

high peak community arts

ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010



CHAIR'S REPORT

High Peak Community Arts has continued to develop its arts programme focussing on arts and well-being, youth arts development and work in local communities.

During the year our project work included a successful month long programme of workshops as part of the Learning Revolution Festival, a major year-long music project in the Hope Valley with students from the College and local primary schools and storytelling and arts workshops in our yurt in several High Peak communities.

We started a 3 year youth arts development programme in April 2009. This work first required a detailed mapping of opportunities available to young people in the area, which has now progressed to the forging of possible new partnerships. New work pursued as a result included the setting up of a planning group with the young service users of Grapevine's "Making Rainbows" project in Buxton. Research was also done into the potential for developing use of new media and digital networks in youth arts projects, with some tools piloted in the Hope Valley Music Making Project & Grapevine Film Project.

During 2009-10, we have continued to maintain contacts within Derbyshire PCT and the arts and health networks to be well placed to benefit from positive developments within this sector. In the summer of 2009, we secured a contract with Derbyshire LINK to make a series of films about people's experiences of health and social care. This was a new departure for us because we collaborated with Junction Arts in Shirebrook and People Express in Swadlincote, so that the films would represent people across the County of Derbyshire.

This is the second year of our popular day-long yurt events held around the borough. We continued to offer storytelling and arts workshops and, following on from the success of a pilot project last year, further developed our Camera Obscura set within the yurt.



We engaged participants with a variety of scientific wonders and demonstrated the laws of optics. The participants' enthusiasm has encouraged us to hold more camera obscura events.

Our small staff team continue to manage our current projects whilst working to secure funds for future projects. Our fundraising activities this year had continued support from Wendy Bullar, working with the project managers and the administrator, to identify potential sources of funding and to pursue grant applications for our projects in, what is now, a much more challenging economic climate. Although our success rate has been cut by these challenges, this strategy has been rewarded by a 5 year grant award from the Big Lottery Fund for "project eARTh", an environmental arts project within our arts and well-being programme that started in April 2010.

The trustees of the organisation continued to provide support and good governance. Charity trustees play a vital unpaid role in setting a framework for the organisation and I would like to thank my colleagues for contributing to this work.

Finally, I thank all the funders who have supported us over the year and enabled us to continue our work in the High Peak and beyond.

Arthur Burns

ARTISTIC PROGRAMME



Tales in a Tent 2

With funding from Derbyshire Community Foundation we were able to put on 3 days of storytelling and associated arts activities targeting children and families and held within our yurt at Hope, Whaley Bridge and Furness Vale. Each day was led by a professional storyteller with support from a visual artist who encouraged children to make artworks reflecting the stories. The tales are often told in remote places where people have few opportunities for such innovative and memorable events. Every day was well attended and participants' feedback was most favourable, with repeated requests for us to return. We will be looking for funding to enable us to carry on this project next year.

Stories and Art

We held 2 taster days at Hayfield Infants School and Hadfield Infants School for all the school children. Both days were based around stories and visual art and led by storytellers and artists. The children and teachers at both schools expressed their delight at the events and artwork from Hadfield School was displayed at the local library. Good relationships were forged at both events and we hope these will lead to further collaborations in the future.

Camera Obscura – The World in our Tent

Following on from the success of our pilot project, we have now developed the overall image quality of the Camera Obscura in our yurt. This event was part of the New Mills Festival. Lead artist, Julian Tait, engaged participants in scientific wonders and laws of optics. People were clearly enthusiastic and encouraging. Unfortunately, the venue proved to be less than satisfactory, all the other events having been cancelled without us having been informed, so we only attracted those that had come specifically to our event.

Clarion Choir

The community choir continues to meet weekly exploring a wide selection of songs from around the world. The emphasis is on singing for fun, with sessions open to anybody keen to improve their vocal skills and wishing to learn new songs in a friendly and supportive environment. The group is self-managed with administrative support from High Peak Community Arts. They performed at 4 local events this year and have received funding from Derbyshire County Council to make a CD of their songs in order to raise their profile and draw in new members.

