

Meeting of Chairmen and Young Arts Representatives

Sevenoaks Library: Thursday 23 November 2017

Chair: Christine Hughes, Kent Area YA Co-Ordinator

Attendees: Jane Brentnall, Ashford
Lee Cary, (Kent Area Chairman)
Linda Dell'Avvocato, Sevenoaks
Chris Flint, Dover, Deal & Sandwich (Society Chairman)
Sandy Gore, Knole
Pamela Holmes, Knole (Society Chairman)
Alison Hutchinson, Mid-Kent;
Ann Martin, Mid-Kent
Barbara Ropek, Sevenoaks (Society Chairman)
Carol Sagrott, Mid-Kent.

The intention of this meeting was to gain an opportunity to meet in an informal manner to exchange knowledge and gain inspiration from hearing about recent Young Arts Projects in the Area.

As the new Kent Young Arts Co-ordinator I wanted to gain an opportunity to listen and then inspire when I meet other members and reps. involved in promoting the name of "The Arts Society, Young Arts".

The meeting was held in a gallery space in Sevenoaks Library. The interesting feature of the room was the Art Exhibition, created by children in foster care who have severe health problems. The exhibition was entitled "Open your hearts". It was a poignant display with many of the children's commenting on the reason for their art work

Our meeting was not only a helpful experience but most attendees felt it was helpful to interact with their colleagues from other Societies.

Topics discussed were:

- The possibility of crossing age groups where old and young could interact, support one another and dispel prejudice.
- The Sevenoaks chairman noted that one person's rubbish is another person's thrifty source of useful materials. There is a local company that supports this distribution. (consult Barbara at Sevenoaks for further details, bridgeblue7@btinternet.com)
- It would appear that some Groups are more fortunate than others with regard to finances. Some ideas put forward to raise money for Young Arts were:
 1. Taking pictures of suitable young art works and making greetings cards which could then be sold to members.
 2. Raffling a book related to a meeting's lecture topic.
 3. An afternoon tea to raise funds.

- In most places there is evidence of groups who work with young people in terms of "Art". Some discussion took place on the possibility of linking in with them to discover opportunities to work in tandem with some of their target groups. Examples of this is evident in local museums, English Heritage, The National Trust and many others. A list was distributed of local groups that had benefited from "Children In Need ". The idea of this list was not to suggest contacting them necessarily but to highlight just how many children's groups there are in Kent in need of stimulating interventions.
- The idea of linking in could also be a benefit where two or more Societies could create a joint Young Arts project, even to the extent of joining in with another county when there are close borders.
- If any Society does not have a Young Arts rep perhaps an appeal by the Chairman might be given to encourage a member just to co-ordinate a "One off project".

The meeting ended on a positive note where members thought it had been both enjoyable and worthwhile and were happy to establish a four to six monthly forum.

It is planned in the very near future to hold further similar meetings in a different area of Kent.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 29 March 2-4 pm

Christine Hughes



More pictures on the next page

