

SUSSEX AREA YOUNG ARTS (ARTS VOLUNTEERING) REPORT – MARCH 2020

2019 has been another wonderful year for Young Arts projects in Sussex Area. There was a wealth of exciting projects being undertaken across the area and these should be celebrated. 14 societies reported a society Young Arts project/s. What a great achievement by all involved. Young Arts is obviously thriving in Sussex Area! 40 projects were reported, organised across a wide variety of aspects of the arts. These included RBA submissions, exhibition expenses, purchase of a range of materials for a variety of art projects, clay work, artists working with pupils in schools, Young Artisan of the Year at The South of England Show, music activities, the purchase of musical instruments, links with West Sussex Music, exhibitions, poetry and literacy activities. Below is more detail of the reported projects for 2019 with data correct to March 9th 2020. Please note TAS Storrington is included in this data but the new Chichester Evening society is not.

- Area project for West Dean student Samuel Matthews £4000 of which £3650 was donated by 18 societies. 5 societies did not contribute. Area's contribution was £350.
- Two societies have not reported.
- No Young Arts projects – 2 societies did not have a society project or contribute to the Area project for the West Dean student. Therefore, 87% of Sussex societies had a project by donating to the West Dean student and /or a society project.
- Society Young Arts projects – 14 societies reported 1 or more projects and the number of young people involved in these was 3342. The total for these projects was £19727.70. This was made up of society contributions of £17851.08, Sussex Area contributions of £1426.60, and external funding of £450. This means that 60% of Sussex societies reported a society based project and the average contribution to these projects by each society was approximately £1425.
- During 2019 a total of £23449.70 supported projects in Sussex Area and Area contributed £1776.60 of this.

A Young Arts newsletter is circulated each term with a reminder about reporting projects when they have been completed. The last newsletter was circulated at the end of November and the next newsletter is due out in March/April 2020. Please let me have details of your projects if you would like them included.

RBA – two Sussex students have had their work selected for the RBA Exhibition in 2020 – see newsletter for details. As the students incur expenses associated with this, Area gave each student £100 towards these. Area will continue this in future years when students are successful.

West Dean Student 2019/2020 – Hollie Drinkwater – currently no update.

Reporting projects – this remains an ongoing issue. It is the responsibility of all societies to report their projects each calendar year by the end of the year directly to The Arts Society via their website. I spent a great deal of time and effort again this year to ensure that Sussex Area Young Arts projects were reported more accurately in 2019.

Information Day Feb 28th – information about rebranding of Young Arts was shared. The new name of Arts Volunteering allows societies to work with different age groups and the new name does not impact Young Arts which can still be used for projects. The current reporting system is under review and redesigning to make it simpler, more relevant and flexible.

Please share your plans for new projects so that they can be highlighted in the termly newsletter and on the Sussex Area website. There is some funding available from Sussex Area so please contact Alan Bowden, treasurer in the first instance. There is a renewed focus and enthusiasm within The Arts Society on the work and impact of societies in their local communities and the widening of the Young Arts remit to embrace all the arts, offer lifelong learning and access to the arts for everyone is a thrilling prospect. We know, societies have been quietly working across the spectrum, providing quality arts experiences to meet local needs for quite some time giving help, expertise and funding where it will most benefit their local communities, now, under the umbrella of Arts Volunteering, we can truly celebrate their fantastic work and achievement.

Gill Baker March 2020

