



Cover Artwork:

Wildflowers

Hydebank Wood College & Women's prison Displayed at PAF's *Embracing Art* exhibition, 2 Royal Avenue Belfast 2023

Back Artwork:

In a Trance

Hydebank Wood College & Women's prison Displayed at PAF's *Embracing Art* exhibition, 2 Royal Avenue Belfast 2023

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Recipe for Disaster

One part father who can only show emotions with fists

One part mother with depression and delusional mental health

Add in society that is violent and hateful

Just a touch of isolation both externally and internally

Sprinkle on some insecurities and low self-esteem

Add a dash of addictive personality and dependence of chemical happiness

Let stew in prison for 6 years

With no proper or adequate help

Release into hostel full of drugs, anxiety and repeat offenders

Enjoy a life cold and bitter in a perpetual downward spiral.

INTRODUCTION

Inspiring creativity and encouraging personal and social change in offenders within the criminal justice system, through the arts.

The Prison Arts Foundation is as important as it is unique. Thanks to our pioneering work with people with convictions, lives are being transformed and patterns of behaviour changed for good. Our team of experienced professional artists and practitioners working across the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland are offering people with convictions a lifeline, helping to improve their creative and communications skills, which is key to personal and social development, building self-confidence and unlocking people's potential.

The aims of our charity are to

- develop the creative potential of prisoners through PAF's work within prisons
- develop PAF's creative work in the criminal justice system outside of prison
- increase awareness of PAF and its work; and to effectively market its programmes and products to relevant audiences
- ensure that PAF has the human resources to achieve its plans and they are effectively managed and given the opportunity to develop
- ensure that PAF has the freelance artists, premises, and other physical resources it requires to achieve its plans and these resources are managed effectively and efficiently
- ensure that PAF has the financial resources it requires to achieve its plans and these resources are effectively and efficiently managed
- ensure the governance of PAF complies with the requirements of the law and best practice

We review our aims, objectives, and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help. The review also helps us ensure our aim, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated

purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The main objectives for the year continued to be the promotion for public benefit, the advancement of education of prisoners and ex-prisoners in Northern Ireland. The arts are a powerful tool for engagement and creativity can play a significant role in working towards the goal of rehabilitation. At its heart, art is an act of community.

Our artists and practitioners facilitate creative workshops covering everything from art appreciation, to activities in music, ceramics/pottery, visual and fine arts, woodcraft, and creative writing. Through engagement in these workshops, people with convictions are offered an opportunity to reconnect with their own unique creativity and explore their potential for expression and the making of meaning.

We share the Department of Justice and Northern Ireland Prison Service's vision of a criminal justice system that works in partnership with a range of statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations to ensure that individuals are given every possible opportunity to address their offending behaviour and are supported to live lives free from further offending.

We have two major areas of activity which are prison & secure settings and community settings programmes. These activities bring benefits to the offender – raising their self-awareness, helping them express and understand their feelings, and developing their skills and self-discipline. These improvements in turn bring benefits to their families and communities, and to the staff who work in prisons and other establishments.

Most importantly arts activity offers a diversion from re-offending. For the community at large, the overriding benefit of our activities is to help offenders move towards crime-free lives. The charity also benefits the public by raising awareness and understanding of offenders through exhibition and showcasing of their artistic achievements.



Untitled

Shannon Clinic

Collaborative group piece displayed at PAF's *Embracing Art* exhibition, 2 Royal Avenue Belfast 2023

What I See

Eyes gazing around
Eyes dilated, eyes half blind
Eyes see the dead, the voices in my head
The all 'Seeing Eye', illumination on my mind —
What do you see?
Do you see the drunk in me?
Do you see how down I get?
Eyes see I need to change my life?
I see stars in the sky
I see if I don't change this drink will take my life
Save me from myself — illuminate my eyes.

PRISONS AND SECURE SETTINGS

PAF's residency programme provides opportunities for disengaged learners and those who are unlikely to achieve academic qualifications to engage in learning activities in a positive way and achieve success before hopefully progressing to more challenging areas of study.

