



Inside

Foreword	3
Making the case for arts with offenders	5
Our growing membership	7
Arts Alliance events	9
Making an impact	10
Looking ahead	11

This annual review outlines the achievements of the Arts Alliance and features highlights of our members' successes in 2012/13.

About the Arts Alliance

The Arts Alliance is the national body promoting arts in criminal justice. We provide a network for arts and criminal justice sector practitioners using the arts for rehabilitation. The purpose of the Arts Alliance is to promote the value of the arts in criminal justice contexts, and improve communication and broker relationships between artists and organisations working with the criminal justice sector and relevant government departments.

Published by The Arts Alliance.
© Clinks 2013. All rights reserved. Clinks is a registered charity
no.1074546 and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England
and Wales no. 3562176. Registered office: 59 Carter Street, London EC4V 5AQ.

Foreword

I had a long phone call recently from the Education Team at Carnegie Hall, the most prestigious classical music venue in Manhattan, who are running music workshops in New York State jails. They were hugely impressed that the UK has a national alliance that supports arts projects with offenders, carries out research to make the case for the work, has set up an on-line library of the evidence, and has an open channel of communication with government. I know lots of Arts Alliance members have had similar feedback from contacts in other countries, telling us how lucky we are in Britain.

But we certainly face challenges, now perhaps more than ever. For example, how to ensure that the arts are included in new offender learning contracts and through-the-gate mentoring, how to raise money from philanthropic sources as public funding declines, how to gather evidence that will convince sceptics. As this annual review shows, the Arts Alliance can be proud of the progress it has made in these and many other areas during 2012-13. We still have much to do – not

least to ensure the Alliance's future, after our current funding comes to an end in March 2014. The envy of overseas colleagues may be a useful reminder and motivator: the long-established expertise of many Arts Alliance members puts us in a strong position going forward, and the Alliance itself is unique in the world.

For all that we have achieved so far, and all that we will need to do ahead, I am enormously grateful to the Alliance's funders – the Monument Trust and the Ministry of Justice – to the Arts Alliance manager, Jessica Plant, and the rest of the Clinks team who get the work done, and to all the Alliance members who bring such enthusiasm and commitment to this remarkable joint endeavour.

Tim Robertson

Chair of the Arts Alliance | CEO Koestler Trust

“ The camaraderie and support the women gained from each other affected a huge change in their sense of self-belief.”

Charlotte Harker, Education Manager,
HMP & YOI Askham Grange

“ The impact on me has been incredible because it was so real – better than any other programme that I have done in my 18 year sentence. This is what resettlement should be.”

Resident, HMP & YOI Askham Grange

Climbing high with Clean Break

Acclaimed actor Zawe Ashton (*Dreams of a Life, Fresh Meat*) joined a cast of eight residents at HMP&YOI Askham Grange to perform a play created for them by award-winning playwright Chloë Moss (*This Wide Night, Soho Theatre*). The production was the first Clean Break play to be performed inside a prison for a public audience in over a decade.

Returning to her strong connection with Clean Break, Chloë wrote *There Are Mountains* following workshops with the group of women in the prison, in response to their experiences, thoughts and concerns revolving around release from prison and its impact on the self, family, community and those who are left behind.

A richly successful partnership project with HMP & YOI Askham Grange, where Clean Break was founded in 1979, the response to the production has been phenomenal from the women involved, the wider prison population and the prison itself, as well as audience members.

Zawe Ashton and residents at HMP & YOI Askham Grange performed in Clean Break's *There Are Mountains*. Photo © Sheila Burnett. Courtesy of Clean Break.



Making the case for arts with offenders

The Arts Alliance has had a successful year building the case for arts in criminal justice; membership has increased by 35%, we've had 1,400 visits to our new website, and we launched our new Evidence Library.

