

Appendix A

Grants made by Oswestry and District Arts Association 2005-2010

2005	Cantiones	Concert
2005	Ifton Band	Christmas Concert
2005	Folk Club	To support Folk Festival of 3 Concerts
2005	Borderland Visual Arts	Open Studios Event
2005	Quebe Arts*	Peg Dolls Coming Home Exhibition
2005	Oswestry Sinfonia	Autumn Concert
2005	Brass With Class	Purchase of 4 uniform jackets
2005	Arts Alive	Touring professional drama & film
2005	Portywaen Silver Band	Tour to Belgium
2005	Ruyton XI Towns Arts	Set up regular arts sessions in village hall
2005	Marches Community Arts	Mural in birthing pool Orthopaedic Hospital
2005	U3A Handbell ringers	New music stands
2005	Borderland Tourism	Operation Home Front
2005	Cantiones	Concert - professional artists
	Oswestry School Recital	
2005	Series	Commemorative bust of Walford Davies
2005	Llansilin Local History Group	Publication of history
2005	Shropshire Scribes	Exhibition in Heritage Centre
2005	Civic Society	Publication of 'Barbara Pym Oswestry Girl'
2006	Civic Society	Publication 'Edward Lhuyd of Llanforda'
2006	Oswestry Musical Theatre Co	New Orchestra Lighting
2006	Attfield Theatre Co	Refurbishment of Auditorium
2006	Percussion Unlimited	Support tour of Scotland for young people
2006	Arts Alive	Touring professional drama and film
2006	Oswestry Sinfonia	Concert - Professional Artists
2007	Porthywaen Band	Support for production of new CD
2007	Shropshire Scribes	Exhibition in Heritage Centre
2007	Ifton Band	Musical Director for "Brassed Off"
2007	Arts Alive	Touring professional drama and film
2007	Mrs Needham	Publication Stories from Ruyton
2007	Society of Artists	New Exhibition Lighting
2007	Attfield Theatre Co	New Lighting Equipment
2008	Civic Society	Publication
2008	Sinfonia	New Tinpani Music & conductors Stand
2008	Arts Alive	Touring professional drama and film
2008	Project Group	Ceramic course for mental health group
2008	Cantiones	Silver Jubilee Concert Professional Artists
2008	LADS	New Lighting Rig
2009	Shropshire Scribes	Exhibition in Heritage Centre
2009	Oswestry Musical Theatre Co	Support for Jekyll & Hyde Show
2009	Arts Alive	Touring professional drama and film
2009	N Shropshire Bookfest	Children's book festival
2009	Oswestry School Recital Series	Series of Professional Recitals
2009	Sinfonia	Support for 3 Concerts
		Book Fest schools and public professional
2009	Booked Up	Authors
2010	Oswestry Community Action	Art Days @ Qube
2010	Arts Alive	Touring professional drama and film
2010	Oswestry Transition Team	Set up a new sew, spin sustainable textile group
2010	Oswestry Choral Society	Hire of 2 grand pianos for Carmen Burana
2010	Cantiones	Sibelius Music Processing Software

Appendix 2 – Case Studies

These Case Studies cover a wide spectrum of the Arts.

They are included to show the value of the work done by the Association over a number of years in following its Constitutional Principles.

A) Oswestry Transition Town Group

Sew, Spin, Drop In Sustainable Textile Group

Oswestry Transition Town group aims to set up local projects to help people lead a more localised and sustainable life.

Ros Hornbuckle, a textile artist with many years of experience in a variety of textiles, asked for a grant of £350 to set up a new group in which men and women could drop in and learn new skills of spinning and sewing.

She is giving her own time and workshop free of charge except for 50p per session to pay towards energy costs.

Ros asked for a grant of £350 to buy a drum carder, dyes, sewing materials, three fleeces and a spinning wheel, which was for sale at a very reasonable price but was on offer for a limited time. She was awarded the whole amount, received the cheque within two days and was able to buy the spinning wheel and the group was set up very soon after.

This was in January and the group has really taken off, so much so that a second group has been set up as quote, *'My garden and workshop were full to heaving. People not just working but talking to each other as they worked as they would have done years ago. The speed in which we received the cheque was essential for me to take up a good deal on the spinning wheel'*.

Ros is also contacting various colleagues from around the country spreading the news about the group and suggesting that they start up their own.

A very successful project both as a facility for passing on skills and as a social gathering. Real value for money.

B) Peg Dolls

From small beginnings, the Peg Doll Project grew to national fame. The young woman who applied for the grant wanted to begin with 200 pegs and to take them to various organisations to dress them in their working clothes, uniforms etc. She was given a grant and we advised her to try Wilkinson's shop for the pegs – which they supplied free of charge. She then set to work and in no time she had both local bands, school children and even councillors all busy making their own peg dolls.

She enlisted professional artists to make their own peg dolls which were auctioned to support her project.

In 2004, she came back to us having made over 5000 dolls and toured the country – including appearing on television. This was the 'Peg Dolls Coming Home' exhibition at Qube which was very successful. We felt that this not only provided a wonderful community project, but benefited the young woman who changed from a painfully shy unhappy person into a positive, confident woman passing on her skills to others.

C) Scribes

A county wide group who work tirelessly to maintain the age old craft of Calligraphy and 'encouraging writing excellence '. They hold exhibitions of work in Oswestry and Shrewsbury and their grant of £65.00 pays towards the Oswestry exhibition in the Heritage Centre. This is an example of a "micro grant" which sustains a group and brings an artform the attention of a wider audience.

