

arts together

ageing creatively



*“Wonderful
magic!”*



*“a very special
something to
look forward
to”*



Annual Report 2010 – 2011

*“Before Arts
Together? It was
desolate”*

Arts Together is for older people, especially those who have become physically or socially isolated. Arts Together provides opportunities for:

- participating in creative arts activities with professional artists
- sharing experiences and making new friends
- an increased capacity to live an enriched life

in order to reduce isolation, build self confidence and self esteem, improve quality of life, increase choice and prevent loss of independence.

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1. Arts Together progress in short

Our greatest achievement in the past year is our survival despite the economic climate and the closure of many charities in the county. The support needs of greater numbers of very frail group members, training and support needs of volunteers, and recruitment of new artists, volunteers and group members have all increased, while funding opportunities, from grants or local support, decrease and entail greater work.

However, we have decreased our dependence on grant aid and increased local support. Negotiations are progressing with partners for new groups in new areas and a strategy is in place to survive and progress when the financial climate allows.

Our other achievements are those of our members, taking on new challenges and producing work of surprise and delight, and of our volunteers who have taken on more and more work to provide the supportive environment that enables our members to succeed.

2. What we aim to do



Arts Together exists to improve the health and wellbeing of older people and reduce the risk of loss of independence. We believe that older people have the right to live a fulfilling life, and that providing for basic needs that allow people simply to exist is not enough to make life worthwhile. People join our groups for the social contact and the fun rather than the long term benefits, but stay because of our values and ethos. They tell us that they feel empowered and more confident.



As an organisation we strive to maintain our professional standing in this area. We work closely with Wiltshire Council's DACS and mental health teams, Alzheimer's Support, Sarsen Housing, the Guinness Trust, and Ridgeway Care. We are part of the Voluntary Sector Forum and Arts and Health South West, are linked to the University of Sheffield via their NDA website www.newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk and are registered with the University of Salford's National Arts and Public Health Library. Arts Together is also supported by Whittington consultants, www.whittingtonconsultants.co.uk, ArtSpark www.artspark.net and Bufferzone www.bufferzone.org.uk

“This little gem of a service ... helps to keep elderly people alert and included in our community”

Wellbeing and health Before

Our members are older people, not the bungee jumping, Himalaya trekking well financed, healthy and strong 90 year olds, but those whose physical and mental health has deteriorated and become frail – as it will for most of us. It is then far too easy to become isolated and dependant. Age Concern Wiltshire found that 70% of older people in poor health were lonely.

Arts Together has recorded many comments by those who are increasingly frustrated at having to depend on others;

“My time isn't mine anymore, it's their time, I'm always taking from others, I don't have the choice any more to just get up and go.”





This lack of control or choice deepens when people cannot feed or dress or bath themselves, let alone pop out to the shops or go to the pub. And isolation increases as friends and relatives become scarce.

“On any day of the week I spend 23 out of the 24 hours on my own. As a result, allied to disabilities that tend to promote a degree of depression brought on by isolation and boredom, we lead very restricted lives”

“She said that because the winch wasn't working in her home she spent most of her day lying on the bed and her only time that week in her wheelchair had been her trip to Arts Together which she insisted on going to. Otherwise she wouldn't have left her bedroom at all.”

"Arts Together is something that once you start you don't want to stop. I've learnt so much and got so much pleasure and fulfilment. I feel fulfilled. I've done so many things I never thought I could"

Hours of lonely isolation that stretch into days and weeks can be the reality of every day life for some older people. The effects of isolation are well documented, it can lead to ill health and depression and thus to loss of whatever independence that person had. Economically this causes a great cost to us all in the provision of care in hospitals or care homes. The cost for older people is greater in their loss of a satisfying or worthwhile life. It is in everyone's interest to ensure that our older population is cared for in ways that promote and encourage their independence and a life worth getting out of bed for.

