



www.theartministry.org.uk

artsforall

The Art Ministry exists to provide facilities in arts and crafts to all, but especially to the disabled or disadvantaged. We meet in a dedicated art room which is adjacent to the United Reformed Church, Church Road, Hadleigh, Essex.

THE ART MINISTRY NEWSLETTER



Reg.Charity No.110287

THE ART MINISTRY

Adjacent to:
The United Reformed Church
Church Road
Hadleigh
Essex

Contact:

info@theartministry.org.uk

07582 025163

We're on the Web!

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We would like to thank the Lions of Club of Castle Point for their very kind donation of £100.00.

The Lions Club of Castle Point has been serving the communities of Benfleet, Thundersley and Hadleigh for the past 25 years.

Club meetings take place at the Hollywood Restaurant, Shipwrights Drive in Thundersley on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month.



SUMMER FUN AT THE ART MINISTRY! – Anita Lysiak



On 6 August 2011 The Art Ministry’s Summer Fun Day attracted a large crowd of visitors; children enjoyed the bouncy castle, face painting, nail painting, balloon modelling, temporary tattoos, and artistic activities in our dedicated Art Room. Children from a local dance group entertained guests with their dance performance whilst visitors enjoyed lunch prepared by local restaurant manager and Art Ministry volunteer Jayne Brealey. A number of other stalls including cakes, plants, books and bric-a-brac gave adults and children a variety of entertainment. We were also delighted to welcome the deputy mayor Councillor Burch and Mrs Burch to open the Fun Day to the public. Many thanks to Abby Brealey for her dedicated organisation of the event, to the many volunteers who helped to make this day a success, and to all of our kind supporters who enjoyed the day with us.



GOOD LUCK LAURA



The Fundraising Committee said a sad farewell to Laura who is leaving us to go on to Durham University. Laura has worked very hard with fundraising with walking the Colourthon; freezing at the Leigh Broadway Lights; helping with the fund day (the day after arriving home from a month in Peru); and much more. She has also worked in other places within The Art Ministry as well as the family workshops. We wish Laura every success with her time at University and look forward to seeing her on her return during her holidays.



“PEDALLING FOR POUNDS!” –Anita Lysiak

Allan Webb, leader of the class for children with learning difficulties, and Anita Lysiak, Trustee of The Art Ministry, successfully completed the 23 mile Foulness Island Bike Ride on 11 September 2011. After a seemingly easy few miles at the start, the high winds throughout the majority of the course proved a challenge, especially cycling over gravel, however this did not prepare Allan and Anita for the final 8 mile stretch! Cycling directly into the wind with a continuous uphill gradient, this was by far the most painful part of the ride, and it was a relief for them to cross the finish line! Thank you very much to everyone who sponsored them to raise a combined total of around £1,100 for The Art Ministry! Well done to both of you!



PARKLANDS 4 MONTHS ON - Angela Cotton

We have now been visiting Parkland Residential Home in Benfleet for four months. We have been encouraging residents in creative activities and are glad to be able to report progress.

Our clients are elderly and often frail. Some of them have difficulty in physically using a pencil or brush. They have difficulty too, with concentration and sometimes feel the very idea of creating something a challenge. Despite these problems there are nuclei of people who come regularly, look forward to our sessions and are producing work that deserves genuine praise. It has been very satisfying to see withdrawn and almost silent people beginning to become responsive and interested in what is going on. It is a process that we hope to see continue.



There is a display of colourful work in the dining space. It includes collages produced individually and as a group. Clients are producing a variety of work of their choice. Margaret is very interested in clay work and has some novel ideas. Frank enjoys model making and to date has produced an excellent model plane. Derek is a painter with talent and imagination. Malcolm is ill and cannot take part but he does enjoy watching. Others are gradually becoming involved and developing skills...

The Art Ministry team - Jean, Helen, Lisa, Abby and Angela are very grateful to the Manager and her staff (and particularly Julie), for the support and help they give. We are looking forward to the period up to Christmas when we shall be producing cards, crackers and decorations for the tree.





The Little heath Lodge No. 5935 have most generously donated £200 to The Art Ministry which is very much appreciated. Little Heath Lodge meetings take place at

Upminster Masonic Hall, Deyncourt Gardens, Upminster, Essex and are held on the third Thursday in January and the first Thursday in March and November and the second Thursday in June

Moonlight Colourthon

The Southend 'Moonlight Colourthon' set off from Chalkwell Park at 8pm on Saturday 2nd July, 2011 with Abby, Jayne and Laura walking for The Art Ministry. Between them they raised £133 - well done to you all.



