

## **Arts Service Portfolio Holder Report – 2016/17**

**WWI Commemorative Activities:** To mark one hundred years since the First World War, communities across Shropshire have been working in partnership, to deliver an ambitious programme of arts and heritage commemorative events, cultural activity and education, to honour and remember the lives of those who served in and were affected by the War.

During 2014/2017, a range of projects/activities have been taking place as part of 'The Pity of War', a arts and heritage project supported by funding from, Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund, Shropshire Council and activity partners. Over 15,000 people have engaged in activity.

In 2018 the programme of events will continue, with exhibitions, installations and projects commemorating WWI and in particular celebrating Shropshire's soldier and poet Wilfred Owen. A bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund is being submitted in October to support this work.

**Shropshire Boys Dancing:** Shropshire Council has been successful in securing funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for 'In the Hands of Boys', a Shropshire Boys Dancing project, commemorating the centenary of the First World War.

The seventh year of Boys Dancing in Shropshire, the project will use dance, poetry and photography to share stories about Shropshire's involvement in the war.

Boys and young men from six schools across the county will work with creative practitioners, heritage specialists and use archive and museum resources to explore and re-interpret key aspects of the war.

**Culture Consortium Shropshire:** Network of arts and cultural organisations and providers who work with children and young people (aged 0-25) in Shropshire.

The consortium has a shared vision that children and young people aspire, achieve, progress and lead through arts and culture. By working together collectively the consortium are delivering an aspirational cultural offer for children and young people. Members are currently developing an exciting programme of activity for 2018/19 under the banner of 'Spotlight Shropshire'. A bid to Arts Council England is being submitted to support this work.

The consortium, has representatives from over 40 organisations, including: the local authority; arts cultural, heritage organisations and agencies; The Music Service and Music Hub; libraries; museums; schools; FE and HE; festivals; and other relevant organisations. Supported by Arts Connect (the Arts Council England funded Bridge organisation for the West Midlands).

**Arts Revenue Clients:** During 2016/17 the Shropshire Council Revenue Client grant of £97,312 helped 23 arts organisations and festivals leave into the County, £2,965,747 of external earned income, from ticket sales; workshop fees; grants from funding bodies such as the Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund, trusts, foundations and sponsorship.

27 grants have been awarded for 2017/18 totalling; £26,460.

The grants are awarded to organisations, who deliver a regular high quality arts programme, are county wide and represent a number of art forms.

**Shropshire Cultural Strategy:** Working in partnership with the cultural sector to develop a five-year cultural strategy for the county. The strategy will reflect the counties culture in its widest context and include; arts, museums and heritage, libraries, parks and open spaces and sports and leisure.