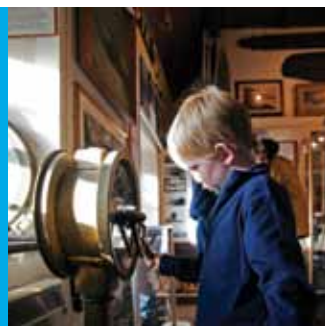


# Dorset Cultural Strategy 2016 – 2021

## Appendix: achievements



Key Collaborative  
Achievements 2009–2015



# Outcome One

A thriving, competitive economy that delivers good quality employment for people in Dorset.

This refers to skills and business development for a thriving creative economy which will benefit the wider economy of the county.

## Key Collaborative Achievements

### Cross Cultural

Creative Employment Programme of apprenticeships and interns and well-supported voluntary opportunities for young people to develop their skills and experience and seek paid work.



Apprentice working at Stuart Wiltshire's glass studio in Weymouth.



Intern working at Dorset History Centre to digitise a fragile photographic collection.

The Dorset Arts Together (DAT) b-roads project provided an outcome led youth programme of creative activities, courses, mentoring, jobs and work placements for disadvantaged 15-25 year olds engaging over 140 young people on short term courses and training projects, volunteering and work shadowing in jobs from September 2013 – March 2015.



# Outcome One

## Arts and Sport

2012 Maritime Mix and Beach Festival – major investment secured and foundation for development of culture as part of the visitor economy.

The Maritime Mix London 2012 Cultural Olympiad by the Sea reached 30,000 people and gained national publicity and recognition. This has resulted in further development of collaborative initiatives across the county involving a number of external partners including the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Jurassic Coast Trust. The festival created work for artists, arts organisations and the creative industries across the south west, including 52 (temporary) full-time equivalent jobs, increased the Gross Value Added (GVA) for Dorset by £2.5m and increased the economic output of industries in the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole (BDP) sub-region by £5.75m. The project helped generate a minimum of £13m. for the tourism economy of Weymouth & Portland in the year from September 2011. The full report can be found [here](#).

The two free sport arenas on the beach during the Olympic & Paralympic Games periods were a massive success. Over 100,000 visitors trying up to 25 different Olympic and Paralympic sports.

- More than 400,000 have-a-go sessions delivered
- Over 10,000 visitors tried inclusive sports
- World-wide media attention throughout the Olympic & Paralympic period
- New inclusive club formed including two new wheel-chair basketball clubs
- 600 visitors to local rugby club open day
- 492 out of 500 volunteers offered to volunteer again
- Positive feedback from 10,000 written responses



Battle for the Winds, Maritime Mix: London 2012 Cultural Olympiad by the Sea. Photo: Kevin Clifford for Arts Council England.



# Outcome One

## Archives

Home and Abroad: the Bankes Family Archive.

'Home and Abroad' will see Dorset History Centre, The National Trust and The Priest's House Museum collaborate on a wide-ranging project principally funded by the Heritage Lottery. The Bankes archive is outstanding; a huge and eclectic source of information and cultural heritage relating to the 16,000 acre Dorset estate, but containing material of international significance. Cataloguing of the archive along with conservation and digitisation will support a raft of learning and engagement activities. These range from oral history to educational materials, web resources, fixed and touring exhibitions to joint working with both Walford Mill Crafts and the University of Exeter.



Pyramid Field, Nuri, c. 1821 from the Bankes archive, Dorset History Centre.

## Libraries

Libraries offer for skills and employment support: free Information, communication and technology (ICT) access; job clubs; shared premises with Skills and Learning.

All libraries in the county now provide free access to computers and the internet and free Wi-Fi use to enable those people without ICT to access e-services including job applications and e-information. Frontline staff have been trained to assist people without ICT skills to get online and to signpost people to other support agencies. Some libraries host Work Clubs, helping people to find jobs. The library service works with Skills and Learning to host ICT tutor led sessions in some libraries and in two main libraries, the learning centre is co-located.



# Outcome One

## Museums

Raising the tourism profile of Dorset through major capital developments, acquisitions, and exhibitions.

Recent research has demonstrated that heritage and museums have a vital role to play in developing an attractive tourism offer which enhances the local economy. West Dorset museums (Dorset County Museum DCM, Bridport, Sherborne and Lyme Regis) have worked together to assess the economic value of their visitor base. Using the Association for Independent Museums (AIM) toolkit; a professional system which enables museums to adopt a robust approach to estimating economic value using locally collected visitor data and nationally sourced tourism information, it has been assessed that the four museums supported by WDDC generated a total gross visitor impact of just under £3 million in the local economy over the last 12 month period. Landmark exhibitions such as the Pliosaur at the County Museum and War Horse at the Tank Museum in Bovington have generated national publicity and profile; and focused high quality improvements in museums such as Gold Hill in Shaftesbury and Swanage Museum have seen these two entirely voluntary run museums attract nearly 90,000 visitors per year between them.