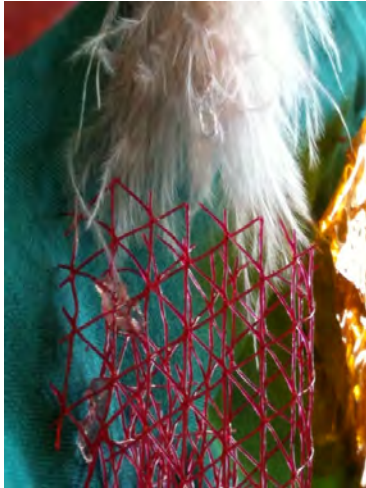


After

Our contribution is to provide the opportunity to create. The effects of art, in any form, is often taken for granted by artists and misunderstood by others. It is not simply to 'fill the time', nor to make decorations to impress the neighbours, though it can do both.



In essence, art means taking a material (be it paint, words, sounds, anything) and changing it to something meaningful to yourself. It is an opportunity to interact with the world, to take control, to make decisions, to alter surroundings, in whatever way you want or feel necessary. The experience provokes new thought and changes



the way you see the world. The world becomes exciting again and your place in it important and decisive. But most of all it's fun. And to do this with a group of others who can share your experience is rejuvenating, as our members tell us again and again.

Another value of art is to make yourself 'heard' at a time of life when you become invisible to most of the population. Arts Together provides a safe environment to express your thoughts and feelings through your hands, voices and bodies, where those around you value what you have to say and encourage you to say it.

The members' 'after' is demonstrated in section 5 'How we see if we're getting it right'.

What we do

Arts Together improves the health and wellbeing of socially and geographically isolated older people by providing professional arts activities and social opportunities within a supportive environment. Since we began in 2000 we have established three groups in Wiltshire with a total of 36 members, aged from 65 to 98 years, offering high quality creative arts to challenge, stimulate and enjoy.

We operate with two part time staff and sixteen volunteers, and contract specialist professional artists to run sessions. We train and support volunteers and artists to enable members to discover their potential and an enhanced experience of life, regardless of sensory loss, physical disability or failing mental capacity. We involve members with the wider community and promote the members' achievements through exhibitions and our website.

We organise, and now subsidise, transport for the members and a cooked lunch, which they choose, to provide a focal point for socialising and discussion. Professional carers look after personal needs. Arts Together also provides ongoing support to make sure that members can continue to attend the groups despite personal or practical difficulties.

“To the isolated older people who attend it is a lifeline. It has to be seen to be believed, how much vivacity and enthusiasm the weekly groups generate in those who might otherwise be looking only towards a lonely decline”



3. Progress 2010-11



The groups and group members

This has been a challenging year, but the members' creative output continues to amaze. Budget cuts to services have brought us more, increasingly frail and disabled older people with no social contacts, support or stimulation. This gives an exciting but challenging mix of people and abilities within one group, all of whom need help to get the best from themselves. One group will include people with learning disabilities, dementia, loss of dexterity and mobility, loss of limbs, and visual and hearing impairments. The age gap between members can be up to 35 years and the backgrounds vary economically, culturally and geographically. This demography results in a faster turnover of group members and requires more support from staff and trained group volunteers and increased group member recruitment.



Volunteers and artists

Arts Together volunteers have increased from eight in 2006 to the present level of sixteen. They help with fundraising, promotion and the extra support needed by increasing numbers of frail and disabled group members. There has been a dramatic increase in the tasks carried out by volunteers and in their support and training needs.



This year, volunteers renewed their Food Hygiene training and their CRB checks. They attended a coffee and cakes morning to review the paperwork they handle to make it easier and simpler. These meetings are always a welcome opportunity to get together with other Arts Together volunteers. The financial manager attended Arts and Health South West's conference, 'Contributing to Equity and Excellence', looking at issues such as arts on referral and the 'Big Society'.

"I feel I can express myself here. It would be very dull without Arts Together."

The number of selected artists on our list has declined as they are driven to take on other jobs to make ends meet. This will mean more recruitment and training of new artists to make sure that we cover a wide spectrum of arts. However, our core of long term artists is committed, adaptable and highly experienced.



Much of Arts Together's success and survival is due to the extra work that artists and volunteers carry out, in supporting the groups and group members, promoting Arts Together, arranging exhibitions and raising funds.

Lunch is an important part of the groups' sessions and members play an active part in deciding menus. It gives a chance to socialise after the morning's work and is often the only freshly cooked, real lunch that members enjoy; *'Not cuppa-soup or a dry sandwich'* as one member said. The volunteers and carers take much effort to ensure that the lunch is fresh, good quality, nutritious and enjoyable - no frozen ready-meals.



