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the arts bulletin



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Independent Arts supporting Older Voices as they take to the road

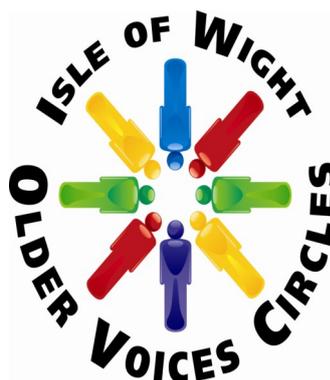
Independent Arts has forged a new working partnership with the Older Voices group which is delivered across the Island.

Older Voices is for people aged 50 and over, and gives its members the opportunity to have a say about the issues and concerns affecting them. The groups meet monthly, and include an informal social gathering, guest speakers, and discussion driven by the members. The Circles clearly identify local problems and issues which are taken up for consultation to the Older Voices Forum. In turn, these issues may then be raised with the People Matter IW Steering Group, who then refer the information on to relevant bodies, such as the Health and Wellbeing Board.

There are Older Voices Circles all over the Island—currently in Newport; East Cowes; Cowes; Freshwater; Ryde; The Bays (Sandown and Shanklin) and Fairlee.

The group is looking to increase the number of Circles and overall membership figures. Independent Arts is supporting this by working with Older Voices to deliver an information roadshow this autumn (see overleaf). Independent Arts is also providing a webpage for the group at www.independentarts.org.uk/older-voices

To find out more, please contact Older Voices Chair, Helen Osborne at oldervoices@outlook.com or phone on (01983) 522208.



Independent Arts is proud to be supporting Older Voices

Support our work

We are currently recruiting volunteers for one to one sessions in our Creative Futures project. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please contact Caroline on (01983) 822437 or via the email address above.

Independent Arts delighted to receive cash support from Waitrose shoppers

Independent Arts was delighted to be picked as one of three charities to feature in the Community Matters scheme delivered by Waitrose. For the month of June, shoppers at the East Cowes branch were encouraged to pick from one of three charities to donate to, using green charity tokens. £1000 is split between the three charities, in accordance with the distribution of tokens from the public.

Independent Arts was thrilled to be awarded £343. Chief Executive, Kate Ball said, "As a small local charity, support of this type is invaluable to the work we do, both raising our profile locally and working with the most vulnerable groups in the community."

New activities launched for Christmas

We have a new range of Christmas-themed sessions that can be booked for community groups and in residential settings.

There are music sessions featuring seasonal tunes including Sing Alongs and Classical Christmas Performances featuring our flautist or harpist.

There are also crafty Christmas sessions including card-making, silk painting and felting.

We are also offering a Christmas-themed Memory Morning. We can provide a trained reminiscence practitioner who will come along armed with artefacts including photos, adverts, toys and other yuletide objects, which will get everyone sharing their Christmas memories!

To find out more about our Christmas sessions, contact Hannah on (01983) 822437





Creative Futures sessions are supporting isolated older people to engage with arts activity

Creative Futures project is going from strength-to-strength across the Island

Since launching in January, the Creative Futures project is now delivering 1-1 sessions with isolated and vulnerable residents of care homes across the Island.

We are continuing to recruit volunteers, who are trained, supported and mentored in building a 1-1 relationship with an older person. The sessions take place weekly, and are person-centred, meaning that the activity is relevant and suited to the client we work with.

So far, sessions have featured watercolour painting, iPad apps, model boat building, sewing (both by hand and using a machine), making a bird box, cross-stitch and reminiscing about the old days!

We have volunteers engaging in sessions each week across the Island, and are hoping to recruit more volunteers and engage with more residents between now and December, when the project is due to finish.

For more information about Creative Futures, please contact Caroline on (01983) 822437 or at caroline@independentarts.org.uk

Book a free information session with us to learn more about Older Voices



Older Voices provides opportunities for social events, and has regular group outings.

One aim of the group is to tackle social isolation amongst older people.

In partnership with Independent Arts, Older Voices is delivering an Information Roadshow this autumn.

The Roadshow is being delivered in order to provide a platform for older people to learn more about Older Voices. Community groups and associations are invited to host an information session as part of the Roadshow.

Chair of Older Voices, Helen Osborne said, "We are really keen to spread the word about Older Voices and the Roadshow is the perfect way to do this. People can come along, find out more about what we do and how they can get involved to have their voices heard about the issues that affect them."

For more information about the Older Voices Roadshow and how you can get involved, please contact Caroline Ash, Project Manager at Independent Arts on 822437 or at oldervoices@outlook.com

Independent Arts is always looking for old household items and artefacts for our Memory Library.

Please let us know if you have anything you would like to donate. All will be gratefully received!

Regular community activities continuing to be delivered by Independent Arts

Independent Arts still delivers activities in the community, including our popular SingAbout groups. Here are the details of what's on offer:

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| SingAbout | Freshwater | Mondays | 10.30am-12.30pm |
| SingAbout | Ryde | Mondays | 2pm-4pm |
| SingAbout | Newport | Tuesdays | 2pm-4pm |
| SingAbout | Ventnor | Fridays | 10.30am-12.30pm |
| Art Group | Binstead | Tuesdays | 1pm-2.30pm |

Please see our website for full details: www.independentarts.org.uk