

Epping Forest Arts

Task & Finish Review Presentation

Council Chamber

7.00pm Monday 31st July 2006

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Aim of Presentation

- § To provide an insight to Epping Forest Arts
- § To provide an overview of the role that Epping Forest Arts plays within the delivery of the Council's Community Plan
- § To highlight the contribution that the arts make to peoples lives
- § To present a summary of the programmes and projects delivered by the Councils Arts Team
- § To examine the potential for development and extension of arts opportunities available to people within the district

What are the arts?

The “Arts” is a descriptive term used for a wide range of cultural activities; events and experiences including;

Music : Literature : Visual Arts:

New/Multi-Media

Dance: Crafts: Photography: Video

Drama: Film: Painting: Live Art

Festivals: Celebratory Events

Team Structure

Arts Officer (FT)

Assistant Arts Officer (FT)

Arts Assistant (FT)

Admin Assistant (PT)

Dance Development Artists x 2 (PT)

Community Development Artists x 2 (PT)

The Council's Policy for the Arts

'The Council supports the arts in recognition of the vital contribution that they make to the quality of life and to community identity; to the enhancement of the built and natural environment; to mental, physical and spiritual health; to the local economy.'

- § EFDC has provided an arts service since 1974 and its' commitment to provision of the arts for people of all abilities led to the establishment of EFA in 1988
- § The Councils' objective is *'To enable all sections of the community to have access to a wide range of arts provision of high quality'*

Contributions to 'Quality of Life'

The work of Epping Forest Arts enhances the quality of life for a very wide range of people living in the district, through inspiring; engaging; entertaining and challenging them as participants and spectators.....

The arts are known as an effective medium to;

- improve self-confidence
- provoke thought and open minds
- encourage "personal development"
- act as a focus to bring communities together
- provide 'fully inclusive' opportunities
- improve the local economy and cultural regeneration
- improve people's physical, mental and spiritual health
- improve the local environment and people's appreciation of the physical environment
- reduce fear of crime and create safer communities

Uniqueness of the service

EFA is highly regarded for their innovative and ground breaking work throughout the county, region and nationally, and particularly for;

- *provision of activities and projects for people that would not normally be able to access the arts eg. Elderly people living in Sheltered accommodation and Residential Care Homes*
- *provision of specially developed projects for adults and children with special needs*
- *brokering relationships between artists, organisations, participants and audiences*
- *enabling arts activities and development through grant aid and bursaries, advice and training*

Target Groups

The Arts Team work with a wide variety of individuals and groups in a range of community settings in accordance with the focus of the Community Plan and Community Strategy. The majority of projects and activities are targeted at people that are unable to access mainstream provision and particularly;

Children and young people

Senior Citizens

Local artists

Culturally diverse groups

Partnerships

The development of close working partnerships with local, county, regional and national groups; organisations and individuals, is essential to the work EFA undertakes for a range of reasons including;

- § *to ensure a balanced delivery of arts provision across the district*
- § *to meet local need and interest and identify gaps in provision*
- § *development of inclusive and focussed provision*
- § *sharing of resources and expertise*
- § *sharing best practise*
- § *providing 'added value '*
- § *to allow EFA to support and develop work by local organisations, artists and other Council departments*
- § *to secure external funding to deliver key Council objectives*

Projects & Programmes

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Early Years Project

§ Aims of this work is to develop and deliver a high quality programme of art workshops for early years settings

Projects and events have included:

- § Come Live With Me
- § Grannies Quilt
- § The Magic of Music



Summer Artsmix

§Aims of this work is to develop and deliver a high quality programme of art workshops for children and families.