The arts are a powerful tool for engagement and creativity can play a significant role in working towards the goal of rehabilitation. During the year our delivery in prison settings was funded by the Department of Justice through their Resettlement Branch (NIPS) & Assets Recovery Community Scheme (ARCS). We also delivered a separated prisoner project funded by the NI Executive Office through their Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality and Organised Crime Programme. Our artists and practitioners engaged with 482 individual prisoners, and delivered 442 visual/fine art, 212 art therapy, 179 creative writing, 153 ceramic, 105 music, 20 woodcraft, 9 therapeutic writing workshops/sessions within the 3 prisons -

- 2,456 prisoner and 69 children (of serving prisoners) engagements in Maghaberry Prison - a modern high security prison housing adult male long term sentenced and remand prisoners, in both separated and integrated conditions.
- 1,659 prisoner engagements in Magilligan Prison a medium to low security prison which holds male prisoners with six years or less to serve and who meet the relevant security classification.
- 897 young/adult female prisoner and 39 young male prisoner engagements in Hydebank Wood College and Women's Prison accommodates young people between the ages of 18 and 21 and female remand and sentenced prisoners in Ash House, a house block within the complex.

Since 2019 our we have also delivered a secure setting project thanks to funding from ARN Foundation via Community Foundation NI. This year our practitioner delivered 50 art therapy sessions and had 107 adult male/female patient engagements in the Regional Forensic Unit (Shannon Clinic) - a medium secure unit providing in-patient services for prisoners with mental illness who require intensive psychiatric treatment and rehabilitation in a structured, secure and therapeutic environment.

Key prison and secure settings delivery statistics 2022/23:



1,170 workshops/



12,555 participant based contact hours



5,227 engagements with people of all ages and backgrounds



48 awards & competitions won by PAF students

Key prison & secure settings programme highlights throughout 2022/23:

Writer in residence Pamela Brown supported her creative writing students in Magilligan Prison to publish 4 collections of work.

'First-hand' writing from and about prisons isn't new. Prison literature has a rich tradition and creative writing provides a key to unlocking ideas, unlocking insular thinking, and unlocking potential. *Time In*, the PAF supported magazine, has been in existence for over a decade and provides the primary platform to reflect the creative output of our writers. This year the group published Issues 18 & 19, and the magazine has evolved with the group and teaches research skills, journalism styles, computer and IT knowhow and provides an opportunity to consider what makes

an interesting article or an engaging story. They learn to make decisions about content and form as well as the many techniques for creating any piece of writing.



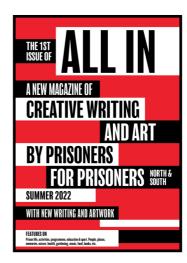
Time In Issue 18 & 19, 2022

- 1000 copies printed and circulated amongst prison & criminal justice settings in Northern Ireland
- Approx. 30 prisoner contributions

The creation of the first cross-border prison magazine *All In* was realised after many productive months with creative collaboration between the Irish Prison Service and PAF.

All In Issue 1, 2022

- 2000 copies printed and circulated amongst prison settings in Northern Ireland & Ireland
- Approx. 60 prisoner contributions

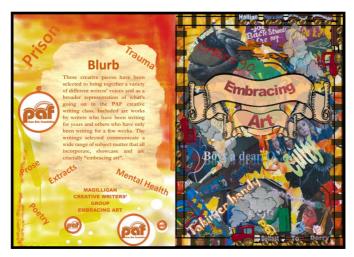


The ethos was in keeping with *Time In* magazine: 'by prisoners, for prisoners' featuring artwork and creative writing by people in custody within prisons in all of Ireland. *All In* magazine aspires to serve as an outlet for alternative forms of writing and to complement the poetry and short stories featured in the Listowel Writing in Prison competition and the Koestler Arts Awards.

Pamela Brown noted in her first editorial,

"A magazine that circulates through an institution is an integral dynamic for communication, for understanding and for affirmation. It is a pleasure and honour to work with the editorial board in selecting the content and devising the layout."

The yearly anthologies the group put together, such as *Embracing Art*, give the writing a function, in the sense of making a finished work which is showcased in print. This work gives PAF writers the sense of belonging together. The work they share with each other in the class, teaches them how to critique and understand someone else's work.