Evidence Library



The Evidence Library is an online catalogue and research tool showcasing arts-based evaluations within the Criminal Justice System. To launch the Evidence Library, in December 2012 the Arts Alliance hosted its third Anne Peaker lecture, *Art, Science and Desistance from Crime*, delivered

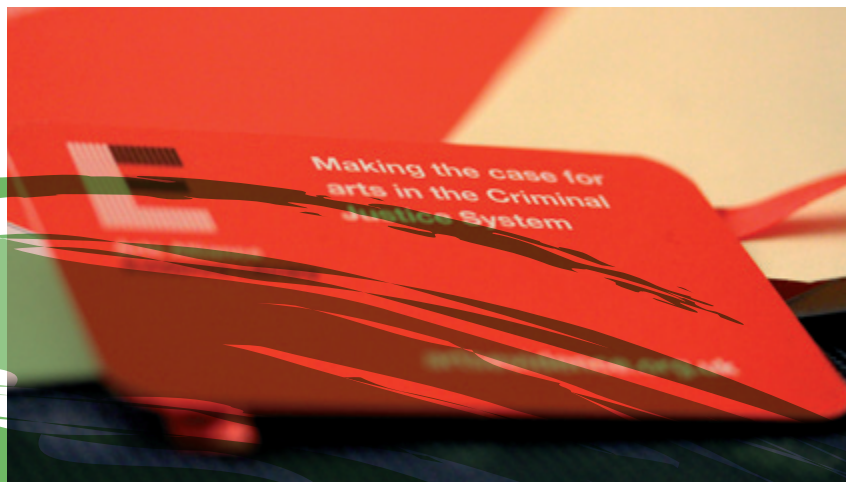
by leading criminologist Fergus McNeill. This event was well attended by practitioners and policy makers from National Offender Management System, the Ministry of Justice, Youth Justice Board and funders. Sarah Colvin from Warwick University, who chaired the event, stated:


“The Evidence Library is exactly what experts and new researchers on arts in prisons need. It's one of the most intelligent and functional databases I've used. The Arts Alliance is invaluable because it is the point of connection for arts practitioners, researchers, and the prisoners and at-risk groups who use the projects. It's the connection that makes arts in prison work.”

New website

The Arts Alliance website has been redesigned as an information portal for both the arts and criminal justice sector. It acts as an interactive hub for sharing and learning, showcasing projects, and bringing organisations together. It highlights key government policy issues and provides a commissioner's area which seeks to respond to the changing political environment. The gallery section allows people to quickly see the impact our members work can have, offering inspiring models of creative practice.

www.artsalliance.org.uk





“ Art makes me feel alive and calm – my breathing calms when I am creating work. I feel a real sense of purpose.”

Jon, Koestler Trust mentee

The road to success with the Koestler Trust

Through 2012/13 the Koestler Trust provided an innovative mentoring scheme to support offenders to develop their interest in the arts upon release. Jon's story illustrates the importance of this work:

Jon enrolled on an Art Foundation course whilst still at HMP Blantyre House and has continued to study at Greenwich College since his release. Through the mentoring scheme he was matched with a mentor, Kim, and they met for one session at the National Gallery prior to release.

Jon has found his mentoring with Kim has helped him to overcome the barriers he faces as an older, ex-prisoner within college education. Kim has been able to encourage Jon to seek further assistance from college tutors and provide guidance on some of the art packages and technical issues that Jon was facing. Kim has also planned a variety of exhibition visits for her mentoring sessions, most recently to view the *Splash* show at the Tate Modern which impressed and inspired Jon.

Lifelong Days (detail),
HMP Addiewell. Courtesy
of the Koestler Trust.

Our growing membership

Continued growth in 2012 has seen membership of the Arts Alliance rise to over 370, whilst our mailing list has over 1,000 subscribers. The Arts Alliance brings this network together through events, informal support, and opportunities to work together. We are pleased to welcome new members, including the Victoria and Albert Museum (the V&A), the Old Fire Station, Open Cinema and Artichoke Arts.

“ The Arts Alliance has been a fantastic resource to me in terms of learning more about how the arts are used to transform the lives of prisoners and ex-prisoners within the community. The advice, guidance and expertise we have received has been hugely appreciated and so helpful in planning community workshops.”

The V&A

The steering group

To guide the work of the Arts Alliance, and to ensure we remain representative we have an elected steering group from across the Arts Alliance membership. Their role is to set priorities, provide expert advice and oversee our work. In 2012/13 the Arts Alliance held five well attended steering group meetings, including an away day in October 2012. This group of dedicated arts and criminal justice leaders have driven the achievements of the Arts Alliance. Toby

Lowe, the chief executive of Helix Arts in Newcastle, is a new co-opted member, he talks about what being a part of the Arts Alliance brings to their organisation:

“ Being a member of the Arts Alliance has created opportunities for learning – through the high quality events that the Arts Alliance puts on. It has also raised the profile of Helix Arts work, and has helped us form new connections with other organisations who work in this field. In particular, being a member of the Steering Group has enabled Helix Arts to join national level policy conversations, and has led to the development of new joint projects with other Steering Group members.”

