

# Arts Link

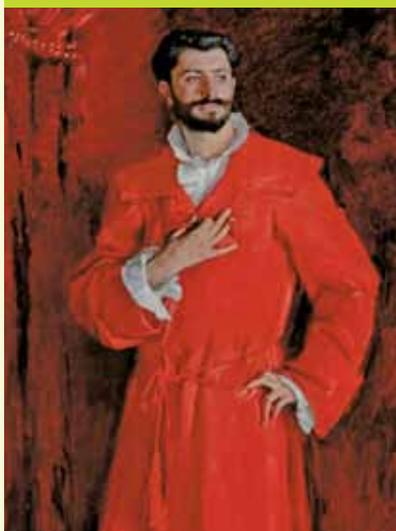


**Annual Review  
2014 - 15**

# ArtsLink

**ArtsLink** provides high quality courses, classes, trips and events for the whole community in Sherborne and the surrounding area. Our work is about learning, but also about activity, engagement and social interaction - vital ingredients in enhancing **well being, community cohesion and quality of life.**

ArtsLink's work embraces two areas - core activities for a general adult audience, and the Big Lottery funded TakepArt programme for children, young people and families. In 2014-15, 2655 people participated in core activities and 1731 in the TakepArt programme.

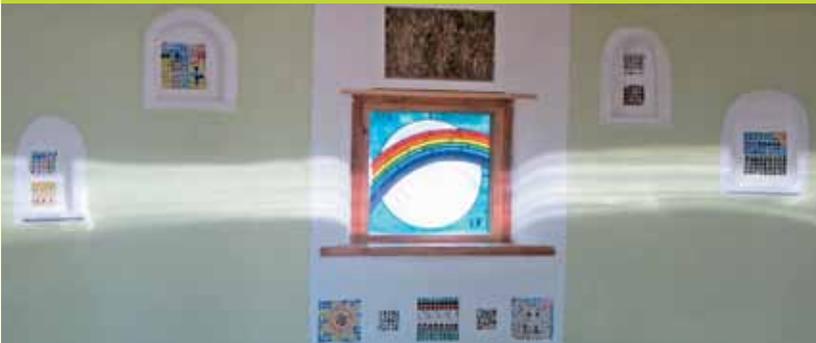
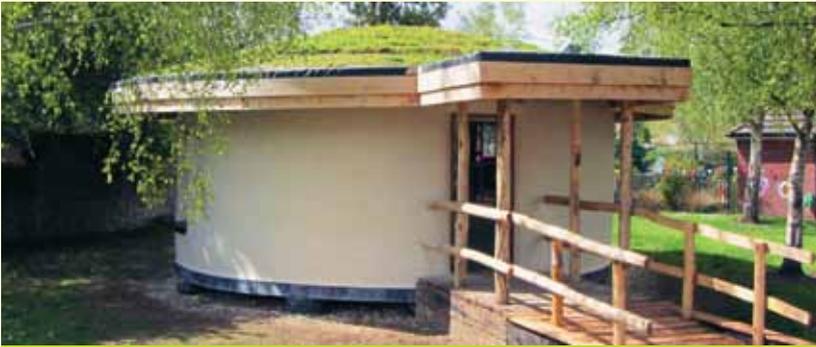


## The Art Cabin

The highlight of the year was the development of the Art Cabin, a partnership project between the TakepArt programme and Sherborne Youth Centre with funding from the Big Lottery. It was built by Huff and Puff Construction with help, support and muscle power from local community volunteers, including young people, individuals, groups and businesses.

Nestling in the grounds of Tinney's Lane Youth Centre, Sherborne, the Art Cabin is a sustainable, permanent building made from straw bales and wood, with a living sedum roof. It provides young people with a space to explore their creativity, gives the Youth Centre an additional venue for its therapeutic group work and is also available for hire by the wider community.

The Art Cabin is ArtsLink's most ambitious project to date and a marvellous addition for both the Youth Centre and Sherborne Community.



# TakeArt

Through this Big Lottery funded project (2011–2016) ArtsLink continues its creative work with the children, young people and families of Sherborne and the surrounding area.

The TakeArt project is actively supported by many organisations and groups within Sherborne and has stakeholder partner agreements with:

**The Youth Centre**  
**The Children's Centre**  
**The Learning Centre**

**The Gryphon School**  
**The RendezVous**  
**Four Leaf Clover Club**

In 2014-15, TakeArt's free creative events reached 1731 people. 982 children and 226 young people took part, with six young people joining our volunteer scheme.