The Weymouth Bay Pliosaur in the Jurassic Coast Gallery at Dorset County Museum (Courtesy DNHAS).

# Outcome Two

## A resilient infrastructure providing access to cultural and leisure opportunities.

This refers to the resilience of organisations that make up the cultural sector, and the strength of the framework and networks of support, which enable the sector to provide opportunities for people to access culture.

### Key Collaborative Achievements

#### Arts and cross cultural: Dorset Arts Together

The **AMONITE** (Action Learning; Mentoring; Outreach; Network; Investing in People; Training and; Enterprise.)

Leadership programme provided action learning sets and mentoring for over 40 participants drawn from across the cultural sector and generated many opportunities for developing collaborative projects as well as increasing cross sector understanding. One participant from library staff commented “I had never previously understood what arts development was about but now I get it”.



Dorset arts organisations on a Learning Day at the Ancient Technology Centre. Photo: John Snelling, Studio Elite.



# Outcome Two

## Libraries

Development of and support for community managed libraries.

In 2011, Dorset County Council (DCC) agreed that 9 libraries would be transferred to community management as a different way of delivering the service within the resources available. Working closely with local community representatives, the County Council have supported the development of 8 community managed libraries which are now operating. These 8 libraries provide a local access point for smaller and rural communities to access Dorset Library Service with the support of volunteers. Some of these libraries now offer a better range of facilities than DCC could afford to resource, resulting in an enhanced community facility.

## Play

The Play Partnership and Play Strategy; collaborative fundraising and delivery of play projects across Dorset.

Dorset Councils and partners collaborated to create a single play strategy for Dorset. The Dorset Play Partnership was able to use this focal point to identify priorities and work towards common goals in raising the standards and opportunities for children to play. The Playbuilder programme was one such example. Over £1million was secured to deliver 22 fantastic new or redeveloped play areas across Dorset. Great examples include the beach themed play area at West Bay, the skate park at Crossways, and the water play park at Christchurch Quay. More information [here](#).



Playground at West Bay, design influenced by artist Peter Margum. Photo: Cleo Evans.

# Outcome Two

## Museums

Sustainability enhanced by strong, enduring networks: North Dorset Museums Group, Dorset Museums Association (DMA), Jurassic Coast Museums Partnership, Wessex Museums Partnership, South West Museums Sustainability pilot  
Museums across the county have substantially enhanced their resilience through a comprehensive, robust and progressive set of partnerships which have delivered multifaceted and tangible benefits to the participant museums.

The Jurassic Coast Museums Partnership secured an £180,000 grant to deliver new displays, digital content and shared events programming; the North Dorset Museums Partnership has undertaken joint marketing and publicity; the Dorset Museums Association has delivered over 10 training and networking sessions for 25 museums and the Wessex5 partnership (DCM, Poole, Russell Cotes, Salisbury, Devizes), have secured nearly £0.5m Arts Council Resilience funding for capital fundraising and tourism development work and the South West Museums Sustainability pilot has enabled Portland and Priests House Museums to undertake a self assessment and improvement process which will yield dividends in terms of HLF support.



Portland Museum, part of the Jurassic Coast Museums Partnership. Photo: Amanda Harman.

# Outcome Three

## Understanding, enjoying and safeguarding Dorset’s environment with planning for the future.

This refers to the role of culture in understanding, enjoying and safeguarding our landscape heritage, and the public space and heritage of our towns and villages.

## Key Collaborative Achievements

### Public Art

**Nature Network Neighbourhood (N3):** the creation of innovative art and design in public places across Dorset.

The N3 projects improved public places for community benefit and demonstrated the value of cross-sector collaborations. One project has now turned into a community enterprise, providing homes for wild life such as birds and bats, thus conserving and increasing the amount of wild life on the housing estate and bringing in an income. Another project produced guidance advising community and neighbourhood planning groups on how to engage with culture and use the skills of creative practitioners within the planning process: [Creativity in Community Led Planning in Dorset](#).



Creativity in Community-Led Planning Toolkit.



# Outcome Three

## Public Art

Artists, engineers, and architects work together to enhance building projects such as bridges, playgrounds, Durlston Castle.

New collaborations have improved public spaces including in Chickerell, Newtons Cove, Durlston Castle. When the footbridge was replaced at Charmouth engineers teamed up with artists Sansfacon who lead on design creating a replacement bridge which won the Institute of Civil Engineers small project award in 2011. “A great asset for Charmouth, very honoured that it was able to happen” - Charmouth Parish Council. Details of other collaborative public art projects [here](#).



