



WHAT IS THE CREATIVE DEMENTIA ARTS NETWORK?

The Creative Dementia Arts Network aims to bring together individuals and organisations to promote the quality of life of people living with dementia, support family carers and work with local communities using the creative arts.

The impetus to establish the CDAN emerged from consultations with delegates at the Arts and Dementia Conference organised by ARTZ UK in Oxford in 2011 and further discussions with artists and arts organisations. The results showed considerable interest in and need for:

- A local or national forum in arts and dementia.
- A mapping exercise to establish who is doing what in the creative arts and dementia across the UK (and beyond).
- Making expertise available to artists, art organisations and cultural institutions on working with people with dementia, evaluation, funding and health and social care commissioning.
- A website providing information, resources and a space facilitating contact between those using it.
- A programme of events for people with dementia, their families and commissioners and providers of creative arts in all localities.
- A research network to bring together those who are interested in developing the evidence base for creative arts and dementia.

ARTZ UK is a founding member of CDAN that will work in partnership with ARTZ Artists for Alzheimer's and other organisations to deliver creative arts programmes. ARTZ Artists for Alzheimer's helped set up Wisdem, a global resource that focuses on non pharmacological interventions, evaluation methodology, technology and environmental design. We hope you will use and contribute to Wisdem at <http://www.wisdem.org/>.

CDAN aims to promote connections and collaborations between people with dementia, their carers, commissioners, health, housing and social care providers, policy makers and practitioners, cultural institutions, artists and academics to share and exchange knowledge about the use of creative arts to improve the health and well being of those living with dementia.

CDAN will run a website www.creativedementia.org (under development) that acts as an on line hub for the arts and dementia community. Members of the Network will be encouraged to contribute information and news, showcase their work and add events to CDAN 'Time Out' listings. CDAN will be working with artists and organisations to provide learning and training, consultancy, and evaluation services and develop downloadable resources. We are supporting the development of a research network.