Embracing Art anthology, 2023

- 150 copies printed and circulated to audience members attending our annual exhibition in 2 Royal Avenue Belfast
- Approx. 17 prisoner contributions

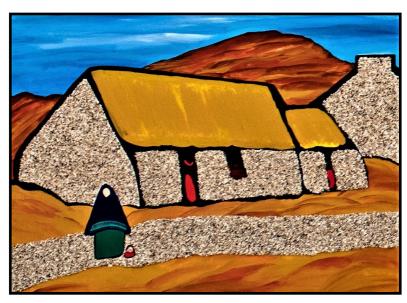
Prison Priorities

Prison Priorities



Punch PositiveMaghaberry Prison
Displayed at PAF's *Embracing Art* exhibition, 2 Royal Avenue Belfast 2023

The original idea for the artwork came about after the group, working with artist in residence Lucy Turner, read extracts from Tyson Fury's biography. In the book Tyson is honest about his addiction issues, feelings of self-worthlessness and his personal battles dealing with mental health. Using a world-wide sports figure, an Irish Traveller at heart, it made the conversations easy; the men made lists of issues that they have experienced in their childhood, youth and into adulthood. Punching these feelings away by hitting a speedball in succession like a boxer in training was considered a positive image. The Traveller community at Maghaberry prison have in the past made mosaics in recognition of their unique heritage, culture and identity, this artwork was to highlight issues that are experienced by these men on a more personal level. Over a series of afternoon workshops a mosaic was created using hand-made and recycled tiles. The body of Tyson Fury was built by hand with porcelain clay, his stance punching the speed ball is dramatic and adds to the artwork's liveliness; his features show steely determination. The title 'Punch Positive' underpins the narrative. The mosaic is studded with little one inch mirror tiles allowing us, the viewer, to catch a glimpse of ourselves, a reminder that we too are not immune to mental health or feelings of hopelessness in periods of our life.



*Irish Cottage*Maghaberry Prison

Both artworks were displayed at Koestler Arts *Freedom* exhibition, Southbank Centre London October - November 2022



Transience

Magilligan Prison

Highly Commended Award for Themed Category: Taste, Koestler Awards 2022



Lone WolfMaghaberry Prison

Loud Gold Award for Drawing, Koestler Awards 2022
Displayed at Koestler Arts *Freedom* exhibition, Southbank Centre London
October - November 2022

Searching for a clue, a guide, a direction

Contemplating A word A way —

Accepting a beginning Hoping to find expression Here in my cell

Fifteen years and eleven months completed A life sentence carried with sobriety An all-encompassing acceptance of reality

I walk, surviving in this Pool of helplessness And broken hearts

There is an abyss of sorrow Everyday nearer to the cliff tops...

Searching for a clue, a guide, a direction

Magilligan Prison 3rd Prize Poetry Advanced category, Listowel Writing in Prison competition 2022 Silver Award for Poem, Koestler Awards 2022 Artists/writer & musician in residence alongside PAF staff organised or contributed towards 7 events in prison or secure settings, engaging 791 family members or friends of serving prisoners, staff and students of other organisations working within criminal justice settings.

Together with staff from NIACRO & Belfast MET, PAF with the support of Governor Richard Taylor Hydebank Wood College & Queens University gave their students access 'Inside the Prison System' to tackle a real-world consulting challenge in April 2022. They benefited from expert mentorship in a bid to tackle the problem of youth reoffending in Northern Ireland.

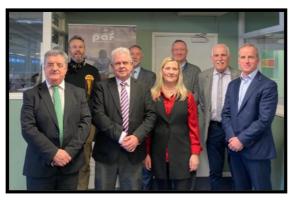
PAF artist in residence Lucy Turner facilitated a one-off art workshop during Maghaberry Prison's Cultural Day event in May 2022 which included a football competition between the prisoners followed by coaster painting and foods inspired by Polish, British and Chinese cuisine.

PAF mentee Stephen Greer supported by artist in residence Bobby Mathieson spoke at Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre's end of term rewards event in June 2022. Stephen talked about his positive engagement with the arts whilst in prison and since his release. A Senior Teacher at Woodland said,

"The young people here love art, many have entered and won a Koestler award. I wanted someone to talk about how the young people here could continue art in the community and maybe even make a career out of it".

In September 2022 PAF held our AGM in Treacy Centre, Hydebank Wood College. Pamela Brown, writer in residence talked about her work with PAF & the importance/impact of the arts and education in a prison setting; a female prisoner at Hydebank Wood College, who had previously engaged with Pamela's writing workshops via zoom in Ash House during lockdown, also read out some of her award winning Listowel & Koestler Arts poetry; lastly they heard from Stephen Greer who's direction/path in life has completely changed thanks to the arts and his engagement with education both in the prison setting and after his release.

PAF musician in residence Jonathan Bailie alongside members of the newly reestablished music group in Magilligan prison performed at NWRC's education celebration events in September 2022 & March 2023. The group also played alongside a spoken word performance from a member of writer in residence Pamela Brown's group at PAF's Koestler Awards celebration event in January 2023.