DAWN WALE by Kevin Robson

"She looked at our problems as if they were her own"



"It was a measure of Dawn's strength and commitment that she saw us through this crisis"



Dawn Wale was first helpful to the Art Ministry in 2007 when she was appointed Senior Funding Officer at Castle Point Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS). In this role, she assisted us, and taught us to gain funds from many bodies. She took a keen interest in our affairs, listened to our problems and began to anticipate our needs. From the early days of knowing her, we were delighted to see that she would go the extra mile.

She looked at our problems as if they were her own.

She would work long and hard, answering emails even when she was not on duty, and repeatedly coming up with ways that we could continually improve our appeals.

Despite injury, which cut short her personal passion; her boxing career, family challenges including bereavement of close relatives, and her ongoing studies, she was a constant friend to our organisation.

Financially things were as difficult as I've personally known them to be, the recession was biting.

We were also facing a severe shortage in Management and Leadership.

By March 2010 there were just two Trustees, Allan Webb and Gwyneth Smallbone, who was severely ill. She became a Trustee and applied energy, wisdom and stability. They both interviewed Betty McCarthy and Jack Roche who became Trustees. Allan subsequently resigned and Gwyneth went into hospital so we were back to two Trustees. During this time we were joined by Dawn who actually kept the Art Ministry from going under.

It was a measure of Dawn's strength and commitment that she saw us through this crisis.

Dawn then became Chair of the Trustees, and attracted more Trustees to join and bring their skills.

It was at this stage that she moved to Nottingham.

Even, with that distance involved, Dawn continued to take an active role and make the journey to all the Trustees Meetings that she would chair.

Although she has now stood down, she is always happy to be consulted by us, interested in our news, and continues her good work in the Midlands.

We owe her a big vote of thanks, not least for the way that she has developed her assistant Pippa, who has stepped into her role at CAVs and Pippa now maintains the impetus and high standards that Dawn herself had started.

We would like to thank Mr & Mrs Mara of Canvey Island for their most generous donation of £250.

This money was raised from a charity function of a Masonic Ladies Festival.

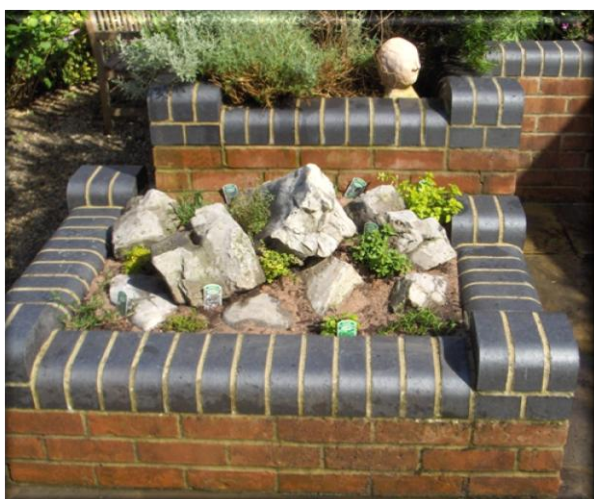
Mrs Mara said *"Having seen the wonderful work you do for the community after a visit to our Distaff Ladies Club in January we chose you as one of our recipients"*





The Art Ministry Sensory Garden – Allan Webb

The Art Ministry's Sensory Garden got several visits from its own Ground Force team, Anita Lysiak and Allan Webb, during the summer. Often working in the torrential rain of the typical British summer, Anita and Allan gave the garden that was originally provided by the Benfleet Rotary Club, a complete revamp. This included two new features, a raised herb bed, and a set of terracotta tiles produced by children and volunteers from the Children's Class.



The Hood Group Sponsorship – Anita Lysiak



The Art Ministry were delighted to discover that The Hood Group chose their class for children with learning difficulties as their sponsored children's charity of the year! The Hood Group's charity events such as golf days and meals are raising valuable funds for the children. Allan Webb, Sheila Webb and Anita Lysiak recently attended the evening reception of the Group's golf day where Anita gave a presentation

".....were delighted to discover that The Hood Group chose their class for children with learning difficulties....."

to explain the work of The Art Ministry and how the funds raised would help the children. The Group has already provided us with a cheque for £1,000! Many thanks to the Hood Group's staff for supporting us, and to Sheila for suggesting The Art Ministry as their children's charity.