Evaluation of the Youth Centre's Focus on Youth activities in August 2014 showed the following outcomes for the 10 - 16 year olds who took part:

- 92% felt more creative
- 90% felt happier
- 83% were more interested in attending arts events
- 83% felt more confident
- 83% felt more ambitious for themselves
- 80% felt more able to express themselves
- 70% were more interested in education and training



## What people said about TakeArt

*'My daughter is so keen on reading now that she prefers it to anything else! She has grown in reading confidence and loves books so much; it is all down to her coming to see Liz and doing the Story Cake Club. I also really enjoy it.'*

Parent of daughter referred to Story Cake Club by her school

*'The tutors are supportive, approachable, helpful and encouraging. I made lots of friends and would love to go again. I had more fun that week than any other in the holidays! I can't wait till next summer so I can do it again.'*

Comments from young people attending the week long Summer Theatre School with Action Track Performance Company

*'This group has been about boosting confidence, supporting each other, learning to try new things, to trust that whatever made is part of the process and it doesn't all have to be 'perfect' first time, that the fun is in the making just as much as in the 'end product'. We have talked about stuff that is happening in our lives and there has been nothing but support and understanding. There has been a real enthusiasm for learning, trying new activities and taking away new skills to test on friends and family.'*

Tutor and facilitator of Art for Parents group

*'The Super Girl costume which my daughter made at the last Arts Buffet has won her first prize in the school costume competition. She is really delighted and bouncing about in it all the time.'*

Mum and daughter attending an Arts Buffet



# ArtsLink

## Courses and classes

During the year, ArtsLink's courses and day classes were attended by 524 people. Subjects included wood carving, indigo dyeing, linocut printing and copper plate etching.

## Trips

ArtsLink provides door to door transport to concerts, operas and exhibitions, enabling everyone to access and enjoy events in Dorset and beyond. This year's trips included *The Magic Flute* (ETO), *Carmen* (WNO), Moscow City Ballet's *Romeo and Juliet*, the Turner and John Singer Sargent exhibitions in London and the wonderful annual arts and crafts extravaganza *Art in Action* at Waterperry House, Oxford.

## ArtsLink Flicks

The monthly ArtsLink Flicks, held in partnership with Moviola, attracted our biggest ever annual audience of 1,439. The best attended showings included *Saving Mr Banks*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel* and *Mr Turner*.

## Lectures

276 people attended two marvellous lectures given by Julian Halsby at the Digby Hall. The talks tied in with trips to the Turner and John Singer Sargent exhibitions in London.

## ArtsLink Summer Show

This third showcase of work by ArtsLink participants, tutors, volunteers and supporters was bigger and better than ever with over one hundred entries and many delighted visitors.

## Cultural Study Tour

Vienna was the destination for the third study tour in May 2014. Designed and led by Mary Jacobsen, the trip encompassed the art, history, architecture and gardens of this amazingly innovative city covering lesser and well known places of interest.

Highlights included a private tour of the Palais Liechtenstein art collection and a visit to Otto Wagner's Kirche am Steinhof, a newly restored art nouveau church. Walking tours, good food and superb weather complemented this absorbing exploration of Viennese arts and architecture from Roman to contemporary times.



## **The Sherborne Mural Community Street Art Project**

During the year TakepArt has played a major practical role in the creation of a large scale piece of public art. The Sherborne Mural depicts the history of the town in full colour across eighteen large panels. It will be completed in June 2015 and permanently displayed in the Old Market Car Park.

## Sherborne ArtsLink Ltd

is a registered charity (number 1007680) and a company limited by guarantee (number 2471382).

ArtsLink is governed by its Council of Management, chaired by Julian Halsby. The day to day running of the charity is delegated to its three part time staff members:

**Helen Chaloner** Director  
**Jennie Loader** TakeArt Community Arts Co-ordinator  
**Helen Priest** ArtsLink Co-ordinator  
who are in turn supported by a team of highly valued volunteers.

ArtsLink receives funding from West Dorset District Council to deliver arts education under a Service Level Agreement.

*If you are interested in finding out more, please do get in touch  
- we'd love to hear from you!*



Thanks to ArtsLink's tutors and participants for the images used in this brochure. Thanks also to our generous supporters:



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