Transport is essential for group members to get away from their four walls. It is a problem for many in rural areas but much more so for those who are disabled or frail. In the past, members' transport was paid for by Wiltshire Council, but following reassessments in early 2011, none of our members qualified. Arts Together has taken on this additional role; organising suitable transport for each member's specific needs and subsidising the cost. The volunteers have the additional task of collecting travelling members' contribution towards their transport costs.



"It's opened up a whole new vista."

Arts Together achievements

Our arts programmes are devised to include the familiar and comfortable, and the new and challenging. Members tackled paper lanterns, articulated fish, Christmas door hangings, Indian Torans, hand printed recipe books and a new challenge - screen printing. They learnt more about still life drawing and colour theory, experimenting with colour a la Bridget Riley and texture with extreme textiles. One group wrote a 'History of our world in 100 objects' subtitled 'memories are made of this', based on objects they brought in.

The screen printing project was a particular technical challenge, taken on by student artist and long term volunteer, Sarah Weeks, supported by Jeff Pigott. Managing the equipment in venues not designed for washing anything other than very small hands, with participants with various disabilities, took meticulous preparation and planning. The project was carried out with all three groups and



“I’m so proud”



“So beneficial”

“Invigorating”

was a great success, not only in the outstanding work produced by the members but the lack of damage to property or people.

Devizes group arranged, (with the manager, artist, volunteers, and National Trust) a trip to Lacock – the home of photography and Harry Potter – with a private tour of the property and a very large picnic.

Devizes also held a ‘meet the group’ coffee morning in November, inviting anyone to drop in for cakes, to see their work and have a go. The guests were impressed by the work, enjoyed an impromptu ‘music and movement’ session, and promised to spread the word about Arts Together to others in the community.

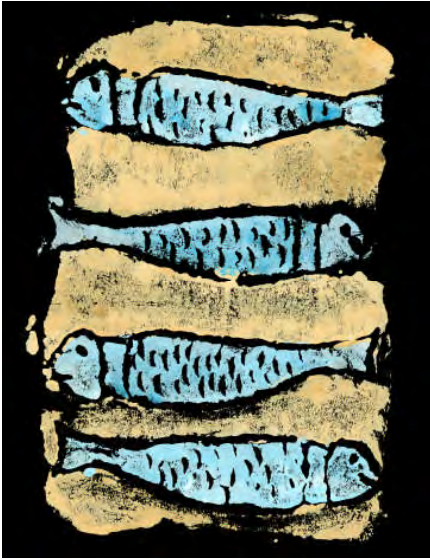
A further event was a visit by Mark O’Donnell of BBC Wiltshire Sound to the Marlborough group in March. Following a radio interview with the manager, Mark was interested in meeting group members himself and arrived in time for lunch and long chats with the members. This was broadcast the following day, bringing fame for 5 minutes for many of the group members. Mark commented on the lively, positive atmosphere, proved by the continual hubbub in the background.

Although the groups now share their achievements on their blogs, there is nothing quite like an exhibition to reach the community and give a sense of pride.

“It is always pleasing when we see the results of our efforts being displayed”

All the groups displayed their work this year. In June an exhibition and sale of Pewsey’s mosaics raised £122. Early 2011 Marlborough mosaics went on show with a collection box at Cobb’s Farm shop, giving many of us the excuse to visit and sample delicious cakes at the farm café. Devizes displayed their work at a coffee morning. Mosaics now adorn sheltered housing gardens in Pewsey, Marlborough and Devizes, bringing colour throughout year.

Our final achievement is more general, in the raised profile of Arts Together and our work. The ‘Phoenix’ project, started in 2009, aimed to recruit volunteers to help with local fundraising and promotion. This



project and our much praised website raised our profile locally and nationally. We received eleven new referrals from the general public for group membership in the last year which is close to our initial target. We have also been contacted by groups and artists as far a-field as Edinburgh and West Yorkshire who wish to know more about our work and organisation.

4. Funding, support and survival

Arts Together has revised its targets to that of survival and readiness for expansion when the climate allows. We looked at alternatives, of amalgamating with other services or altering the way we provide our services and have trimmed costs to the absolute minimum without jeopardising the quality which brings the rewards to group members.