Projects and events have included:

§Lift Off

§Arty Antics

§Pandemonium



Dance Development Programme

Aims and objectives of the Dance Development Programme



- to provide high quality dance experiences to the local community, that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities
- to establish long lasting relationships and collaborative partnerships with participants, educators, community groups, freelance dance artists, professional dance companies and venues
- to raise the profile of dance and awareness of its' physical, mental and social benefits
- to network locally, regionally and nationally with other dance professionals and agencies

Examples of Dance Development Work

Youth Dance

Youth Dance On The Move Initiative;

- ✓ After school youth dance groups
- ✓ Independent after school dance groups
- ✓ Free dance taster workshops
- ✓ Youth dance projects & events
- ✓ "On The Brink" – annual intensive boys dance project
- ✓ "Re: Action & "FuZion" – annual one day dance events in secondary schools



Examples of Dance Development Work Youth Dance



Youth & Community Dance Platforms

"eNgage"

A culmination and celebration of dance development work carried out with primary and secondary age children, local colleges and community dance groups showcased at Harlow Playhouse

"motiv8"

A smaller youth dance and Community platform for local groups to perform their work at Epping Forest College Theatre or Debden Park High School



Youth & Community Dance Platforms



Dance Educational Residences and The West Essex Dance Partnership (WEDP)

The WEDP is an agreement between Epping Forest Arts, The Playhouse Theatre, Harlow and essexdance, to promote and encourage audience development for professional dance performances.

Dance Educational Residences and The West Essex Dance Partnership (WEDP)

Dance Educational Residencies provide the district with an opportunity to gain a direct insight into the work of professional dance companies. This includes an understanding of the;

- company history
- cultural background
- dance style and choreographic practice

Each residency offers;

- workshops and performance opportunities to primary and secondary schools
- INSET sessions for teachers to enable them to build upon their movement skills
- Plus workshops for local community groups if appropriate.



A Sense of Place

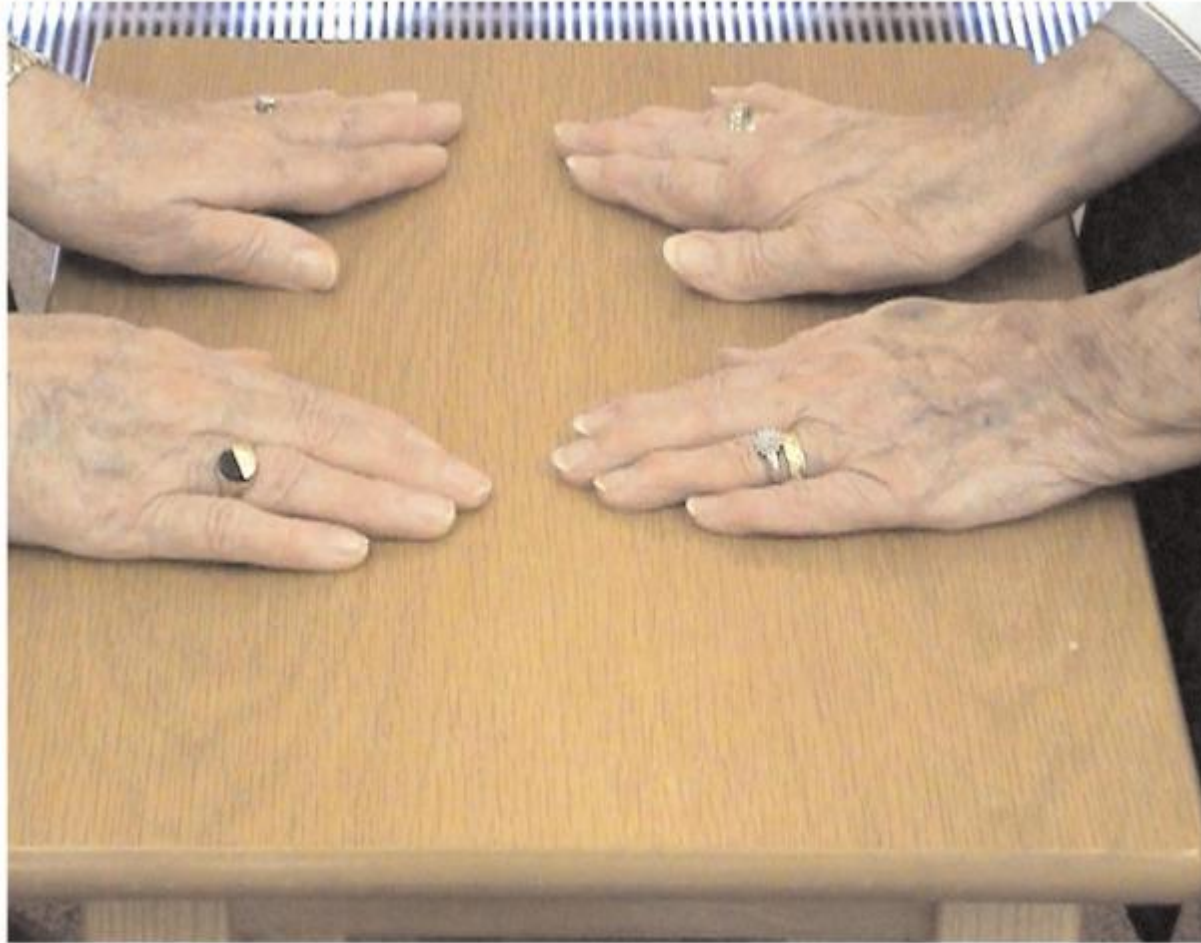
- § Aims to be a model of good working practice within the context of residential care, sheltered housing, day centres and arts activities for older people.
- § Epping Forest Arts artists collaborate with other specialist artists and companies and have led workshops in dance, visual arts, film and music.
- § The initiative runs in close consultation with centres and maintains links with individual older people so that workshops and activities are relevant to their issues and concerns.
- § A programme of individual workshops has been developed following a two year intensive and provides a concrete foundation and connection with older people from which other more intensive projects may spring.
- § Provision of intergenerational activity alleviating barriers to integration between different age groups.
- § Encourages social inclusion through learning new skills, improving confidence and self worth.

