

OSWESTRY and DISTRICT ARTS ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting June 16th 2011

Chairman's Report

We began this evening with a very pleasant ceremony to present this year's bursary winners with their cheques. I should like to thank our Mayor Cynthia Hawksley for making the presentations.

Each year, we put aside money to create these bursaries for adults and young people to enhance and further their talent and love of the Arts.

This year, we had no adults applying, something I hope we can remedy in future years. Of the young people, we had six applications, one of whom could not be considered as she lived out of area.

Dario Silcock, a very talented singer, was awarded his bursary for professional singing lessons, Abbi Grainger and Millie Boulton to attend the Royal School of Church Music in Bath, Amy Healey to set up an Arts and social group in her school, Rhyn Park and Chloe Roberts to help purchase a new camera to pursue a photography course.

We interviewed all except Dario who is studying in London and as always were impressed by their enthusiasm, confidence and talent. There is not much wrong when we have young people like that.

As well as bursaries, we have awarded seven grants this year for a variety of projects and organisations.

Oswestry Musical Theatre Company	Towards cost for 'Annie Get Your Gun'
Elizabeth Turner	The Woodside Mosaic Project
Oswestry Sinfonia	To sponsor their first concert of the season at Marches School
Oswestry Society of Artists	Towards the purchase of equipment for projection
Porthywaen Youth and Training Band	To purchase new music and carol books
Kingswell Centre	Drumming workshops ** Report sent back
Oswestry Drama Project	A day workshop as part of the Festival of the Word
	This has led to the exciting project next year

This year we have already awarded a grant to help a new touring group based in Selattyn and we have two applications to consider at our next meeting.

We have joined the Voluntary Arts Network and receive regular Newsletters by e mail which contain interesting and valuable advice and help in various ways. If you would like to have copies of these, please let me know and I will forward them by e mail. I do have some hard copies here for you to look at.

During the year, myself, Councillor Bennett and Richard Jones have had many meetings with Arts Officers, Shropshire Councillors and Portfolio holder Steve Charmley, looking into funding for the Arts in Shropshire. Martin drew up this wonderful document about the Association, its work and its value to the area.

This led in no small part to Shropshire Council's decision to cascade down the Arts Budget to the Local Joint Committees and we were advised by Councillor Charmley to go to them for our funding. Three of our LJs, Oswestry, Gobowen, St Martins & Weston Rhyn and St. Oswald's and Llanymynech have agreed to pass on their arts funding to ODAA to enable it to continue running its grant programme, to support a vast array of arts in the area and to help individual artists. Gobowen, St Martins & Weston Rhyn LJC has delegated £1,000, St. Oswald's and Llanymynech have pledged £1151 and £2,265 will come from Oswestry LJC. We thank them very much for their support and welcome the generous cheque presented tonight.

I would also like to thank Oswestry Town Council for their unstinting support of the Association not only in their generous funding but in practical ways such as allowing the use of this room.

With this extra funding comes responsibility and accountability to the LJs as well as the Association, keeping them in touch with the activities and decisions made by the Executive. I propose to have an Executive meeting as soon as possible to discuss how to go forward. With the extra funding we will be able to consider larger projects and I know we will certainly support the events of Olympic year.

This is where I turn to you – the membership. This is your Association and the Executive wants to hear from you about what you think we should be doing. We are not just a funding Association. In the past we have arranged speakers at our General meetings offering advice for those in public events, insurance and licensing, the Celebrations which was the first event in the newly refurbished library and further back Oswestry Promotions and the Arts Development Group which among things led to the creation of the Hub Arts Centre at Rhyn Park. We have heard tonight of the exciting plans for the Arts Olympics next year and the Association will be there supporting not just economically but practically.

We need you to come to us with ideas as well as applications for funding. The money is there and we want to spend it, not just for individual applicants and organisations but in the wider sense of the Arts.

Finally, I should like to give my thanks to my committee for their hard work and commitment, especially Councillor Martin Bennett for his work with the Shropshire Council and to Cynthia Hawksley who has hosted our Executive meetings at her home and arranged for the use of this room for our general meetings.

And a big thanks to you, our many Arts organisations in the town and surrounding area for enhancing the life of so many people in our community, with your imagination, creativity, talents, skills. The Arts are thriving in Oswestry and the addition of the Willow Gallery, BOOKA and the Festival of the Word makes the town a pleasant place to live. The Arts enrich our lives in so many ways and long may you continue in your much valued work to make Oswestry such a vibrant and exciting town.

Christine Hughes
Chairman

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Chair

Mrs C Hughes
9 Rosehill Close
Whittington
Oswestry SY11 4DY
01691 662417

chrismerv@btinternet.com

Treasurer

Richard Jones
2 Rosehill Avenue
Whittington
Oswestry SY11 4DX

richard.jones@cambrianrailways.com

website: www.oswestryarts.com

May 11th 2011

Lindy Parkinson
Qube

Dear Lindy

I am so sorry that you were unable to attend our meeting last night.

Unfortunately, in your absence, we were not able to discuss your application.

We have had to defer the application until the first Executive meeting after our A.G.M. in June.

I have enclosed the Agenda for the AGM. And look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely

Christine Hughes
Chairman