We cut all costs that we could; artists use recycled materials whenever possible, volunteers have taken on more tasks, the newsletter has been replaced by the website blog, Artists donate by default through no increase in fees or travel allowance and much extra work overall is donated by artists, staff and volunteers.

A comparison of figures from 2006 to 2010 shows that our cash spend has remained at around £22 – 24,000 each year though costs have risen and work increased. This shows that we have managed to cut our costs considerably and, through increased local support, reduced the proportion of costs we need to raise from grants.



Over this period competition for grant funding and the work we do has increased whilst sources of funds decreased. From 2005-08 we needed to raise five or six grants a year to cover our needs. This increased to twelve in 2009/10. The average grant award of £4,500 between 2005-07 decreased to an average of £2,500 by 2009/10. More importantly, the number of applications made in order to succeed increased from three to around twenty.

“The worst thing would be being told that Arts Together would be closing”

However, local funding and support has increased. Contributions in kind stood at £31,500 this year, though Wiltshire Council will no longer provide transport from April 2011. Some contributions have not been valued, the consultants’ report for

example. Local cash donations rose from around £1,000 per year to £6,000 and the number of our active supporters increased from seven to eleven. Our thanks in particular go to Cobb's Farm for their continuing support for our displays and collections, Hayden's bakeries for delicious puddings (you're a star Clint), and Mother's Jam choir, for a memorable pub crawl fundraiser in blizzards and snowdrifts.

These figures are lower than planned, mainly due to the present financial climate but we are confident that the good relationships we are developing will be more rewarding as the climate improves. We have also gained in experience and skills and local contacts. Much of the groundwork has been done to prepare the way for future expansion. We are in a good place to respond to the demands for more Arts Together groups for the growing number of isolated older people.

Funding

This year we have been supported by;

Funding source	£	Totals £
Support carried forward		12,421.31
Grant aid support		
Wiltshire Council Arts	750.00	
Woodroffe Benton Foundation	750.00	
Yapp Charitable Trust	2,250.00	
Dunhill Medical Trust	3,250.00	
Sir Jules Thorn Trust	600.00	
Co-operative Community	2,000.00	
Total grant aid		9,600.00
Local support		
Pewsey Tea Rooms	140.00	
Pewsey Arts Gallery	122.00	
Mothers' Jam	211.00	
Donations	2,590.79	
Total local support		3,063.79
Total income		25,085.10

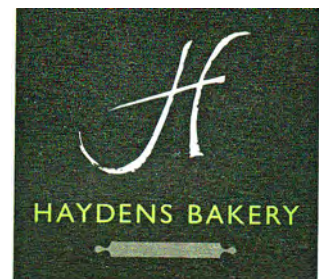
Some of our supporters;



Cobbs Farm Shop



Mother's Jam



Haydens Bakery

We also received support in kind from;

ArtSpark (design)	Ridgeway Care (carers)	Whittington Consultants
Cobbs Farm Shop	Sarsen Housing (venues)	Haydens bakeries (lunch)
ArtsCo (networks)	Bufferzone (networks)	Guinness Hermitage (venue)
National Trust	Wilts Council (transport)	16 volunteers + staff and artists

We have calculated the value of contributions in kind which account for more than half of our full budgeted costs.

Contributions in kind 2010/11	Estimated value	
	Rate	£
Management and volunteer support x 300 hrs	£20/hour	6,000
Project/trustee meetings x 100 hours - manager/ finance	£20/hour	2,000
8 Group Volunteers' time valued at 91 days	£50/day	4,560
5 volunteers' time valued at 10 days per year	£50/day	2,500
1 volunteer time valued at 13 days per year	£100/day	1,290
Venue hire (£40/session) Sarsen Housing and Guinness Trust		3,600
Carer time (£45/session) Ridgeway Care		4,050
Donated food		2,400
Design of promotional material		300
Website design and maintenance		510
Transport (until April 2011)		4,500
Estimated value of contributions in kind		31,710

And we spent;

Item	£
Artists fees	7,390.00
Artists Travel	1,101.10
Session Materials	1,099.96
Group Lunches and expenses	1118.13
Volunteer/Trustee Expenses	797.95
Training	188.31
Member support	1,200.00
Marketing /website	1,066.74
Management	3,500.00
Management Costs	607.80
Admin and Costs	1,583.72
Finance Manager & costs	1,500.00
Misc (insurance, accountant)	736.63
Total spend	21,890.34

