

PARISH LIAISON MEETING – 16TH OCTOBER 2013

Developing arts activity in Bath and North East Somerset

B&NES Council Arts Development team

B&NES Council Arts Development team exists to ensure that all residents of the district have opportunity to access and take part in arts activity. We do this by awarding grants and contracts to arts organisations and groups for projects and activities that engage and benefit local people.

Arts activity can include –

All types of music, all types of dance, theatre, literature & creative writing, film / digital media / photography, visual art (painting, sculpture etc).

People participate by making and doing *and* by being in the audience. For example – take part in a tango class or watch a dance performance; be in a drama group or watch a play; join a book group or go to an author event.

Benefits

Social contact; learning new skills; trying something new; health & wellbeing; being introduced to new ideas; volunteering; capacity building in the voluntary sector.

Who takes part?

Looking at evidence from surveys and postcode data, we know that:

- Over the past 10 years or more, there has been less benefit to residents of North East Somerset – we can see that the majority of participation is in Bath.
- In the population of Bath and NES, there are a lot of families who take part in various kinds of leisure activities but don't engage with the arts.

Why is this?

Many arts organisations are based in Bath; there are fewer venues in NES. But we know that there is a lot of community arts activity going on in NES which is 'below the radar' because those groups are volunteer-run, and aren't seeking funding.

Families may not be engaging with arts activity for several reasons – Cost; transport; parking; childcare; pressure of time; the arts activity on offer isn't attractive to them; they don't see any publicity about arts activities; publicity doesn't explain clearly what's on offer.

Addressing these issues

For 2014/15, B&NES Council Arts Development team is making it a priority to fund arts projects and activities which:

- reach and engage with a family audience
- are accessible to, or take place in, North East Somerset

Request to the Parish Liaison meeting

- What arts activity is already taking place in your area?

- What arts activity would your residents like to see happening in your area in the future?

Ann Cullis – Arts Development Manager (01225 396455)

Email sent to all Parishes on 8 July 2013:

Arts activity in Bath and North East Somerset

For information for Parishes:

Dear colleagues

Bath & North East Somerset Council's Arts Development team is working on plans for the 3-year period 2014-2017. The Council's arts development budget is used to commission arts services and activities from voluntary organisations; we also have small grants schemes which community groups can apply for. In the coming three years, we want to ensure that there is more opportunity and activity happening in the communities in North East Somerset, and that a wider 'family' audience is engaged.

We are keen to inform Parishes about these plans and the potential positive impact on the more rural areas of the district. We'd also like to hear your ideas and views about existing activity, and what you think would work well in your areas.

We hope to include a discussion item in the agenda for the Parish Liaison meeting on 16 October.

If you would like to contact the Arts Development team before then, please do email to arts@bathnes.gov.uk

Thanks very much
Best wishes

Ann Cullis

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(Senior Arts Development Officer)

(01225) 396455

Bath and North East Somerset Council, Arts Development

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