

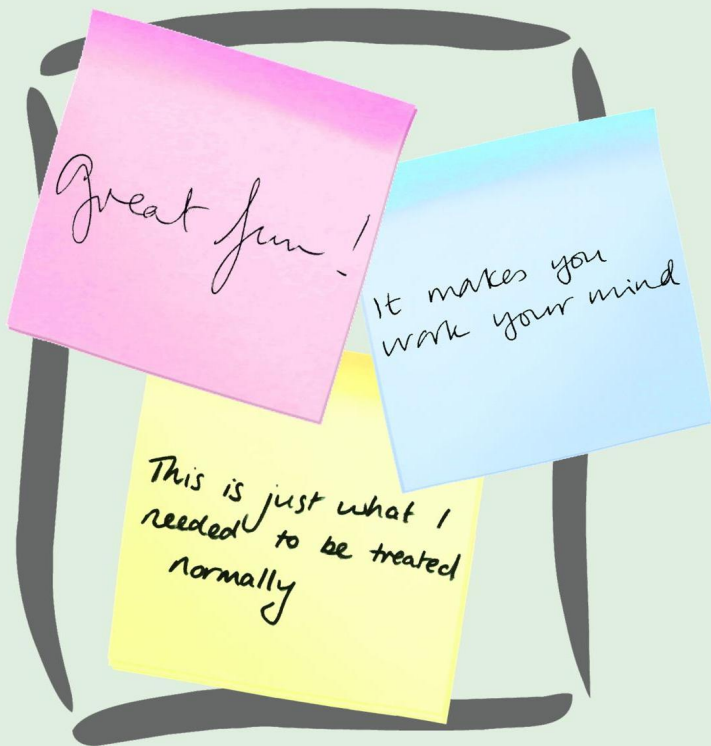
Suffolk



Artlink

Newsletter Spring
2009

Suffolk



Artlink

Snippets...

SKILLS 4 JOBS Skills for Jobs trainee Cuts it!

Skills4Jobs trainee Kieran Saxby started a work placement at The Cut Arts Centre in Halesworth which he thought would only last a few days. The enthusiasm that Kieran demonstrated led to a part time job offer by day three!

Budding DJ's get Radio Show:

DJ's Calvin Driver and Scott Johnson have been awarded their own radio show at Ipswich Community Radio Station (ICR). Calvin and Scott both completed work placements with ICR as part of Suffolk Artlink's Open Doors and Skills4Jobs courses. Their commitment, dedication and enthusiasm whilst on the work placement spring boarded the two DJ's into the ICR's weekly schedule.



Clown Docs Tickle James Paget's Funny Bone!

For the last seven months Dr Fillie Fidget and Dr Chrisabell Misschief have spread fun and laughter to children and families on James Paget's children's ward. Play Coordinator Jane Whiteside said "The children are given the opportunity to forget that they are in hospital. For those few minutes when the Clowns visit them, they are able to be children."



PRU Perform at Snape:

Excluded young people from Mill Meadow Pupil Referral Unit, near Newmarket performed at the Aldeburgh Music, 'Celebration of Schools Music' on 14th March 2009 at Snape Maltings Concert

Hall. With a full audience, large stage and a debut performance, the pupils from Mill Meadow had every reason to be a little apprehensive. However, their rehearsed professionalism was truly evident. The determination and concentration from all of the performers produced a lively piece of entertaining music. What a fantastic achievement!

Drum kit for PRUs: Through the generosity of Heart FM, Suffolk Artlink now owns an electronic drum kit. The donation will enable young people at Mill Meadow, Hampden House and The Albany Centre PRUs to extend and build on their music skills individually and in groups.

Lap of Honour is 'Inspired'

Lap of Honour, our four year programme which will record and celebrate the achievements of the past, present and future Suffolk Olympians and Paralympians has been granted the London 2012 Inspire mark which recognises outstanding projects and events helping deliver the Games' lasting legacy.

Lifting Spirits

Not a whisky tasting club for older people, this is a new arts in health and wellbeing initiative emerging in Waveney. The plan is to hold an initial consultation with providers in June and then to promote a dynamic forum in the autumn. Funds are being sought by a range of partners who have asked Artlink to act as the accountable body and employer for the project.

Snippets...

High Sheriff's Awards

Suffolk Artlink was shortlisted in the Youth Organisation of the Year category for the High Sheriff's Awards 2009. The Artlink staff and musicians, led by Chair Penny Otton (below) were very pleased to receive a commendation for our music workshops for excluded young people.



Artlink to get a Soundbeam

Thanks to a grant from Aiming High, Suffolk Artlink will shortly receive a desk top Soundbeam with four beams and switches. While the main purpose of the award is to enable people with complex needs to take part in music making, the Soundbeam will not be confined to use with people with physical disabilities. It will be used as a composition tool for film and theatre soundtracks made by people with learning disabilities, in music workshops for excluded young people and for group music making activities with older people.

Learning Disability Seminar

Artlink has been commissioned to co-ordinate a seminar for practitioners, arts organisations, and museums working with people with learning

disabilities.

