



# D'Arts Annual Report

## 2018 -2019



Reg. charity 1155136

This year has been full and creative with Saturday sessions based mostly at Exeter Community Centre. We have had an interesting year with sessions including Art (after Yayoi Kusama) Painting, Mandala pebble painting, Christmas decorations, Animation film making, Indian dancing, Zumba, Contemporary dance, Apple pressing and farm walks with Organic Arts and a successful Sponsored walk. Each Saturday continues to average between 12 and 15 participants, and this year we have had some new people join us. We are fortunate to have a wonderful team of creative artists willing to run the Saturday sessions for us, and we continue to use Exeter Community Centre as a welcoming and efficient centre where other events are also taking place



D'ArtsFest did not take place this year as we needed a years rest from the hard work it takes to raise the funds. We are now very busy raising funds for D'ArtsFest 2020 which will be our 5<sup>th</sup> festival. It will take place at West Town farm again on July 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>. Next year we hope to involve even more groups of local people with learning disabilities to run the food and other services at the festival.

### Fundraising

As always we rely heavily on small grants and donations to keep us going through the year. We are into our second year of a three year Yapp grant which gives us £2,100 a year. This kind of funding makes planning much easier. They were very pleased with our interim report and photos of what we had done last year. We were put forward for a Masonic Award by Jim Ferguson and I attended the Masonic Hall in Uffculme in late November for a wonderful evening of awards and drinks and refreshments. To my great surprise we were awarded an envelope by the Provincial Grand Master with a cheque for £1,000. This sort of gift really boosts our finances and allows us to continue with confidence. Jim has also been most generous with donating cheques that he receives for talks that he gives. In early

September we did a sponsored walk along the quay to the Double Locks and raised over £700. This was a fantastic achievement, and this will all go towards D'ArtsFest 2020. We are planning our fundraising music night in February, hopefully at Exeter City Football ground. We are involved in a large bid to the Big Lottery for funding over 5 years, in partnership with Magic Carpet, Soundwaves and Get Changed Theatre Company. We have asked for a 9 month grant to do some real evaluation and fact finding with participants, parents, carers, volunteers in order to write a bid based on real need. The first bid has gone forward and we are hopeful that we will be successful. The annual accounts are attached, ably prepared by Exeter Community Accounting.

D'Arts will be 10 years old in 2020, after its official launch as a charity in 2010. This is a great achievement for a very small charity. Much of its success is due to the continuing involvement and hard work of the people who started at the beginning, along with many fantastic people who have joined over the years. We are so fortunate to have such committed trustees, volunteers and creative arts practitioners, as well of course as enthusiastic participants. The secret benefits for those who come along are the friendships, connections, laughter, creativity, lunch sharing, all for £10. These Saturdays are a lifeline for some people who are lonely and isolated at weekends. The question is how to continue, and this coming year we need some serious planning for the next 10 years ahead.

A big THANK YOU to all those people who keep D'Arts going....

