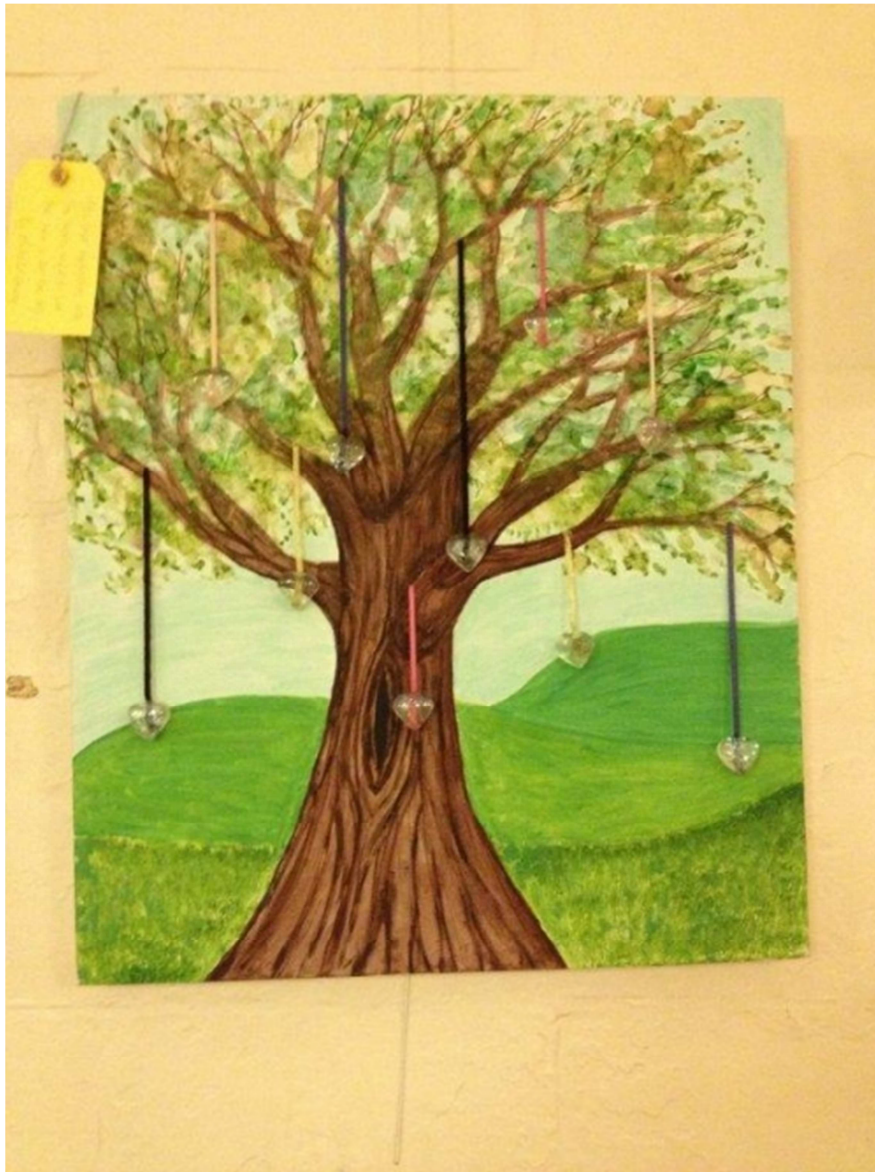


Art Exhibition emerges from Loss and Bereavement Group

14th-22nd December 2012 Radstock Church Tea Rooms.



A TWO WEEK art exhibition is being held in Radstock displaying art created by members of a local Loss and Bereavement group.



DHI clients are contributing to an art exhibition at Radstock Church Tea Rooms called 'Highly Blessed' which runs from 14th–22nd December. The group includes friends and family members who have been affected by loss and bereavement during the past year. The young people's group has been meeting since October and members have been able to use the creative outlet to express a range of issues including loss and bereavement.

The exhibition emerged from an idea by the group members themselves who were keen to share their work with a wider audience. The group has been supported by specialist staff from DHI (Developing Health and Independence), Project28 a young people's service and Avon and Wiltshire Partnership's Specialist Drug and Alcohol Service (SDAS).

Following a suicide, the group was established to address Loss and Bereavement, along with drug related issues, including Ketamine use. The partners are working together to offer services to those who have been affected.

Michelle Emery has been coming along to the group following the death of her brother Jamie, and she says:

"Going to the group has been like therapy for me, it's been nice to be around Jamie's friends and it's been good for them too. The group has been something to look forward to every week during what has been a very difficult time. There's been some lovely pieces of art that we've produced and being part of the group has really helped, giving us a way of venting our emotions."

Helen Bartolini from DHI's centre 'The Hub' in Midsomer Norton adds:

"The exhibition was organised as part of a multi agency initiative. There had been a loss and that's why we are running the group, which is a result of bereavement in the community. We are very proud of the works of art the participants have produced. Each piece tells a story and we hope as many people as possible will come along to see the exhibition which runs until the 22nd December. "It's important that in difficult times, families and friends are supported as they experience issues around loss and bereavement. We'd like to thank everyone who took part."

Rosie Phillips Chief Executive of DHI says:

"DHI works hard to support people to overcome complex and often life-threatening issues. We are able to support people to access support locally to maintain their recovery. In our project in Midsomer Norton, individuals can access a wide range of groups and activities, as well as receive support from the dedicated staff at the project. We also provide a wide range of services for family members concerned about their loved ones' substance misuse."

As part of our work to support families and carers, DHI is holding a two day event in Bath on April 11 and April 12 2013. The theme for the 'Reach Out' conference is 'Shared Voices'. Much of the experience of people affected by someone else's substance misuse is hidden. This event will give an opportunity for family members and carers to speak up and speak out about their experiences, particularly with others in a similar situation together with the professionals who provide their services.

If you would like to find out more about the Reach Out event, please visit <http://www.dhi-online.org.uk/news/article/shared-voices-reach-out-conference-2012/>