SCC's new strategy for people with learning disabilities

Artlink has been working with the new Partnership Board to bring persuasive and challenging images to Suffolk's new Charter for people with learning disabilities.

Funding Snippets

In 2008/09 Suffolk County Council more than tripled its annual grant to Artlink. Artlink is very pleased that SCC is to maintain this level of investment in 2009-10.

We have negotiated our first district three year Service Level Agreement with Mid Suffolk.

Artlink is particularly pleased that Arts Council England East has agreed to invest a further £100,000 over the three years 2009 – 2012.

We are thrilled to receive an award from Lloyds TSB Foundation which will support weekly music workshops on the Whitton estate in Lowestoft over two years.

Last year funding from the SCC Performance Reward Grant (PRG) paid for music workshops in four pupil referral units.

We are very pleased that the pupil referral units have mainstreamed the music workshops and are now making significant financial contributions in order to ensure continued provision.

The Norfolk Foundation has given £4000 to support the Clown 'Round project.

Culture Club develops and provides a range of creative activities and events for older people across Suffolk. The new programme for 2009/10 is planned and under way. There will be fourteen projects taking place over the year, Artlink is working with a range of organisations to deliver them.

More drama at the top

The success of the monthly ‘Drama at the Top’ sessions at Felixstowe Library has inspired Artlink and the New Wolsey Theatre to develop more drama work within Culture Club. Taster workshops will be offered to a variety of groups over the year to see if people are interested in developing their acting or writing skills and taking part in regular sessions.

“Falling About” in Suffolk!

We are pleased to announce a visit from Green Candle Dance Company, who will be touring five venues across Suffolk in June with their latest production “Falling About”. A dance and movement workshop led by Green Candle’s Choreographer and Director Fergus Early and a musician will accompany each performance.



Intergenerational projects

Following the success of recent projects in Woodbridge and Lowestoft teaming older people with local schools to produce stimulating work and forge new relationships, we have planned more intergenerational projects this year.



Photograph taken by Simon Lee on behalf of Suffolk County Council.

A partnership with Ipswich Town Hall Galleries and The People’s Community Garden will take place between May and July, tying in with the Ip-art Festival.

Further projects with Wonderful Beast Theatre Company, Gainsborough’s House Museum and Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service will take place throughout the year.

Mildenhall to Melbourne Air Race

A reminiscence project to stimulate and capture memories of the air race that took place 75 years ago is scheduled for the autumn. It will also develop new display material for Mildenhall Museum.



Lap of Honour, managed by Suffolk Artlink on behalf of Suffolk County Council, is a four year programme which will record and celebrate the achievements of the past, present and future Suffolk Olympians and Paralympians. It will also include those who have been previously involved in the Olympics or Paralympics in other capacities such as coaches, volunteers and officials.

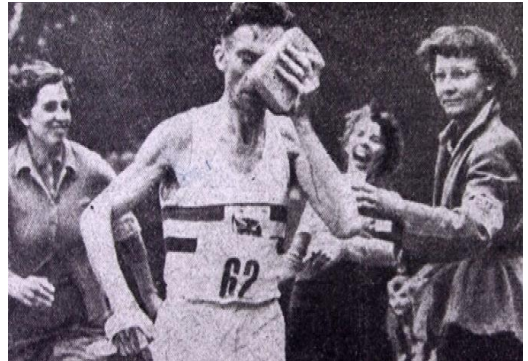
This project will offer training to volunteers from the local community to enable them to play an active role both in the gathering and dissemination of the personal stories of local Olympians and Paralympians.

Project participants will have the opportunity to learn video production, interview techniques, research and audio recording skills.



The general public will be able to access these stories and relevant Olympic history through a variety of media. These will include podcasts, local BBC radio and television broadcasts, a web site, an education package and by visiting the Lap of

Honour touring exhibition.



This project aims to record for posterity the experiences of people involved in the Games between 1948 and 2012. By preserving these stories we will be able to share and celebrate the achievements of local people.

A reaction to the unique opportunity given by the 2012 Games, this is the first time in Suffolk that a collaboration of this scale has brought cultural and sports organisations together to create an archive which will be of benefit to the whole county.

Highlighting the stories of local people can create stronger links with the Olympics and Paralympics and foster an understanding of the part Suffolk people have played in the Games and the aspirations of young people aiming for London 2012.

Penny Otton, chair of Suffolk Artlink, said, "Achieving the Inspire Mark is a brilliant result and it demonstrates the level of inspirational work which we are able to deliver. I am so proud that Suffolk Artlink is a partner in the Lap of Honour project,"

Jump StART! will be a new modular accredited arts course for people with learning disabilities. Each module will have a different arts focus and will be led by professional artists. The modules will also include visits to venues and work placements.

Benefits to participants will include work experience in the creative sector, increased aspirations and self esteem, the chance to play a fuller part in society.

Open Doors has demonstrated that people with learning disabilities can benefit from participation in a work focused training course and that creative sector organisations in the

Ipswich area can benefit from learning disability awareness training.

Jump StART! Hopes to overcome the barriers faced by potential Open Doors students by locating the new course in a different part of Suffolk.



blueprint

Blueprint, our first learning disability volunteering project, held a sharing in Hadleigh in January at which the volunteers performed the interactive play which they had devised on the subject of bullying.