5. How we see if we're getting it right

We continually evaluate and review the procedures and effectiveness of Arts Together in delivering its core aims. We have an established system for on-going evaluation to include everyone involved in Arts Together;

We collect information on –

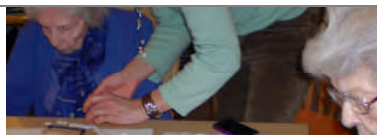


- The number and variety of arts we provide
- Members' ideas for new activities and requests for repeats
- Member involvement in activities and decision making
- Members' self-initiated activities in their own time
- Changes in lives that members attribute to Arts Together

We collect information through –

- Annual consultations with all the groups
- Individual members' personal accounts
- Regular feedback from artists, volunteers, carers and managers
- Each group's own made hand made book where members record comments and suggestions
- Artist and volunteer meetings
- Trustees' shared lunches with the group
- Feedback from social workers, mental health team and relatives

Arts;

This year the groups covered 14 different arts projects, from articulated fish to colour theory, using materials from pencils to words discovered in newspapers, fabrics to lights, from paint to tissue paper, tiles and printing ink. As far as possible, we try to respond to members' requests to learn particular skills, though are constrained by artists available, cost and practicalities. We distributed photos of work when there was no 'finished product'. The drawing sessions and colour theory this year were in response to members' requests, as was the ever popular mosaics, and 'surprise'; *"We like not knowing what's coming next"*

<p><i>"They can cope with such a mixed bunch like us"</i></p>		<p><i>"Wonderful cross section of all the arts"</i></p>
	<p><i>"Great - just never thought we could do it. Wonderful"</i></p>	
<p><i>"I saw that model and I thought, oh hell I could never do anything like that, but she's so good and before you know it you're on your way and you've done it."</i></p>		<p><i>"Through Arts Together I have learned to look at Art in a different way. It can be fun, and does not have to be perfect. I have learned to try different mediums and not be afraid of failure. All things are possible in the eyes of the artists. Even I might turn out a masterpiece!!!"</i></p>



“It’s a break for my husband – it’s the only time I am away from home and he doesn’t have to look after me.”



“Love it – now I’m doing things”

Involvement;

Members are involved in Arts Together to the degree they are comfortable with. One member is a trustee and others have helped with exhibitions and sales. More generally, members help out at group sessions as far as able, from setting up and clearing away to welcoming new members and choosing lunch menus. The members are involved in discussions about Arts Together funding and future and ways to reach new members. One group suggested and then helped run a ‘meet Arts Together’ coffee morning. Groups have also suggested and helped organise outings, such as the one to Lacock this year.

Bearing in mind the frailty of some of our members, as well as those suffering dementia and memory problems, involvement is a delicate balance between choice and confusion. Everyone is involved in any discussion and those that need extra support (such as reminders, home visits, repeats, family involvement) receive this from staff or volunteers.

“I was so scared that it (Arts Together) was going to close. I went to a group in Marlborough once. They all sit around like zombies (does great imitation) I tried talking to people but they look at you as if you’re queer.”

We have kept our good quality lunches, despite temptation to cut the cost, as members told us how important a properly cooked lunch was to them.

“I also enjoy the food and having a meal in company with others.”

“I get a proper 2 course lunch.”

“Lunch is important too, especially now it’s so good”

We changed the format of claims and reporting forms that volunteers use following their feedback.

The biggest concern for members this year was transport.

“The worst moment was when I was told they had cut our transport”

As a result we held discussions about transport provision with all groups for their ideas, each member’s particular needs and amount they were able to contribute. Each group’s plan was then implemented and all members, and relatives or carers where applicable, kept informed at all stages.



“I had no companionship. Now I have so many friends



Own activities at home;

It is an important part of Arts Together that we can provide the skills and motivation for members to be creative in their own time, to enrich lives and help defeat the boredom and depression of isolation.

Nearly everyone contributes to sessions by making things in their own time, from the ‘Memories are made of this’ cover for the group book, to collecting materials to use in future sessions. Some members prepare or develop their own ideas to bring in and others have taken to a particular skill that they now practise – making dolls, mosaics, drawing, writing poetry.