Artists/writer & musician in residence alongside PAF staff organised or contributed towards 2 events in community settings, engaging with 500 members of the public including family members or friends serving prisoners, ex-prisoners, key stakeholders & other guests working within criminal justice settings.

In January 2023 artwork created by PAF & Belfast Met students were displayed at the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust's event in Belfast City Hall. The collaborative project titled 'Ordinary People' showed students that every one of us has a part to play in challenging prejudice and discrimination in our society.

In March 2023 PAF held a special opening of *Embracing Art* our annual exhibition showcase of prisoners works



and invited family & friends of serving prisoners, and key stakeholders working within the criminal justice system.



Childhood Picnic Memories

Hydebank Wood College & Women's Prison

Highly Commended Award for Painting, Koestler Awards 2022 Displayed at Koestler Arts *Freedom* exhibition, Southbank Centre London October - November 2022

ODE to the Birds

When I noticed the birds, I saw freedom
I remembered what that felt like
I had forgot who I was
I had lost all hope
Until the moment I watched the birds through
the bars on the window.

ODE to the Birds

Magilligan Prison Part of *Ode to the Voices Inside* anthology Highly Commended Award for Poetry Collection, Koestler Awards 2022 Artists/writer & musician in residence alongside PAF staff organised or contributed towards 6 exhibitions/showcases of prisoner's creative works: 4 in Northern Ireland & 2 in UK, engaging with a known audience of over 10,000 & approximate audience of 26,950 members of the public.



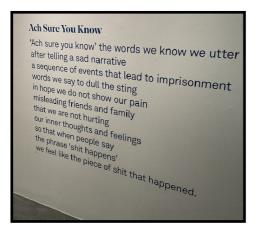
During Prison Week October 2022, artist in residence Anne Scullin, worked with Libraries NI & Belfast MET staff to display students work from Hydebank Wood College & Women's Prison in

Newtownbreda Library, Belfast. This collection then went on to be displayed in Colin Glen Library, Belfast throughout January 2023. Artwork created during the Ordinary People's project in partnership with Holocaust Memorial Trust NI also went on to be displayed in Central Library, Belfast during February 2023.

Over 30 works by PAF students at Maghaberry, Magilligan & Hydebank Wood College & Women's prison were displayed at Koestler Arts Freedom exhibition in Southbank Centre in London October - November 2022. It was their fifteenth



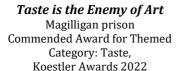
annual UK exhibition, and was curated by Chinese contemporary artist, documentarian, and activist, Ai Weiwei.



Ach Sure You Know

Magilligan prison Silver Award for Poem, Koestler Awards 2022

Both works were displayed at Koestler Arts *Freedom* exhibition, Southbank Centre London 2022





Koestler Arts also selected a PAF student's artwork to be displayed at their *On My Plate* exhibition in South Hill Park Arts Centre Berkshire January - March 2023. The exhibition by women in the criminal justice system across the UK, was in partnership with the Doing Porridge project at University of Surrey 'Understanding women's experiences of food in prison'.

The work explored food practices in prison, as well as the social and cultural meanings of food for individuals.



Mr & Mrs
Hydebank Wood College
& Women's Prison

Displayed at Koestler Arts *On My Plate* exhibition, South Hill Park Arts Centre Berkshire 2023

PAF's annual exhibition of art works by serving prisoners at Maghaberry, Magilligan and Hydebank Wood College & Women's prison, secure patients at Shannon Clinic, and ex-offenders in the community took place in 2 Royal Avenue Belfast from 14 – 25 March 2023. This year's showcase was funded by Belfast City Council (BCC) and NIPS and curated by our artists in residence to include works in line with BCC's theme of 'A City Imaging'. The exhibition featured a wide range of artforms including painting, drawing, matchstick modelling, craft, music, and writing. It is important for PAF to engage the public in our work to raise awareness and understanding of art by prisoners, to challenge public perception and encourage greater reintegration of ex-offenders into society.

UntitledShannon Clinic

Group artworks displayed at PAF's Embracing Art exhibition, 2 Royal Avenue Belfast 2023

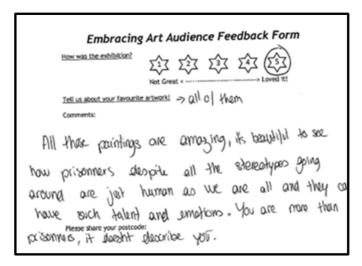


- Over 250 pieces of visual art, music and writing were showcased
 - Viewed by over 10,000 members of the public
 - Audience feedback was very positive 87% Loved it!





