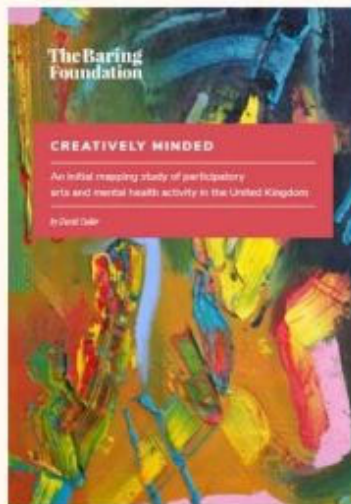


This issue's highlight



Creatively Minded – our first report on Arts & Mental Health published!

This new report focuses on arts and mental health activity in the UK in the two years prior to publication (January 2020), and was produced to help the Baring Foundation prepare for **our new funding programme**. Creatively Minded:

- considers the context, including the recent changes in attitudes to mental health, national and local policy and cross-cutting issues such as the relationship between social inequalities and

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mental ill health, diversity and intersectionality, and artists' self-care.

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- provides an overview of activity identified through the research, according to art form, type of organisation and setting.
- concludes with some initial reflections on the field.

Artist, Dolly Sen, kindly wrote the foreword which you can read on **our website here.**

READ THE REPORT



New resources



On diversity and creative ageing

This short report includes eleven case studies of creative ageing projects which set out to engage sections of the older population that might feel and be under-served by arts and cultural organisations.

It features: Culture&; Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art,

[READ THE REPORT](#)

A Dead Good Life: older people with learning disabilities

Lawnmowers Theatre in Gateshead produced a **delightful 30-minute film called A Dead Good Life** which tackles some of the issues that older people with learning disabilities can face.

Lawnmowers is a participatory theatre company run by and for people with learning disabilities and A Dead Good Life was devised by and stars Lawnmowers older actors. It is well worth watching!

This project, which was funded by the Foundation, is featured in our new publication – **On diversity and creative ageing** – see above.

[WATCH THE FILM](#)

Ronnie's and other stories – three short films on arts and dementia by the Arts Council NI

Arts Council Northern Ireland have produced three short films on their arts and dementia work:

- **'In the moment'** provides an overview of dementia and how the arts can help promote dignity.
- **'Living life to the full'** features Eastside Arts, a community arts project in East Belfast, and shows how arts can ease social isolation particularly for carers.
- **'Ronnie's story'** shows the liberating effect of music on Ronnie, a participant in a project by the Oh Yeah Music Centre

The ACNI has been running and funding its **Arts and Older People Programme** since 2010 also supported by the Baring Foundation and the Public Health Agency NI.

MORE ABOUT THE AOPP PROGRAMME



Other news



Ageing Artfully Conference (5 Feb at the MAC, Birmingham): update

We were delighted to jointly fund with the Arts Council England The Art of Ageing Artfully, an all-day event at the Midland Arts Centre to celebrate all things creative ageing. A highlight of the conference was a key note speech by the Chair of Arts Council England, Sir Nick Serota, charting the development of ACE's interest in this field and indicating where they will be heading. More information will become available when they publish their Delivery Plan.

The event attracted over two hundred people and included



Director of national sector support agency for creative ageing in England announced

Last year we awarded a grant of £250,000 over three years to a consortium led by Manchester Museums to set up a sector support body for creative ageing in England. (In Scotland Luminate has been fulfilling this role for some time.)

The post of founding Director attracted a lot of interest, with the winning candidate being **Dr Virginia Tandy OBE**. The appointment is the latest stage in a prestigious career including as Director of Culture for Manchester City Council and President of the Museums Association.

Of her appointment, she said *"I am looking forward to using my skills and experience to build a country-wide representative and powerful community of practice that is led by older people"*.



Making a Big Difference in care homes with comedy

Leicester hosts the largest comedy festival in Europe each year in February. We funded its organisers, the Big Difference Company, to take comedy into care homes during the 2020 festival to complement the creative ageing work they already doing through their Silver Stand Up company. The result was some fantastic sessions in Dane View Care Home in the city and you can read more about a prior version of the project in **this Guardian article**.

cARTrefu – Age Cymru’s arts in care homes programme

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Age Cymru's acclaimed programme of artists' residencies in care homes, cARTrefu, is now in its third phase (2019-2021) which focuses on empowering care home staff, raising public awareness and building capacity by sharing learning from the programme with the arts sector.

You can read more about cARTrefu in their latest newsletter available in **English** and **Welsh**.

Our new report – **On diversity and creative ageing** – also has a case study on cARTrefu and the importance of the Welsh-speaking artists in the programme – see above.

[MORE ABOUT CARTREFU](#)



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