They point out, however, that they are prevented from doing much at home as there is no-one to help prepare or clean away materials and writing can be difficult or painful.

“I love to paint in watercolours but the sheer hard work involved in setting up, putting away and storing in the confined space of my small flat discourages me.”

The ‘to do at home’ element is part of the artists’ remit, and discovering a form that will suit a particular members’ needs and circumstances is always an achievement for us and a life enhancing change for the member.

“I’m more creative at home”

“I’ve discovered unsuspected interests and skills”

“It’s important to do things with other people. Motivates me to do things at home.”

“I’ve taken up things, or gone back to things that I used to do.”






Changes

Members told us how they had changed since joining Arts Together;

“It has enhanced my life.”

“I now look forward to the weekly meetings and continuing with whatever we are being instructed in at the time.”

“I have become more confident in experimenting since I joined the group”

<p><i>"I've learnt so much and got so much pleasure and fulfilment. I do feel fulfilled."</i></p>	<p><i>"I've done so many things I never thought I could. It's the getting out and meeting people. It's relaxing and fun. My mind is sharper."</i></p>	<p><i>"I'm more relaxed and able to take part in conversations about things I never did before. I know it keeps us healthier."</i></p>
		<p><i>"It's wonderful, it's just what I need. I can use my brain. Since my stroke my brain won't work properly, keeps going off and wobbly, but here it doesn't matter"</i></p>
<p><i>"First time in months I've started to feel like myself. Since I came to Arts Together I've started to feel I am part of things."</i></p>		<p><i>Without Arts Together I wouldn't meet people. I've done things I wouldn't have done."</i></p>
<p><i>"I get so much out of it. It's the companionship – you get to know people with the same likes."</i></p>	<p><i>"I look forward to Mondays. We learn a variety of things and its always interesting"</i></p>	<p><i>"Arts Together is very motivating, challenging and helpful."</i></p>
<p><i>"When we return home, if we relax into an afternoon nap (as befits our age) it is not because we are lonely or bored, but because we have used our energies to enjoy ourselves and may even have some worthwhile, useful or decorative item to bring home that will provide a fresh talking point with one's rare visitors."</i></p>	<p><i>"You can get together as a group and you achieve things you never thought you could. When you are older you need things to expand your mind, to see that you can still achieve things. Some people when they get old they just give up."</i></p>	
<p><i>"Arts Together is therapeutic, it keeps you going."</i></p>		<p><i>"We call each other on the phone now"</i></p>
	<p><i>"Before I came here I was sitting and talking to the 4 walls. Now I'm up early and ready every Thursday"</i></p>	<p><i>"Getting to know people. Getting to love all our differences, and the teasing."</i></p>

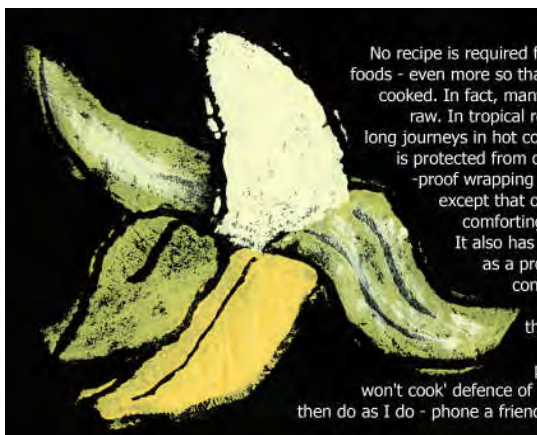
And others, relatives, artists, volunteers, commented on changes;

<p><i>"I have noticed little likeness between the ebullient, witty, cheerful M at Arts Together and reports of her in low troughs of despond"</i></p>	<p><i>"Can I believe that occasional naughty joke now comes from him? He has certainly relaxed enormously since he started coming and his son says Arts Together means the world to him."</i></p>	<p><i>"My mum has dementia and the stimulation she gets from attending this group seems to improve her mental functioning"</i></p>
<p><i>"My mother kept commenting about the happy and positive atmosphere. I'm sure that it will have a positive contribution towards her recovery and regaining her confidence."</i></p>	<p><i>"J looks a lot younger than when she started coming - she says it's because she has so much fun at Arts Together."</i></p>	<p><i>"Members said they sometimes felt confused by noise and conversation after long periods of time spent alone and that Arts Together helped them socialise again."</i></p>

Individual members' stories



Having been a group member for about a year, J said that she wanted to thank all the other members. She said that when she first joined the group she was too scared to go out or even to move around her flat. She had a chair in the corner of her room where she sat and felt unsafe moving away from it. Since joining she had slowly moved the chair and now she says, she can sit anywhere happily - she doesn't think about it anymore.