Our exhibition was free to attend, opened daily from 10am-6pm and featured Audience Feedback Cards, on which visitors could write feedback to be sent directly to the artists, providing our students with an opportunity to connect with people outside prison.



First Night

'This is it,' I said to myself. 'I have finally hit rock bottom.' Day one on the streets. Not a penny to my name, not a change of clothes and nowhere to lay my head tonight. Perversely, I wasn't afraid, or lonely. I was finally free and it was strangely exciting. The novelty soon wore off as the truth of what that meant dawned on me, but for those first few days I was exhilarated. I didn't care that the rain was coming down so fast and so hard; it was like a baptism, washing away my old life, ushering in a future full of untainted potential. I had finally managed to escape the life that, up until that very moment, had weighed so very heavily on my daily existence, exerting an insidious tension upon every single fibre of my being until each individual strand began to slowly unravel. Years of torment and turmoil that would eventually lead to my undoing, although I did not know it then as I stood revelling in my new-found freedom. There was a sudden rush of air into my lungs, and I gasped as if I were a baby taking that first glorious breath of life. The air travelled deeper into my chest than it ever had before, rejuvenating my soul and taking with it the burden of pain and anger as it escaped from my mouth again.

Artists/writer & musician in residence alongside PAF staff supported 55 students to submit 126 entries to 3 creative competitions for people in the care of the criminal justice system winning 48 awards.

Listowel Writing in Prison competition -



As the only dedicated creative writing competition for people in the care of the criminal justice system in Ireland, the competition at Listowel has a special place in the annual calendar for many prisoners with an interest in writing both in the Republic and Northern Ireland.

Opportunities for self-expression mean a lot to people in custody and there is a sense of ownership of the competition amongst prisoners – that it belongs to them and that it addresses their situation - and they are attracted to participate and to have their voice heard for those reasons. The therapeutic value of the competition can be felt in the entries, participation fosters increased self-esteem, and winning a prize is seen as recognition of talent and effort and an occasion for celebration and pride.

This year writer in residence Pamela Brown supported 11 PAF writers in Magilligan prison to submit 25 entries winning 4 awards:

- 1st Short Story Intermediate category
- 3rd Short Story Getting started category
- 3rd Poetry Advanced category
- Highly Commended Short Story Advanced category

Excitingly a writer who was awarded the Highly Commended prize in the Short Story Advanced category last year took 1st prize in the same category this year a fantastic achievement.



The Koestler Awards for arts in criminal justice -

The competition allows prisoners and other people in the criminal justice system across the UK to submit artwork to their competitions. Possible outcomes for any submission include: a certificate of participation - provided to all entrants;

written feedback from a professional artist; and a cash prize. In addition, some artworks are sold through Koestler Arts and or displayed at art exhibitions. As such, the competition therefore aims to recognise the contribution and talent of individuals creating artworks in prison and or the community.

This year our artists in residence Anne Scullin, Lucy Turner & Marie McCloy & writer in residence Pamela Brown supported their students to submit 82 entries winning 43 awards:

- 10 awards were won by PAF students in Maghaberry including 8 Visual Art, 1 Writing & 1 Music submissions
- 29 awards were won by PAF students in Magilligan including 26 Creative Writing & 3 Visual Art submissions
- 4 visual art awards were won by PAF students in Hydebank Wood College & Women's prison

This is the highest number of achievements since PAF began submitting for Magilligan prison in 2014, and in terms of the levels awarded. This is without doubt a testimony to the dedication of the prisoner writers to the class, especially given the post COVID-19 difficulties and reestablishing the writers group among other challenges.



Arkbound National Creative Writing Competition -

As part of their Writing Within Walls programme, Arkbound ran a creative writing competition for prisoners and ex-prisoners. Anyone who had a passion for writing and had experience of custody was eligible. This included having experience being held in prison, IRCs (Immigration Removal Centres), young

offender's institutions or secure hospitals. This was the first year that writer in residence Pamela Brown supported 11 PAF writers in Magilligan prison to submit 19 entries, winning 1 of 3 runner-up places and another 4 writers having their work selected for inclusion in Arkbound Foundation's *Enduring Words* anthology.

