

Issue 2
Spring
2013

the arts bulletin



www.independentarts.org.uk

info@independentarts.org.uk

01983 822437

Independent Arts looks forward to a busy 2013

Following a hectic end to 2012, we took a short break to take stock and reflect over the year's work before hitting the ground running in January!

As mentioned in our last edition of **the arts bulletin**, 2012 was an important year for Independent Arts as we celebrated our 25th year since the charity was founded in 1987. We marked the occasion through a number of activities and events, including a photography competition, a series of community reminiscence events and a 25th birthday party at Newclose Cricket Club! We ended the year in style with Jeni completing her "Step Back in Time" sponsored walk, a number of Christmas events for our staff, practitioners, volunteers and participants, our Grand Prize Draw and a memory-themed tree at the Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival.

Now 2013 is upon us, we are planning ahead with new ideas, and we already have 2 new projects underway (you can find out more about these in this bulletin). There is plenty more for us to do, as we strive to ensure that we provide creative activities for vulnerable people across the Isle of Wight. There are lots of exciting discussions taking place in the office, as we plan how we can take our work forward and achieve our aims in the year ahead. Although it is a particularly challenging time for charities, we remain optimistic as our work is vital to the local community and we continue to work towards attracting funding for our projects and programmes.



Our 25th Birthday tree at the Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival in December

Creative Practitioners wanted

We are constantly recruiting Creative Practitioners to deliver sessions across the Island. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please contact us on (01983) 822437 or via the email address above.

CPD Training now available to book for those working with vulnerable people

New for 2013, Independent Arts has launched a CPD training department, offering a range of training courses suitable for those working with vulnerable people in the community.

Our courses are:

- The Role of the Volunteer
- Working Creatively with Dementia Sufferers
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

Further courses are in development, to be launched later in the year. Please contact us at the office to find out how you and your team could benefit from our training packages.

SingAbout goes from strength to strength

Our SingAbout project is continuing to flourish with four sessions running every week at locations across the Island.

The Newport and Freshwater groups are now well-established, and both will be celebrating their 2nd birthdays in March. The Ryde group is almost 18 months old, and our Ventnor groups are still comparable babies, having only launched in October 2012!

All of our groups are continuing to grow in number, and are therefore proving very popular with our participants.

The Ventnor groups have been a pilot, as we have been delivering the sessions in Southern Housing Group properties rather than community venues, and alternating weekly between Knights Court and Byrnhill Grove. However, this method of session delivery has proved just as successful, with residents and non-residents attending SingAbout in Ventnor.

Long may it continue!!



Hannah has joined Independent Arts, as our new Workshops Co-ordinator

Hannah joins the team as our new Workshops Co-ordinator

A new addition to our team, Hannah Joyce joined Independent Arts in January as our new Workshops Co-ordinator.

Hannah's role is to co-ordinate the Workshops for Wellbeing Programme, which delivers creative sessions to Island nursing homes, care homes and other clients. She is the main point of contact for our clients and creative practitioners.

Hannah graduated in 2011 with a degree in Arts and Events Management from The Arts University College, Bournemouth. During her degree, Hannah completed her placement at Quay Arts in Newport. Hannah has lived on the Island her whole life (apart from her time studying in Bournemouth), and feels very passionately about the arts scene over here.

After graduating, Hannah worked as Project Manager for a Portsmouth-based charity for the elderly called **Personal Choice**.

We are delighted to welcome Hannah to the team!

Creative Futures project is launched providing 1-1 creative sessions

Independent Arts launched our new project, Creative Futures in January, funded by the Clinical Commissioning Group's Innovation Grant Programme.

Creative Futures is a volunteer-led project aiming to improve the quality of life for elderly people in residential care. The project will deliver therapeutic arts sessions on a one-to-one basis to people in nursing and care homes. The sessions will be delivered Island-wide, and will be personalized and tailor-made to the individual clients needs.

The project is aimed at those who can't take part in group activities due to mobility or through conditions which necessitate tailored, individual therapies. Others simply don't want to get involved in group activities, but would prefer to work on a one-to-one basis. We are currently recruiting volunteers to engage with the project who will undertake training and mentoring before the session delivery commences.



Working on a 1-1 basis with people can be hugely beneficial

New community dance project stepping into action

Independent Arts has been awarded an Adult Community Learning Grant to deliver Dance Makers, a community dance project. The idea behind the project is that it will offer dance and movement in the community, in the way that SingAbout offers music. The project aims to raise confidence, reduce isolation and increase movement and ability for our participants.

The project will run for 16 weeks, with weekly sessions taking place at locations in Newport and Freshwater starting after Easter. We are delighted to have received local funding from the Isle of Wight Council for such a pivotal programme.

All information relating to the Dance Makers will be posted onto our website, or you can learn more by calling us on 01983 822437.

New statistics published in January 2013 show that the Isle of Wight has the highest number of dementia-sufferers in the whole of the UK. This makes SingAbout and our other projects a vital resource for our local community.