commendation for the Junk Funk Wheelie Bin Band.

This summer Suffolk Artlink is piloting a version of the Creative Carers training programme targeted at carers working with people with dementia. As well as working with carers from two centres in Ipswich, occupational therapy assistants are also taking part.



Following the completion of the dementia pilot Artlink is looking to continue delivering the programme across the county with elements of dementia focussed training included within the programme.

After the success of the first year, plans are now in place for the second year of the Alzheimer's Society Creative Activity sessions programme. Starting in West Suffolk in the Autumn, three artists will be leading creative activities for people with dementia and their carers. Sessions will also take place in Ipswich and Waveney later in the year.



So far, a total of 10 carers, managers and occupational therapy assistants have taken part in two training sessions with artists Caroline Wright and Helen Rousseau.

These sessions have focused on the carers own creativity and how they can use their skills to plan creative activities for their clients.

In September, two artists will visit the centres to deliver best practice workshops with the older people with dementia in order to inspire the care staff with new ideas.



TRAVELLING LIGHT & OSKA BRIGHT FILM FESTIVAL

Travelling Light was a two day festival presented by Artlink and Cut Dance at the Cut Arts Centre involving screenings, film making, dance and visual art for and by people with learning disabilities.

Oska Bright, a touring film festival funded by the Arts Council of England, brought film makers with learning disabilities to the Cut to introduce their films and to help with the film making master classes on day two.

Dancers with learning disabilities from both Suffolk and Norfolk presented their work in between the screenings.

The festival was funded by Screen East.

ARTS IN HEALTH FORUM

Run in partnership with SoundSense, the Arts in Health Forum met twice. In June the topic was "Exploring the role of the arts in mental health" and in November the Forum provided a "Soundbeam exploration and discovery day".

TRAINING AND ADVICE

Artlink provided training on evaluation and on leading music workshops for challenging young people. Artlink staff offered advice and support to artists and organisations interested in working in arts and inclusion.

The next issue of Suffolk Artlink News will be published in the new year.

Suffolk Artlink News is available at www.suffolkartlink.org.uk.

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