Serpentine Path, Durlston Castle. Photo: Gary Breeze.



Charmouth Bridge Artists Sans Facon. Photo: Sans Facon.

## Arts, heritage and museums

Landscape based programmes: Creative Coast Arts Strategy and arts programme; South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership arts and heritage programme; Dorset Archaeological Days and Dorset Architectural Heritage Week.

The Dorset arts collaboration’s environment hub has been working with AONB South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership to support environmental and arts organisations working together with artists. This provides innovative interpretation and thereby encourages new visitors as well as increasing local people’s understanding and connection with the South Dorset Ridgeway. The Ridgeway is an incredibly rich area for barrows and other ancient monuments, which is on a par with Stonehenge in importance. Arts partners include Artsreach, Activate Performing Arts and the Inside Out Dorset Festival, as well as Satsymph and Diva. Over 5,000 people have seen or participated in the arts based events. More information [here](#).



The White Hare, Sarah Butterworth, part of Ridgeway Responses – South Dorset Ridgeway (Inside Out Dorset 2014 – Activate)  
Photo: Tony Gill.





# Outcome Three

## Arts

Outdoor arts and festivals programmes and visual arts projects that explore, celebrate and transform the landscape.

Inside Out Dorset continues to be a series of extraordinary events in extraordinary places, transforming the landscape of Dorset every two years. International outdoor performance arts are presented to audiences from across the county and further afield winning tourism awards for its ability to create unforgettable memories.

The festival, produced by Activate Performing Arts in partnership with the Dorset Theatre Promoters Consortium and a wide range of other partners: environmental, tourism, and private landowners, is a national exemplar for combining the assets of the rural landscape and the urban towns across Dorset. Take a look [here](#) for more details.

Ex-Lab provided a programme of new visual arts work and commissions across the county to complement the performing arts programme for Maritime Mix. It was successfully brought together by a collaboration of visual arts organisations. This collaboration has continued to develop initiatives for the visual arts in Dorset.

b-side has developed its reputation as an international festival of standing and has concentrated on developing projects in and around Weymouth and Portland – most recently collaborating with Artangel in a project which gained national recognition.



Artsreach work in partnership with Landmark Trust for the Gormley commission at Kimmeridge. Photo: Roland Tarr.



The Bell in Blandford Forum by Periplum (Inside Out Dorset 2014 – Activate). Photo: Paul Hampartsoumian.

# Outcome Three

## Physical activity and play

Safe and healthy routes for cyclists and pedestrians; play provision incorporated into country walks and parks; Children's Nature Nursery connecting children and families to nature – to play and learn through imagination and creativity in open spaces.

DCC's [Children's Nature Nurseries](#) at Avon Heath and Durlston have been established with a vision of connecting children with nature during their early years education and development. Located on AONB sites and making the most of outdoor green spaces. The learning objectives are pursued by giving time and space to the child, with professionals allowing skill-based experiences to flourish, assisted by quality observation. Children's Nature Nurseries are the complete learning experience for children.



South Dorset Ridgeway.  
Photo: Dave Penman, Dorset AONB Partnership.



Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.  
Photo: Mark Simons, Dorset County Council.

# Outcome Four

## Opportunities for people to enjoy and achieve promoting health and wellbeing within safe and thriving communities.

This refers to the role of culture in promoting: individual health and wellbeing; personal sense of achievement; and the role of participation and engagement with culture in wider community safety and wellbeing.

### Key Collaborative Achievements

#### Cross sectoral

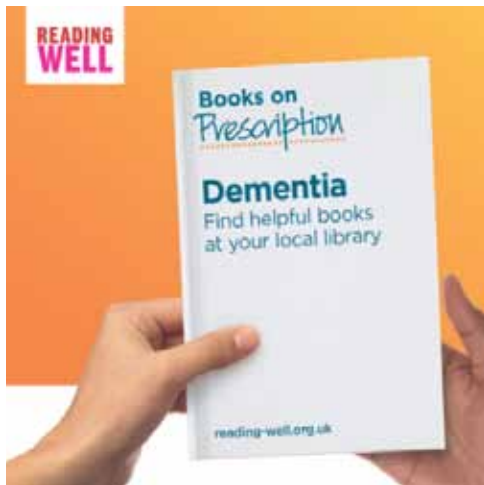
We have taken a broad approach to the role of culture in both specific and general health and wellbeing, and have generated a climate of inter-speciality and inter-organisational collaboration. This has led to a change in behaviour and attitude which has resulted in significant health benefits.

The library service runs a *Books on Prescription* service which helps people understand and manage their health and well being using self help reading. The books can be recommended by GPs and other health professionals. The scheme is endorsed by health professionals with evidence from NICE that it can help people with common mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression. Also, *Books on Prescription for Dementia*, provides help and support for people with dementia, carers and anyone interested in the condition.