COMMUNITY SETTINGS

PAF's community programme aims to work together with people who may feel marginalised due to their past, to build their skills and confidence and increase their opportunities for re-engaging in positive pathways

Thanks to funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland Annual Funding programme PAF were able to deliver a short residency in Thompson House, a Probation Approved hostel in Belfast. Our artist delivered 30 visual art workshops, and had 40 participant engagements with 4 individual adult male residents.

In partnership with Start360 and the Community Sports Network, PAF continued to deliver the Support Hub initiative thanks to funding from National Lottery Community Fund, Probation Board NI & Department for Justice through their Resettlement Branch Northern Ireland Prison Service. Located in Belfast City Centre, the Support Hub offered a multi-component support package for prisoners on pre-release schemes, people returning to the community following release from prison, those serving non-custodial sentences in the community including community service placements. Our artist and practitioners delivered 223 braille and 32 creative writing workshops/sessions, and had 1330 participant engagements with 63 adult male/female individuals.

Key community settings delivery statistics 2022/23:



285 workshops



8844 participant based contact hours



1370 engagements with people of all ages and backgrounds

Key community settings programme highlights throughout 2022/23:

Artist in residence Bobby Mathieson organised 2 exhibitions/showcases of his student's creative works in Belfast, engaging with an approximate audience of 800 members of the public

Artist in residence Bobby Mathieson supported a Thompson House resident to have his first solo exhibition in June 2022, Church House Belfast, headquarters of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. In November 2022 Bobby further supported him to showcase his artwork at Artcetera's bi-annual group exhibition in Belfast. The work was exhibited alongside 9 other talented local Artists from different backgrounds, art practices, styles, and ways of expressing themselves.



Artwork on display at Church House (left) & Artcetera (below) Belfast

These were great opportunities for the student to meet other artists, discover their work in a welcoming environment and support him to establish himself within the local Art scene.



The Braille Unit developed as a commercially viable workshop employing volunteers to reflect diversity, to develop work ethic, self-esteem and transferable skills under working office conditions while providing diverse AQA qualifications.

The goal is to facilitate those leaving prison, in community orientated business projects by providing indispensable services to the visually impaired as highly skilled Braille transcribers and bookbinders. (Basic) Facilitating Community Service requirements. This positive outlet reflects many years of investment in resources and people.

The Braille Unit produces Braille, Moon and Tactile products at cost for the visually impaired, to a very high professional standard in a niche market.

Activities throughout the year included

- Promoting Braille as a reading platform for those who find difficulty with text. (sighted people)
- Tactiles for exhibits
- Braille Music for clients in England
- Teaching/production for choir, guitar, and piano performances. Braille guitar book for learning Braille music for guitar. Advanced 4-part harmonies (all instruments have a different language known to our specialist in the unit)
- Plans to teach a class in the unit, also anyone wishing to learn Braille.
- Supermarkets/Hotels/Restaurants: Customer information demonstrations for presentation in outlets under preparation
- Braille as a community activity visual impaired civilian volunteer attends the Unit for specialist services aiding an Open University course with proposals for a Postal Course in learning braille
- GCSE English Literature Braille supplied to visually impaired person
- Large print hand music notes with appropriate contrasts for music
- Museum directional and information tactiles for exhibits
- Insight accessibility visual aid supply a training organisation

GOVERNANCE

The Board of Directors oversee the work of the organisation; they held 4 Board meetings and our Annual General Meeting during 2022/23. Reports from the Chairman, Treasurer and Executive Director contributed to sound governance. The year under review has been one of solid progress and challenging work.

Prison Arts Foundation Board of Directors during the year ending 31 March 2023 were as follows:

- Oliver Brannigan (Chairperson)
- Harold Baird (Vice-Chairperson & Treasurer)
- Geoff Moore
- Tom McKeever
- Brid O'Gallchoir
- Austin Treacy

PAF Staff Team:

- Fred Caulfield, Executive Director
- Adele Campbell, Arts Programme Coordinator
- Allison Moore, Researcher

In addition to directly employed members of staff, PAF contracted the services of a number of artists and practitioners who provided participants with instruction in a wide range of activities.

Company Registration Number: NI 607881 Charity Registration Number: NIC 101557

Unit 3 Clanmil Arts & Business Centre, 2-10 Bridge Street, Belfast, BT1 1LU

You can request a copy of the full Financial Statements by emailing: accounts@prisonartsfoundation.com

FUNDERS

























