

Music in Prisons

The Irene Taylor Trust

Summer Newsletter 2005

Date for your Diary:

Wednesday 16th November

10th Anniversary Celebration
at the Living Room, City Hall



"Working with you and seeing how you get things out of people and how much you love what you do gave me confidence to try stuff out. I knew I couldn't fail and that was a good feeling, believe me!"

Participant HMP Elmley

10 Years of Success

We are thrilled to be able to update you with news from the Irene Taylor Trust's 10th anniversary year! From modest beginnings in 1995 the Trust has grown to become one of the most widely respected arts organisations working in the field of criminal justice.

So much has changed over 10 years, both physically and conceptually. From 1 person in a living room to 3 people in an office: from 2 project leaders to a potential team of 10: from projects using music alone to music alongside creative writing, photography, video and drama: from 3 day projects

to 3 month projects... the list is endless. We are proud to say we have now run over 75 projects in 40 prisons involving at least 1,200 inmate participants with performances shared by over 5,600 audience members and would like to thank everybody who has supported us since the start.

What We've Achieved This Year

2004 and 2005 saw the Trust undertake its first project working with young people at risk in Brixton and more recently a project working with detainees at Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre. Pilot projects took place at HMPs Cardiff, Wormwood Scrubs, Carlford Unit, Wayland and Elmley and return visits were made to Usk, Brixton, Swinfen Hall, Bullwood Hall and Feltham.

Amongst the many highlights was the completion of the men's CD Songbook. Fathers from HMPs Brixton, Swinfen

Hall and Wormwood Scrubs conceived and performed a set of 15 wonderfully crafted and poignant songs and 'I see you, I see me' now stands alongside its sister publication, the award winning 'Beyond the Secret Door'.

The Trust's trainee scheme has taken on a new meaning over the past year. As well as continuing to offer valuable work placements for students on college courses, the Trust has been able to invite ex prisoners to join the project team. Allan Phillips and Junior Brown

(formerly HMP Brixton) were invited to perform in front of 200 guests at the Koestler Awards celebration at Wormwood Scrubs and back in June, Eileen Mascoll and Simon Schofield joined the Trust's 10th anniversary project at HMP Holloway.

Looking to the Future

The Trust moves into its second decade with lots of new projects in the pipeline. We are planning a series of pilot projects in special hospitals working with psychiatric patients and by the end of the year, an in depth research document commissioned by the Wates Foundation will be published. This has been an 18-month project researching the benefits of the arts on women in prison.

We are also initiating a Self Harm Awareness Project working with young women at Holloway and Bullwood Hall. Not only will the participants engage in creating new music and overcoming their own problems, they will also be putting together a resource which will be made available throughout the prison service, and also to other agencies dealing with people coping with self-harm issues.

The Trust is proud to acknowledge the continuing support of many funding bodies and individuals without whom this vital work could not continue. It is fantastic that so many people have heard about and witnessed the undoubted benefits of our work and chosen to support us on a regular basis.

"This has done wonders for my self esteem and confidence. It has also re-awoused my desire and ambition to make music which was fading due to lack of opportunity."

Participant, HMP Wayland

Fundraising

Earlier this month the Trust welcomed Jo Tilley-Riley to the world of Music in Prisons. Jo has taken over the role of fundraiser and PR and we are looking forward to continuing success with her at the helm.

"I was aware during the work how important this was to the men involved. This took the whole concept of family ties to a new level causing men to think deeply about their situation and the future of their relationship with their children."

John Podmore, Governor at HMP Brixton

Handbook

The Trust is pleased to announce the completion of a 'music out!' handbook designed to help signpost ex-project participants on their release back into the community. The handbook has been researched and collated by Anita McKeown and copies can be downloaded from our website.

Contact Us

If you are interested in finding out more about our work, please feel free to contact us:

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