Helix Arts

Communicating with the arts and criminal justice sector

One of our key roles is to help the arts and criminal justice sector network communicate with each other. Over 2012/13 we have sent out monthly e-bulletins and now have over 1,000 subscribers. These included contributions from across our membership. The new Arts Alliance website has a forum and comments section, and interaction is increasing all the time. We also have 350 Twitter followers.

[@ArtsAllianceCJS](#)

“ Thanks for your assistance in helping us to find some artists for *Another Brick in the Wall*. We've now managed to find some good artists to work with, and also I very much enjoyed attending your training session, it was so useful.”

Artichoke Arts



Creative grants: Prisoners' Education Trust

In 2012 Prisoners' Education Trust awarded 300 creative activity grants for art and hobby materials. These grants were used to buy a range of equipment such as paint, brushes, paper and matchstick modelling kits. 'Dan', a 42 year old male prisoner, who was serving a seven year sentence, wrote to Prisoners' Education Trust requesting support to do a Practice of Painting course. In his letter Dan explained how this course would help him to progress upon release:

“ Once released, I plan to work in the field of art and design. Opening my own internet business is my first plan of action, and when that succeeds I will diversify into a shop based business. By getting the degree I hope to be as skilful as I can be to compete in the art market. I see this course as a big part of my future. It has so far given me a focus and escape from the mundane nature of prison life.”

Main photo: © Lizzie Coombes, courtesy of Music in Prisons.

Inset: *Spring Colours* (detail), HMP Full Sutton, Pierce Brunt. Highly Commended Award for Watercolour. Courtesy of the Koestler Trust.



Music in Prisons went beyond

The 2012 Cultural Olympiad aimed to give everyone in the UK a chance to be part of London 2012 and inspire creativity across all forms of culture, leaving a lasting legacy for the arts in the UK. Arts Alliance steering group member, Music in Prisons, was thrilled to receive one of 20 New Music 20x12 commissions, which allowed the organisation to highlight the crucial work that goes on, often unnoticed, behind the gates of the UK's prisons and advocate for the transformative power of music education. *Beyond This*, created by prisoners at HMP Lowdham Grange in collaboration with the renowned composer Mark-Anthony Turnage, was premiered in the prison and at London's Southbank Centre.

Arts Alliance events

Our events programme allows us to increase engagement with members and be truly representative of the diverse work they undertake. Arts Alliance events over the last year include:

Arts, creativity and spirituality

The Arts Alliance supported a series of seminars on arts, creativity and spirituality in the Criminal Justice System, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and run by Dr Laura Caulfield, Charlotte Bilby, Rose Parkes and Dr Leigh Harkins.

Delegates said the seminar was excellent or good at 'developing knowledge and understanding of enrichment activities in criminal justice' and 'networking and meeting colleagues'.

Peer learning

Our series of peer learning events, run by members, focused on sharing knowledge and good practice within the network. These have included workshops led by Music in Prisons, Good Vibrations, Koestler Trust and Clean Break. In January 2013 we ran an event on business sponsorship enabling members to learn how to diversify their income streams.

Conferences and lectures

In October 2012 the Arts Alliance held a conference at the Southbank Centre, London, focusing on using performance with offenders. The event hosted music and theatre workshops for practitioners. We also held the Anne Peaker lecture in December 2012 and our 2013 annual meeting and conference, focusing on exploring how arts can contribute to the Rehabilitation Revolution, will be held at the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff.

"I can't emphasise enough how much I enjoyed the event last week. Fergus McNeill's lecture was so fantastic – such a clear, vivid and well evidenced case for the role of the arts in desistance. It will be of huge benefit to me in my attempts to make the case for our work to our supporters."

Lillian Ashford, Clean Break

Responding to payment by results

To enable our members to respond to the changing commissioning structures we will focus on the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda at our annual conference in Cardiff. We also responded formally to the recent government consultation.

Over 250 people have attended our range of specialised events in 2012/13.

