Arts Dream Selsey (ADS) was founded in October 2012, as a voluntary arts organization and is now a Charitable Company and aspires to promote, maintain improve and advance education and appreciation of the arts in all its forms among the people of Selsey and district community.

When we started we were a small group of arts enthusiasts, responding to the ‘dream’aspiration of complementing the work of Youth and Sports Dream. Youth Dream was our first ‘sponsor’ and got us going with a £200 donation for insurance. We are now a Charitable Company limited by Guarantee with an annual turn -over of 35K a year.

We are a project organisation and our projects have been funded by for example The Heritage Lottery, Arts Council England, Sussex Community Foundation, West Sussex and Chichester District. In line with our objectives to work collaboratively with artists, and organisation much of our work has been about bringing groups and people together, so for example our Seley 57 World War one project was a collaboration between Arts Dream Selsey, The Research group of U3A, The Selsey Society-Local History Group, The British Legion, The Selsey Archivist and the Academy Selsey. Our Drama Production The End of the Journey, was a collaboration between amateur community, and professional actors, our very own Gillian Plowman a professional writer and Professor Pamela Howard, the internationally renowned Scenographer and Director

We have had many firsts! We started the 50 strong Selsey Community Choir, brought swing jive classes to Selsey and established a full programme of Art activity and demonstrations by professional artists. Currently 100 people use our services weekly. The Opera performance by City Wall Productions was seen by 90 people. and our ‘Revolutionaires’ swing jive concert was a great success attended by 200 people. The ‘Revs’ was an outstanding audience development project as people came to see the band from for example Southampton, Brighton, Worthing and Guildford. Lots of them had never heard of Selsey but loved the Academy as the venue for the event and can’t wait for us to do it again!

We have had three major Summer Art Exhibitions, that were incredibly successful the latter a collaboration with the Selsey Camera Club, was the most positive yet, again indicating the benefits of collaborative projects Our Sports England funded exhibition project linked to Patrick Moore’s involvement with Selsey Cricket Club has currently been seen by 4000 people.

One of our most exciting developments has been Arts Dream producing its own original Drama productions. Most of the genre of work seen in Selsey is Musical Theatre so original plays are a way of complementing activity for our community and offering a broader offering. The End of the Journey, and Tonight at the Pavilion Charlie Chaplin were both sell out performaces with over 600 people seeing each show.

We also work ‘behind the scenes ‘ for Selsey and have supported our community in advocating for Performance Space so the drama production work in Selsey can be the best it possibly can be. We have also conducted a consultation process for Chichester District Council on Public Art for Selsey, and written a development paper for Chichester District Council on the Selsey Pavilion. We have supported a number of smaller organisations with marketing, and developing an on line presence, and crucially have revitalised the Pavilion for future use as a community venue. We are currently awaiting a decision from Selsey Town Council on our bid to refurbish the Academy Selsey into a state of the Art Performance Space

In 2015 Arts Dream had over 7000 users, with participants, audiences for live events and on line.

So what next for us! Well we have a very busy summer ahead of us.

We are continuing with our Selsey Community Choir that will result in a short concert in June, the Selsey 57 WW1 research and website Heritage Lottery Project, and the Post Card Project with the Selsey Camera Club, that is going to result in a calendar for Decemeber 2016.

Arts Dream is offering in collaboration with Hilary Strong and Strong Ideas Theatre company a chance for people 16 and over to be involved in an exciting and dynamic three week summer project, that is free for all participants. The Project will be held at the Academy Selsey from the 18th of July through to August the 6th 10am -4pm daily with some evening performances. The project revolves around the writing of 4 short plays about the news of the day in the first week, and then the development of a children’s play in the second two weeks. A fantastic opportunity to develop new skills and work with others, and we need you!.

We need amateur writers, painters and scenic artists, actors, singers, audio visual whizz kids, film makers and many other volunteers to make this project yet another first for Arts Dream! Oh and Hilary has her very own theatre that she travels with!! Full details of this are on our website.

We are taking our critically acclaimed production of Tonight at the Pavilion Charlie Chaplin up to the Cinema Museum in London for 15 performances in September. Great for all our local performers as they are to be paid as professional artists! A great coo for Selsey to be transferring to London! and Gillian’s play is currently being published by Frenches.

Arts Dream- ‘dream team committee ‘are an amazing team of volunteers that work tirelessly to enhance the profile of the arts in Selsey, and to develop arts opportunities for all. Thanks must go to them and of course to you and all the local businesses in Selsey who have supported our efforts We couldn’t have done it without you !

We know the arts transform’s people lives, and with your continued support we can harness the power of the arts to inspire, educate, entertain and ultimately enrich all our lives

 Chris Butler 06/2015