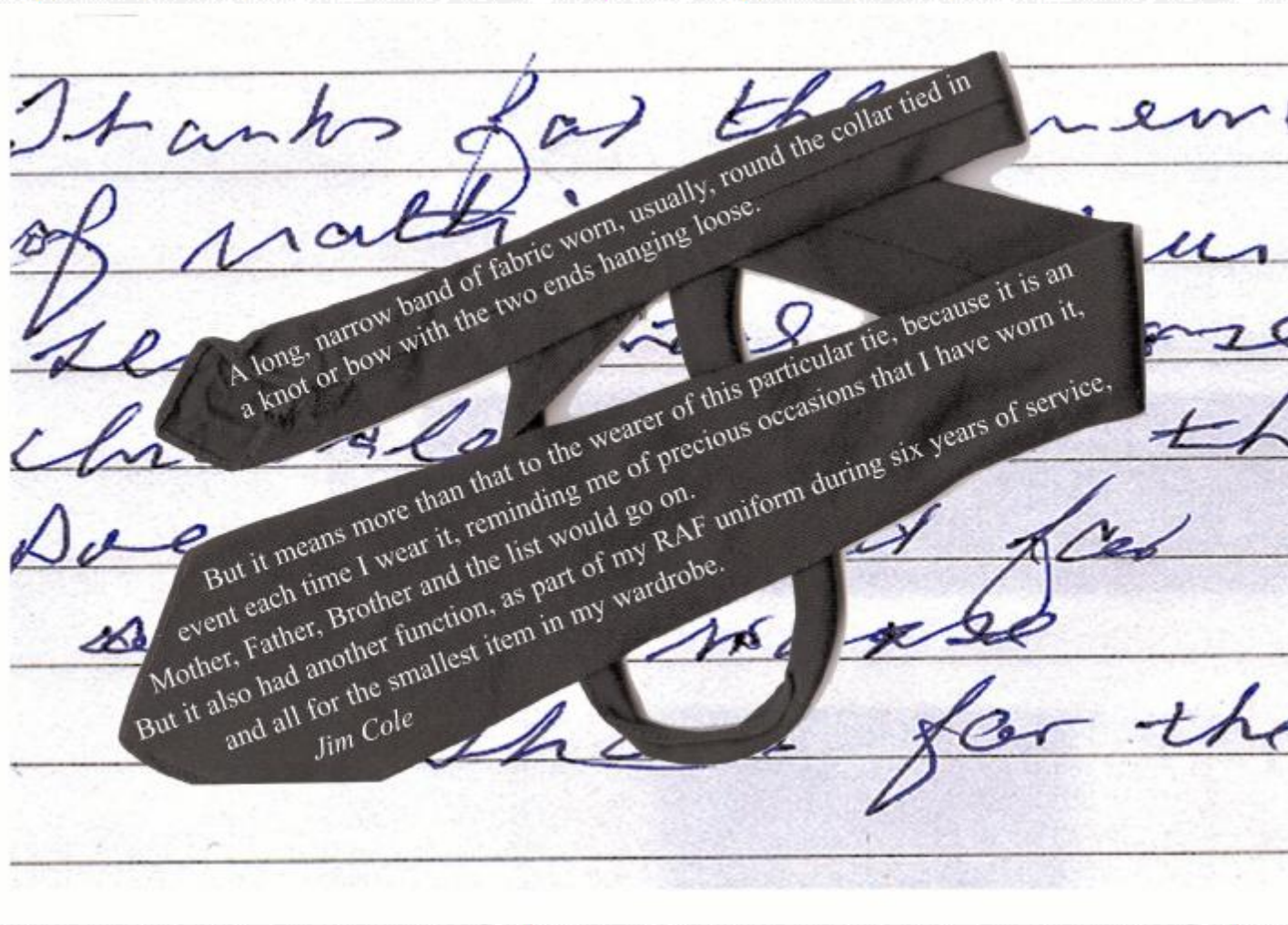
I helped my mother to make artificial flowers