THE FABRIC GROUP:

The Fabric Group has been working very hard on the next wall hanging which depicts the Olympic Mountain Bike Range.

Kathleen tells me that they have made good progress with the base having been completed and all the pieces have been cut out and are ready to be stitched onto the base.

The wall hanging has to be finished by January when it will be framed and hung in the old Fire Station in Hadleigh in July.



CHILDREN'S CLASS – Allan Webb

The new school year got off to a great start with the Children designing and making felt bags and cushions.

The children had also been busy in class throughout the summer, making a spectacular banner to publicise The Art Ministry's Summer Fun Day.



If you would like to join the class as a volunteer class assistant or know a child who would like to join, please use the contact details shown below.

WEDNESDAY CLASS by James Webb

Around the beginning of March I was introduced to Bonita James from Scream Theatre which consisted of three graduating students from East 15 Acting School's Community Theatre course. They shared with me their debut project, The Gallery: Art of Depression which aimed to work with individuals that have experience of depression and mental health issues, and to help promote awareness but also give those involved with the project an opportunity to express themselves and use their experiences as a platform for creativity that lead to a final performance which took place from the 9th to the 11th of June 2011.

One of the members of the Weds class participated in this drama project, and contributed greatly to the show's success.

The Wednesday class also had a great opportunity in showing some of their great work in the foyer of the Brady Arts Centre Tower Hamlets- (see picture).

The Wednesday Class would like to thank Scream Theatre for our involvement in this project and wish them all the very best for the future.

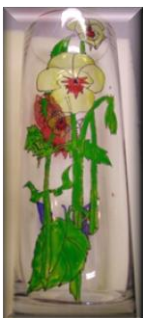




WEDNESDAY WORKSHOP by Chloe Costa

On the 24th of August I started as a new volunteer for the Art Ministry's Wednesday's class; which consists of 10 very talented and friendly pupils. On arrival I was immediately made to feel welcome and through the course of the weeks I really feel that I have been able to bond individually with the students.

On the 14th of September I was introduced to Chris Middleton who kindly agreed to hold a workshop involving glass painting. The students were given the choice of various glass objects, such as vases and bowls, and taught different methods and techniques for painting onto the glass. The majority of the students took part in this wonderful workshop as it gave the class a chance to create something different to what we would usually do in class. It also enabled the class to work together and become closer as a group.





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On Saturday October the 8th some friends and I took part in the Men's Health Survival of the Fittest Challenge Nottingham which consisted of a 10 kilometre run with 10 obstacles along the way. To be honest I was always the last one to finish in cross country at school and never took part in any serious sports so you could say I was a bit worried!

Anyway fast forward to the event which started with a hay bale climb followed by a 2k run to some more obstacles which had everyone ducking and jumping and shimmying across poles. The run on from here was another 2km which was around the time I was starting to wonder what I was actually doing there, but somehow I managed to pace myself a little before entering the army assault course which ended in the picture of me emerging from a muddy scramble net looking fairly unimpressed.

Next up on the obstacles was a wade through part of the River Trent which wasn't too bad although I nearly fell over which not only made me laugh but also everyone else around me, then just around the corner from this a slide into a wider part of the Trent which everyone swam across.

The latter obstacles become a bit of a blur including inflatables and climbing frames. I finished the race in 1 hour and 45 min's which I am fairly happy with, and it has possibly given me something to better next year. Overall I am pleased to say that I have an expected £150 raised for the Art Ministry Charity fund and I would like to thank everyone for all their support

- 29 October: National "Make a Difference" Day
- 5 November: The Art Ministry stall at the Canvey Fireworks Fiesta
- TBC: The Art Ministry's Fish and Chips Quiz Night

Please e-mail info@theartministry.org.uk for more details...

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED in the following roles:
Fundraising events
Becoming a Trustee
In our classes
With our Outreach projects



The Deadline for the next Newsletter is 23 March 2012

Would you like to help?

We always need trustees, volunteers, and help with fundraising.
 For all enquiries please contact info@theartministry.org.uk or telephone 07582 025163