When M first visited the group he would not take off his hat or coat, or sit or talk with the others. We did not expect him to return but he did and though his replies were pretty gruff he eventually took his hat off. The next time I visited the group he was sitting with the others, though still with coat on. The next time, he was joining in and the next, he was juggling! (A circus artist was working with the group). Within 9 months he was a changed person, talking with others, in shirtsleeves, loved making things and even had a sense of humour. It was a miracle that he sat still long enough for another group member to draw his portrait

Arts Together in the wider context

An independent review 'Well being and older people' also shows that Arts Together provides services that meet the priorities of government and the local council, and provides evidence that Arts Together improves the well-being of older people. The review, carried out in 2010, sought to research current evidence to use in assessing the relevance of our provision and our alignment with public and national policies. A summary of the review carried out at no cost to Arts Together by Whittington Consultants can be seen on our website.

The conclusion of the 2010 review states -

“Arts Together can reasonably claim from this review of research evidence that:

- The experience of loneliness, social isolation and social exclusion, which Arts Together seeks to reduce, is actually and potentially harmful to older people’s mental and physical well-being, in some cases very seriously so.
- Services, like Arts Together, that are group-based, activity-focused and socially-interactive have been shown to be effective in helping to counter these social harms and are valued by older people in improving their well-being.
- The particular arts-based, informal learning activities of the kind offered by Arts Together have been shown to add further potential benefits, such as renewed sense of purpose, personal self-expression and re-discovered talents, contributing further to a sense of well-being.”

6. The future and annual work plan

With decreasing services for older people, particularly in rural areas, we have received more calls to start new groups. We are progressing negotiations with partners to expand to new areas. However, there is increasing and stiff competition for grant funding and competition for volunteers now comes from statutory agencies as well as the voluntary sector. We must increase recruitment and training of new artists, and now have to raise extra funds for, and organise, transport appropriate to members’ various needs.

Our plans depend on us continuing to increase local support but in the present climate this alone will not be enough to sustain Arts Together. Some of the companies we approached have now gone out of business and offers of support have been retracted by businesses who are struggling. Contacts were made in five new areas with various organisations and support services, but contacts and relationships have to be renewed with organisational uncertainties and changing staff. No agency will commit at present to any new venture until organisational and budget reviews are final.

This coming year will be crucial for Arts Together’s survival and development. We know that what we do works; we can prove that it works, it is an increasingly needed service. We must find new ways to change and adapt without losing the essential ingredients that makes Arts Together so special.

Annual work plan 2010/11

- Support, manage and maintain present groups and volunteers
- Negotiate with partners for support and expansion
- Raise funds for the remainder of this year and for
 - Subsidy for members' transport costs and admin (£4,500)
 - artist and volunteer skills sharing and development workshop
 - volunteer support meetings
 - group get together, exhibition and newsletter
 - IT equipment and training
- Continue and develop local fundraising and support
- Continue recruitment of group members via new routes
- Recruit and train new artists
- Increase the range of creative opportunities available to groups.
- Continue training and development of trustees and recruit one new trustee.

Arts Together people

Trustees	Management and administration
Julia Warin (Chair, Artist representative) Trevor Bale (Treasurer, Group representative) Juliet Keel (Volunteer representative) Kay Mortimer (Business representative)	Karolyne Fudge-Malik (Manager) Jeff Pigott (Finance)
Volunteers	Artists
Sarah Weeks Nicki Kaye Ffion Mercer Juliet Keel Flo Rutter Ruth Hepworth Carol Harris Julia McNeil Margaret Cleverley Anette Dutoit Leonie Nel Jean Chorley (Occasional volunteer)	Anna Lane Belinda Chandler Claire Coleman Demi Ladwa Jeff Pigott Joanna Dewfall Karen Pigott Sarah-Jane Webster