FLO MORTIMER







ARSENAL GO WALLPAPER

My husband was in the army overseas, he went all over. I didn't see him very often. I had a little

boy called Brian - he was a rascal. After the war my husband came back. I had to do all the decorating as he was working.

Decorating - painting, wallpapering - aswell! I stood on boards across the

stairs. I did all the decorating while my husband was at work and before that when my husband was overseas.

I picked out the wallpaper and paint and carried it back to the house. I felt very satisfied when I'd finished it all - it looked so nice.

Rose Buck





Arts and the Environment

Exploring the uniqueness of the Epping Forest District



Arts and the Environment

Birdsong - November 2005

A night time lantern lit walk to celebrate the opening of Home Mead nature reserve, Debden

An example of partnership working including; Country Care, Schools Groups, Volunteers, Community Leisure, Musicians including the bursary winner, Mark Gotham.

Key aims: To raise local community awareness of resources available (on their doorstep), Using the environment for health and recreational purposes, Providing educational access and involvement to participants and audience.







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Arts and the Environment

Charabanc - 2002

A site-specific performance at the Stubbles in Loughton and Matching Green disused airfield. This project was funded by The Arts Council.

Key aims: To access a wide range of community groups particularly those with specific access requirements including; Loughton Resource Centre, Sheltered Housing Group, Young Men's Group (Waltham Abbey Motoring Project) and A'level and Foundation Art Students from Epping College.











Arts and the Environment

Common or Garden 2005 - 2006

An exploration of sheds and village greens.

Key aims:

- § To develop work in the rural communities around the District.
- § To develop partnerships with local parish councils, schools and other organisations.
- § To raise awareness of green spaces and common land.

This was the first project within 'Border Dialogues' – a three-year programme of work funded through The Arts Council.













Arts Alert Initiative

- Aims to specifically focus on offering high quality intensive arts experiences for people with all nature of disabilities.
- Expertise and skills are immediately available on the Epping Forest Arts team and also involves working in partnership with other specialised freelance artists and companies.
- In depth consultation with schools and community groups enables tailored projects.
- This is a multi-art form initiative that provides wide extensive opportunities to gain new skills.
- The initiative leads to participation in other Epping Forest Arts commissions enabling positive integration with people of all levels of abilities and experiences.
- Through workshops, activities and performances, participants increase their confidence, develop their social skills and deepens individual learning.

Arts Alert Initiative



Arts Alert Initiative



Summary...

- § This presentation has provided you with an overview of the work that the Arts team undertake
- § EFA has grown and evolved as local demand has increased for arts education and outreach work
- § The community now benefits from an innovative artist led programme, that delivers **many** outputs and outcomes specified in the Council's Community and Best Value Performance Plans

Future Developments

- § Continue, nurture and extend partnerships within the community
- § Continue to evaluate and develop the arts programme in line with Council delivery priorities
- § Continue to raise profile of arts in the community though externally funded projects
- § Maintain and develop our extensive outreach delivery. Establish studio/performance space