

Transcript of OAS DVD

“The Studio is a constant it is always here on a Monday and a Friday and whatever else is happening in people’s lives we’re always here.”

“It runs on Mondays and Fridays; Mondays, at the moment 10 till 2, Fridays 10 till 5. It’s open to anybody from any background and ability.”

“It’s very inclusive, it’s an Openart Studio so we really want to have access for everybody.”

“Everybody helps everybody else to settle in and get to know each other.”

“It’s like a little community, like everyone groups together and has a really good time. It’s mainly about the art but it’s not just that, it’s somewhere for everyone to go for just a bit of company and time away from their lives; something to do – for themselves.”

“It raises an awful lot of self esteem. There are a number of members who came in nervous, shy – as anyone would in a new situation, who have quite noticeably grown in their self confidence.”

“It’s brought me out of my shell because I was bereaved a short while ago. My husband died and I just didn’t want to go out or go anywhere. And they sent me here from St Theresa’s and I’m enjoying it tremendously.”

“I feel as though my confidence has improved since I’ve been here. My confidence with talking with other people; I go around the group and ask people about their work. And they always comment and it’s really interesting.”

“What have I got here? Grey?”

“It’s grey but it’ll be okay.”

“You think?”

“It’s giving them a chance to do something that they’ve never done before.”

“They can try out different things – mosaics, ceramics, glass painting which seems to be incredibly popular.”

“Darlington Media Group is historically prided itself as being a place where anyone can come and access all forms of media art. We’re very much an open access workshop so it was natural really to begin to work in partnership with the Openarts. We produced a short, I think 30 second film called tea break.”

“Tutors are on hand if you want advice et cetera but you’re not forced along at a particular pace.”

“It’s not like a lesson so people can progress at their own pace.”

“And it’s just great because you can do what you like, how you like, when you like. And it’s very special for that because it gives you a chance to develop things you’ve never tried before.”

“There’s so many things to explore, there’s so many possibilities and the more I teach, the more people come in with brand new ideas and things even I haven’t explored so I’m quite happy to share my knowledge.”

“A lot of people have at least one origami book at home that they got as a present. They often try to make origami by following the instructions and they find it very hard. They will come here today and be shown how to do it, step by step, fold by fold and we make sure no-one gets left behind and then they find they can do it.”

“It isn’t just a case of we’re there to serve the members and provide things for them. We’ve gained so much.”

“I love it, I miss it if I’m not here. Definitely.”

“It’s meant a lot to me, over the four years. I was actually one of the original people who came along. It’s nice to see it’s been developed from that.”

“If you’re feeling a bit down or something then you can develop a picture and it can sort of express what you’re feeling or you can rub it away and feel good about yourself, just for a very short time and that’s nice and very valuable really.”

“Well I did a painting of Elvis Presley.”

“I can’t imagine ever spending a day without doing something, drawing or painting. It’s just for as long as I remember I’ve always done it and regardless of anything else I’m doing I’ve still got to find a little spot in the day for it. And it does give you a purpose, a reason for getting up in the morning I don’t know what I would do without it.”

“They only came this morning, they came in around half past 10. They’d only come to have a look and ended up staying until about half past 1 and they’re absolutely delighted with what they’ve taken away with them.”

“Hi, I’m Jason, I’m the cameraman for this film that we’ve been doing. It’s great to be involved in the Openart Studio project. It’s been a joy to film, the members and the staff are just so great to get along with. The mood here is, as I’ve said about three times already, infectious.”