# Outcome Four

“Biophilia” – is a new channel of artists’ film and video related to the Dorset landscape which is available free to patients and visitors to Dorset County Hospital, including in isolation units and public waiting areas. It builds on the evidenced value of natural scenes in aiding recovery, reducing drug consumption and enhancing psychological wellbeing. The project was a collaboration between Arts in Hospital and Dorset AONB. More information [here](#).



A Room with a View: Biophilia. Auxiliary Nurse Lucy Woodward demonstrates Dorset County Hospital's 'Room with a view' for cancer patients. Photo: Bournemouth News Agency.

## Skills&Learning

Skills&Learning’s partnership working has offered a variety of activities to promote health and well-being, improved family relationships and a sense of achievement. The Digital Champions initiative has helped over 450 people get on line throughout Dorset.

Beryl, in her eighties, is one of those individuals. Beryl attended a “how to use an iPad” session delivered by Digital Champions at a Spectrum Housing Association independent living scheme where she is a tenant. Learning how to use an iPad has opened up a whole new life for her. Beryl can now Skype her grand children and great grandchildren in New Zealand and see them growing up and she is able to keep in regular contact with her daughter.

A short video about this scheme is [here](#) and more information is [here](#).



Family Learning Class. Photo: John Nash.



# Outcome Four

## Physical Activity and Play

A collaborative programme of events promoting play and physical activity; sustainable transport projects promoting healthy travel.

Festivals and events have been established in Dorset over the years to promote physical activity and play to thousands of Dorset residents. Disabled adults enjoy A Sporting Chance held at Bryanston School offering many sports and cultural activities. Weymouth Beach hosts the beach festivals annually offering special days for disabled children and disabled adults and a free open weekend for the whole family as a legacy of the 2012 Games. The real highlight is the water sports paddle-boarding, kayaking and sailing. Play day activities to celebrate the national Play Day also offer fun festivals for the younger generation.



Stonebarrow Down. Photo: Mark Simons, Dorset County Council.

## Cross sectoral

Cultural organisations have offered a rich range of opportunities and programmes for volunteers.

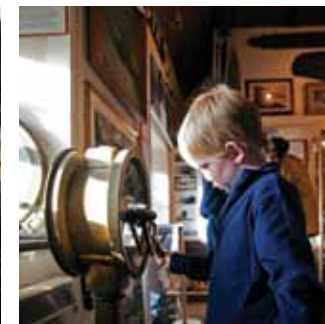
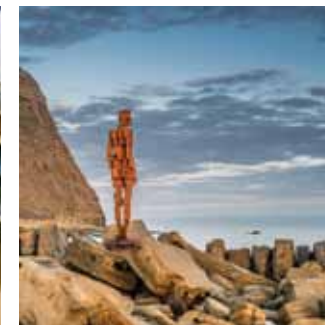
Dorset's museums play a major role in providing opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the cultural life of their communities. Every year, nearly 2,000 active volunteers in museums, contribute almost 100,000 hours of time. Many museums support volunteers with disabilities and special needs, with museums such as Portland working with their local community action and museums such as Blandford actively supporting young volunteers.

In summer 2014 73 teenagers participated as Dorset Library Service Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) volunteers. They helped to sign children up to the reading challenge, talked to the children about their books and assisted with events and displays. Building on this achievement, we have been allocated some funding from the Cabinet Office, Accelerate Scaling Fund (administered by the Reading Agency) to increase the number of SRC volunteers and to launch year-round volunteering opportunities. Young people can now apply online for the additional volunteer roles: Consultation, Activity and Events, Digital Champion and Recruitment. They will be accredited or supported if already working towards an award. More information [here](#).



Museum volunteer at Priests House Museum Wimborne. Photo: Amanda Harman.

# Our vision is that Dorset places culture at the heart of quality of life.



**THE ARTS  
DEVELOPMENT  
COMPANY**



**Dorset Cultural  
Partnership**



Supported using public funding by  
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**Front and back cover images:**

Woodland Walk. Photo: Mark Simons, Dorset County Council.

Health and Wellbeing. Photo: SCL Flickr.

Antony Gormley commission at Kimmeridge in partnership with Landmark Trust. Photo: Roland Tarr.

Inside Out Dorset Festival 2012, Harmonic Fields by Lieux Publics. Photo: Roy Riley.

Untitled by Isla Chaney b-side Festival 2014 Portland. Photo: Brendan Buesnel.

Young visitor at Portland Museum. Photo: Amanda Harman.

Battle for the Winds, Maritime Mix: London 2012 Cultural Olympiad by the Sea. Photo: Kevin Clifford for Arts Council England.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

Pyramid Field, Nuri, c. 1821 from the Bankes archive, Dorset History Centre.