D) Mural

In 2005, a local artist and teacher applied for £100 for materials to paint a mural in the birthing pool at the Maternity Ward in Orthopaedic Hospital. He gave his time for free and the end result was quite wonderful and appreciated by the many mothers who gave birth there. This is a second example of a "micro grant" which has produced a sustainable result which is of benefit to the wider community and brings an art work to a wider audience.

E) Arts Development Group

For many years a subcommittee of the Arts Association, this group was instrumental in beginning many projects in the Oswestry area and their most successful was their work with the Rhyn Park Arts Series, then The Arts Centre and finally in establishing 'The Hub'. The association also supported the school's bid for Arts College Status.

F) Borderland Visual Arts - Open Studios

This vibrant event which takes place annually is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Studios in Oswestry and the surrounding area are opened to the public for two weekends in June The Arts Association provided the initial grant to support the group and since then it has made significant progress, involving thirty seven artists. Over the ten years, the numbers attending the weekends have grown, making it a very successful community event. It seems unlikely that the current level of success and growth would have been achieved without the initial "pump priming" grant and the confidence and support of the Association in funding a new venture

Bursaries

All those adults who have been awarded bursaries have done so to develop their skills and then to pass them on to others by holding workshops especially for the Project groups and helping with the work at Qube.

Bursaries have encouraged excellence by providing access to musical instruments and/or training for example attendance at a nationally famous Choir School. As evidenced below. Royal School of Church Music Summer School

Bursaries 2008		Charlotte Edwards	£150
Marc Morris	£100.00		
Helen Stanley	£100.00		
Bursaries 2010			
Samantha Lewis	£150		

For 2010 the total costs of sending 2 persons to the Choir School was £690. The level of financial support was £300. Therefore the matched funding was £390. Many people may be unaware that in the Choir of the Parish Church of St. Oswald, King & Martyr, Oswestry can boast a choir of Cathedral standards.

Comments from International Artists

Tasmin Little – internationally acclaimed violinist.

'It has been my great pleasure to give three concerts in Oswestry over the past few years. Not only is the church (Holy Trinity, Oswestry) one of the nicest venues of its kind that I have played in but on each occasion I have experienced a venue which is full and overflowing with such a warm and appreciative audience. It is astonishing that a small town such as Oswestry can sustain six concerts a year with the calibre of international musicians who enjoy visiting, such as the London Mozart Players, with whom I recently gave a concert.

I wish the town all the best and hope that the concerts will continue, as it is the efforts of the local people which help keep the community spirit alive during times of difficulty and financial constraint.

Paul Phoenix – member of The King's Singers

'As a member of the King's Singers it is important never to forget our performing 'roots' in communities such as Oswestry, where our recent performance found us singing to an educated and appreciative audience, representing a cross-section from the local community and beyond, of all ages. We hope to return in the future and share our music-making. It is vital that concert series such as that supported by Oswestry School and the other local arts groups continue to receive funding, in order to attract internationally renowned artistes. I look forward to a return by The King's Singers in the future.'

Michal Pepol (member of the Royal String Quartet, Poland)

We would like to support the incredible cycle of concerts in the small market town of Oswestry. The organiser, Christopher Symons, manages to invite artists who perform in the best concert halls around the world! We, the Royal String Quartet, gave a recital as a part of this cycle, and we remember its lovely attentive and knowledgeable audience. It would be such a loss if these concerts stopped taking place just because of the money.... We ourselves know how important it is to get support, since we organise our own festival in Warsaw. Without such financial help and encouragement, organising the concerts becomes impossible. Please – help!

David Richardson, Artistic Consultant, Orchestras Live

'Orchestras Live is the national development agency for orchestral music, one of whose principal aims is to enable leading orchestras to visit areas of England that are underprovided with professional orchestral concerts. We first offered to support concerts in Oswestry because of the existence of a lively and well-attended concert series – the Oswestry School Recital Series – in a town where many residents lack easy access to major centres of arts activities. Since 2005 Orchestras Live has been

happy to help internationally known orchestras (such as the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Academy of St Martin in the Fields, City of London Sinfonia, London Mozart Players and Manchester Camerata) to play in Oswestry, usually to full houses. The European Union Chamber Orchestra is provisionally planned for 2011.

Martin Roscoe – concert pianist

It is most unusual, in my 35 years experience of travelling the UK as a concert pianist, to find a town the size of Oswestry with such a vibrant musical life. I have played there 4 times in the last 7 years and each time there has been a sizeable audience (400+) drawn from a wide area: I have met people who have travelled from Shrewsbury, Telford, Wrexham and Bishop's Castle, for example. These concerts have a special atmosphere which is rare and deserves to be cherished.

The cultural life of any community is a vital indicator of the health of that community and I hope it will be possible to continue to give financial support to all the artistic ventures of the Oswestry area.

Rafael Todes (Second violin, Allegri String Quartet)

The Allegri String Quartet always takes great delight in playing in Oswestry. The Oswestry School Concert Series is of the highest calibre, and the audience, built up over many years, ranks as one of the most sophisticated in terms of taste. It is to the huge credit of the organiser to have secured the likes of Brendel and Lill for fees which are manageable. Even the South Bank finds this hard to do!