Around 180 primary school children attended and took part in workshops.

Blueprint 2

Funded by V through a consortium led by the Garage in Norwich, Blueprint 2 will offer a group of volunteers with learning disabilities the chance to devise a creative work which will make a difference to their community.

There is funding to support project management, volunteer expenses and the execution of the project itself.

We are now looking for a partner for Blueprint 2 which will take place in the autumn.

We would like the project to be based in north Suffolk, possibly in Halesworth or Lowestoft, and would like it to be dance or film based but we are open to suggestions.

Freelance project managers or organisations should send expressions of interest by e-mail to chris@suffolkartlink.org.uk

Side by Side

Side by Side is an innovative project which will provide supported artist-led creative activities for carers and cared for together – enabling all participants to take part in a shared creative experience.

In addition to delivering the creative activities Suffolk Artlink will nurture relationships between the groups and local cultural providers.

Side by Side was inspired by a successful pilot project with the Alzheimer's Society where Suffolk Artlink worked for the first time with people with dementia and their family carers, providing a range of artist-led activities.

The evaluation showed huge benefits in providing a shared platform for carers and the cared for, establishing new and positive relationships by stimulating shared creative experiences.

These findings were confirmed by Dementia Mapping, an international approach to measuring wellbeing in people with dementia, which demonstrated an increase in the wellbeing of all participants by the end of each session.

Side by Side is part funded by Arts Council England. We are now looking for match funding for this project.



Eye – Junk Funk:

Music group Eye Junk Funk will be performing at the Latitude Festival between 17th and 19th July 2009. Rehearsals will be taking place weekly in Eye, starting in May. This newly formed group demonstrates that drumming is wheelie fun!!



Whitton Rocks in Lowestoft:

With funding from Lloyds TSB, Waveney District Council and Whitton Life, the Whitton Rocks two year project has lift off!

Musicians Ian Bishop and Steve Law will lead weekly DJ, Drumming and Guitar workshops for young people aged between 8 – 14 years from June.

Over two years young people will have the opportunity to learn new instruments, form bands and perform at local events.

The project commences in May with tasters and assembly workshops in three middle schools in Lowestoft and half term taster days.

Facts and Figures From 2008/2009

Creative Sector Partners in 2008/09

Creative activities were delivered in: Ipswich, Sudbury, Hadleigh, Eye, Henham, Newmarket, Boyton, Gazeley, Lavenham, Stowmarket, Woodbridge, Felixstowe, Bury St Edmunds, Babergh, Lowestoft, Gorleston, Framlingham Mendlesham, Thurston, Great Cornard, Aldeburgh, Colchester, Saxmundham, Stowupland, Halesworth, Freckenham.

517 half day sessions were delivered

107 artists' contracts

2043 participants were directly involved in creative activities

Betty's Nightclub, DanceEast, Cut Arts Centre, Cut Dance, Exposure Gallery, Gainsborough's House, Red Rose Chain, Colchester Mercury Theatre, Suffolk Coastal Arts, New Wolsey Theatre, The Poetry Trust, Ipswich Community Radio, Community Media Norwich, Museum of East Anglian Life, The Quay Theatre, Eastern Angles Theatre Company, SCC Library Service, Green Candle Dance Company, Town Hall Galleries Ipswich, East Anglian Traditional Music Trust, National Horse Racing Museum, Colchester and Ipswich Museums, Wonderful Beast Theatre Company.

Training and Advice

Artlink is regularly contacted by a variety of people including artists, organisations and services, general public, and community group seeking advocacy and advice.

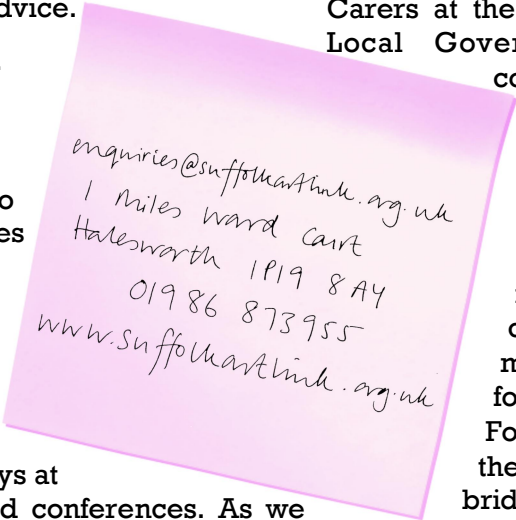
Organisational Development Consultation:

Artlink is facing many requests to present examples of best practice locally, regionally and nationally. In 2008/09 we spent an estimated 30 days at local forums and conferences. As we

have begun to disseminate good practice we have started to receive invitations to attend national events, such as the presentation of Creative Carers at the National Association of Local Government Arts Officers conference in Sheffield.

Artists' Development

Artlink plans to develop a round of CPD and training opportunities for artists in 2009 - 10. We are currently circulating a menu of one day courses for artists to choose from. For more information on the training please e-mail: bridie@suffolkartlink.org.uk



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