"Thanks so much for organising the Performing in Prisons workshop – it was great to find out about all the brilliant projects going on which have left me with plenty to think about."

Independent Film maker

"It helped me rethink potential business sponsorship for my own organisation."

Workshop delegate

"It was good to learn from real examples."

Workshop delegate

“ I learnt that with sacrifice, determination and perseverance I can become and achieve anything I want to in life.”

Good Vibrations participant



Good Vibrations working at HMYOI Swinfen Hall. Photo by Edward Moss © GDA Design & Marketing. Courtesy of GDA Design & Marketing and Good Vibrations

Good Vibrations at Holloway

The Arts Alliance and the Ministry of Justice attended a dynamic performance by women at HMP Holloway in August 2012.

The performance was the outcome of a series of workshops run by Good Vibrations, using singing (in this case, gospel singing) to engage the women, develop confidence, motivation and communication skills, increase well-being and reduce stress levels.

Weekly sessions were run for mainstream prisoners and, separately, for women with serious mental health problems. 74 women took part.

100% of those completing the project reported increased confidence, 82% improved well-being, 64% better communication skills and 64% increased motivation and willingness to engage.

Making an impact

Changing public opinion

In April 2012 we ran an ICM opinion poll. The results showed that most people don't mind what kind of projects are run with prisoners and ex-prisoners, just so long as they save money and reduce criminal behaviour. We hope to use this survey as a bench mark and will continue to monitor public opinion in 2015 to demonstrate the impact of our members' work.

Research

We commissioned a group of criminologists with expert knowledge of arts interventions to explore how arts can enable people to desist from crime. The work will explore how different art forms are used in a variety of settings such as the prison and through the gate services. This piece of work is intended to act as a pilot for a larger research study in 2014.

Mentoring

Following a suggestion from a member we are developing a mentoring scheme that matches experienced arts practitioners with new artists wanting to work with offenders. We are working with the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation to train up Arts Alliance mentors. We will be accepting applications in 2013.

Looking ahead

Write to be heard

We are delighted to announce that the Arts Alliance was successful in securing a grant from the National Offender Management Services (NOMS) to run a prison radio writing competition and arts network. The project runs from February 2013 to March 2014.

International work

In November 2012, Music in Prisons' Artistic Director Sara Lee was invited to Vancouver to present a series of workshops and discussions about their work and to highlight the role of the Arts Alliance in promoting the arts in the criminal justice sector. Presentations were given to professional musicians, students, criminologists, researchers. Men living in a half-way house in the south of the city had the opportunity to take part in a creative workshop to experience first-hand the work Music in Prisons delivers in custody and community settings.

Following on from the successes of the Arts Alliance in 2012/13, our plans for 2013/14 are to continue to deliver a range of policy and good practice events across the UK and publish our research results in September 2013.

We will continue to develop the website, making more information and resources available to the membership. We'll build the Evidence Library, doing work to understand the existing research on arts interventions. We also aim to support organisations respond to changes in commissioning and funding structures, as well as looking at ways to enable them to develop their creative practices.

Importantly, the Arts Alliance will be focusing on developing a large scale research programme into desistance and creativity. Our plan is to develop a three year action research project looking a range of art forms.

Most of all, we want to continue to get your input to help the Arts Alliance to thrive, ensuring offenders get access to art opportunities.

Dance, dance, dance with Dance United

Over the last twelve months, Dance United's London Performance Company has worked with renowned choreographers including Darren Ellis, Dam Van Huynh, Kwesi Johnson and BalletBoyz.

They performed at eleven different live events and venues as diverse as the Royal Festival Hall Ballroom, Two Temple Place, St Pancras Station, Matrix Chambers, The Place and the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

In addition, the young people have taken part in a range of workshops, films (including Random Acts for Channel 4) and other arts activities.

Summer arts with Unitas

Unitas's Summer Arts Colleges are intensive educational projects designed for 'high risk' young people in the youth justice system. Delivered annually since 2007, once again, the Colleges achieved fantastic outcomes in 2012, with young people on the programme gaining 244 Bronze Arts Awards and 18 Silver Arts Awards.



59 Carter Street
London EC4V 5AQ

020 7246 2568

www.artsalliance.org.uk

Managed by

CLINKS

www.clinks.org

