

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

November 2020



www.charnwoodarts.com

Charnwood is the only arts organisation in Loughborough. We embrace community, providing access to relevant and meaningful art by enabling people of all ages, whatever their skills, abilities, experience or expectations, to access the arts across all art forms, at all levels, in a variety of roles.

**New website, new vision, new CEO,
new projects, new start, new world!**

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Charnwood Arts is a Registered Charity,
Registration No. 1143163.

Charnwood Arts is a private company, limited
by guarantee, registered in England and
Wales. Company No. 07477378



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Charnwood Arts is an independent community arts and media organisation, based in the Borough of Charnwood in the East Midlands. It enables participation and engagement in the arts for everyone. We are funded by Arts Council England and Charnwood Borough Council primarily, but we also apply for appropriate funds for one off projects.

The organisation was formed in 1976 and led by Kevin Ryan. The emphasis for Charnwood Arts was concentrating on work at local level whilst making connections regionally, nationally and worldwide. Project work and placements within the organisation had taken place from across Europe in the past and had also hosted visiting artists and undertaken work in places as diverse as India, Japan and Brazil.



In April 2020 Kevin Ryan sadly died after a short illness and the organisation has needed to look again at community and participatory arts in a world where people can't participate in quite the same way due to Covid-19. Kevin Ryan left a legacy and we are determined to keep this legacy alive and not only celebrate the past 40 years of Charnwood Arts but embrace the next 40 years in making arts accessible at every level in Loughborough and the surrounding areas.

Charnwood Arts now has a new CEO, a dedicated Board of Trustees and forging forward to make arts accessible again in this changing landscape. The Board of Trustees is made up of six amazing individuals making sure the governance is adhered to at all times. We are currently looking for a number of new trustees to join us, including someone with HR experience and a solicitor - if that's you we would love to hear from you.

CEO Shirley Novak has over thirty-five years of experience in developing, managing and facilitating various arts programmes and events. Her background is in music, both as a performer (from the mid 80's to mid 90's Shirley was a professional singer-songwriter touring nationally and throughout Europe, writing and recording four albums of original material) and as facilitator. For the last fifteen years Shirley has been actively involved in promoting positive physical and mental health and wellbeing through creative learning by providing education, training and social enterprise initiatives that have enabled people of all ages to overcome barriers, fulfil their potential and participate fully in music both as a means of therapy and communication. For seven years Shirley was the CEO at Newark MIND part time, and with combined skills in both managing a charity and as an artist, says "she has now found her dream job".



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Some of the projects we are currently working on:

Panto in A Box

In light of current restrictions, there will be no local Pantomime this year and Loughborough will undoubtedly miss this community occasion. Panto In A Box will provide families the tools to create their own Panto at home and film their performances on their phones. Charnwood Arts then plans to create a film of some of the performances and project the finished movie on to the side of the Fearon Hall building on Rectory Road in Loughborough. Everyone is invited come along and enjoy some Christmas cheer!

PodJam

Charnwood Arts is launching an exciting opportunity for artists of any ability and experience to collaborate together in creating a unique series of PodJams* to help us all 'just breathe' through these difficult times and beyond. These tracks are aimed at providing a 'no boundaries' opportunity to create a resource that can be shared with anyone who may just need to take some time out from dealing with the current situation through Covid-19

Watch This Space

We are planning a street art project with Charnwood Police and Charnwood Borough Council. We will be commissioning a street artist who will provide us with a community workshop outside Fearon Hall; and create a new work on Victoria Street in Loughborough. More information to follow.

ArtHub (Looking Up)

Charnwood Arts continues our work with asylum seekers as part of ArtHub. We are currently training university students to take this project forward and make it sustainable. We will be looking for further funding to develop this much needed project which has grown over the years. You can see some of the amazing work here: <https://www.lookingupexhibition.com/>

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The Kevin Ryan International Photography Award

JustGiving in memory of Kevin Ryan has raised £1,900 for Charnwood Arts. As requested, the money is to be ring fenced for a photography award that invites entries from all over the world. Photographers between the ages of 16-25 are invited to submit one picture. The competition will be judged by Kevin's son, and the winner will receive a voucher for equipment to the value of £400. The best 50 pictures will form an exhibition either at Fearon Hall or online (probably both). It's hoped this will be an annual event, using funds generated by the award to finance the next year.

Emerging Artist development

Charnwood Arts wants to support local emerging artists by offering a number of packages that cover important aspects of personal artistic development. This will include support with marketing, working with small groups, website development, sales of their work, a reference for their CV and specific training in working with vulnerable groups such as those in a care environment. It will require a firm commitment from the artists and they will receive a certificate to say they have completed this training with us.

Please contact us for more details on any of these projects, or to be placed on a mailing list and be the first to hear about our new projects as they happen.



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Charnwood Arts has enriched and transformed the lives of thousands of people through our arts and creative projects since we began in 1976. We have worked with people of all ages and backgrounds – addressing social isolation, physical and mental disabilities, educational mobility and cultural access. Our projects help develop confidence and raise horizons for what people strive to achieve.

We want to continue to work with individuals, groups, communities and other agencies to achieve remarkable outcomes, often with sparse resources. Our work is cross-cultural, inclusive and based on the simple formula of dialogue that leads to relationships which produce benefits through uniquely formulated creative projects and programmes. Difficult times, but we are still here, still making participative art and fully embrace the change.



CEO Charnwood Arts

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