YOUTH ARTS DEVELOPMENT

Sophie Mackreth began as the newly appointed Youth Arts Development Officer, in April 2009. With this new role we began to implement the Youth Arts Strategy, as well as managing ongoing programmes of youth arts (such as the Peak 11 Summer School and Hope Valley Music Making project). The strategy first required a detailed mapping of opportunities available to young people in the area, which progressed to the consideration of new partnerships. New work pursued as a result includes the setting up of a planning group with young service users of Grapevine Project's mental health support, in Buxton. This group produced plans for a film project, which we spent much of the rest of the year seeking to fund. Work has also been done to develop relationships between High Peak Community Arts, the Children's Homes of the District and the schools contacts responsible for children in care. Leading from this we have been involved in the Derbyshire plans to develop work with Children's Homes, using social pedagogy and arts activities.

During the mapping exercise, we have also followed research into the potential for developing use of new media and digital networks in youth arts projects. Some early piloting of tools available was carried out in the Hope Valley Music Making project and for the planning group at Grapevine.

Throughout the year six funding bids have been made to find additional support for a number of projects, including the Grapevine film project. Unfortunately these bids have been unsuccessful and our search for extended funding support is ongoing.



Hope Valley Music Making

The Hope Valley Music Making Project continued from its start in January 2009. In May the phase one completed with Hope Valley College's 50th Anniversary concert at Buxton Octagon, where Ornette Clennon's commission "Tell me wha's gwan, blood", was performed for the first time. This experience then led into recruitment for the leadership training in phase 2. 23 pupils of Hope Valley College past and present took part in training with Ornette Clennon and Pete Moser of More Music Morecombe, producing 9 trainees, ranging from 6th Form students to year 9 pupils. The programme has given the participant pupils a new level of involvement in their schools' activities. Offering a style of learning more usually found in higher education, pupils took responsibility for their own development and worked together to build a toolkit of activities to use when they went on to lead sessions in primary schools.

Phase 3 then formed two teams of trainees visiting four primary schools and leading sessions which first taught songs, then used their creative tools to generate new musical material. After the initial sessions the teams developed the final compositions, returning to the schools to teach and rehearse and they brought everyone together to give a final performance on 25th May 2010, at HopeValley College.

Running in tandem with phase 3, there were additional open access workshops in HopeValley College; in MCing, Music Production, VJing and West African Drumming - aiming to bring new pupils from the school to engage with out of school music activity. They also produced material to perform on 25th May as one group show for the whole project.

The training has left HopeValley College in a strong position to continue work once the project finishes. They now have two teams of experienced leaders, some of whom will continue at the school for another three years. They are also planning extra CPD sessions to embed the skills into the way that the school develops pupils in the future.

Peak 11 Summer School

The 5th annual Peak 11 Summer School, "Global Futures" ran from 27th – 28th July 2009 at Sheffield Hallam University. Nearly 100 fifteen year old pupils took part in 7 different modules addressing this year's theme of Global Futures. The keynote speaker introduced issues ranging from international migration to global sustainability; the modules covered an animation of dystopia, a spoof documentary on Global Warming, hit and run street art, Brazilian capoeira and Asian fashion. It was judged to be another successful year for the programme, with an exceptionally high quality of work produced, despite the Summer School being reduced from three to two days.



ARTS AND WELL-BEING

During this year, we ran two main arts and well being projects, as well as working on a major grant application to the Reaching Communities programme of the BIG Lottery Fund.

Arts and Health Festival

During October, we ran a full programme of workshops as part of the Learning Revolution Festival, with a grant through the Arts Council. There were seven workshops in the community in Glossop, New Mills and Buxton, mainly for disabled people, and those experiencing mental distress. The workshops were also advertised generally, and a few other people joined in, including a home educated family with four children giving a lovely intergenerational feel.

There were two workshops in ceramics, two in printing, one in creative writing, one in song making, and one in shadow puppets. There were also workshops in Whitfield House, an extra care home in Glossop. There we worked with a group of elders in singing, felt making and ceramics. In all these workshops people learnt new skills, and were able to be creative and express themselves in a variety of ways. The sessions were lively and great fun, whilst full of concentration and focus on the art. The festival gave us the opportunity to pilot working with the mental health teams, prior to our new Lottery project.

Viewpoint Film Project

We were asked by Derbyshire LINK to make a series of short films about people's experiences of health and social care for the LINK website. As LINK wanted to involve people across the county, we asked Junction Arts in Shirebrook to work with young people, and People Express in Swadlincote to work with people with mental health problems. From November to January, High Peak Community Arts worked with disabled adults in the High Peak, and elders in the Dales. A wealth of material was produced in very interesting workshops, and has been edited into a series of films.

Since the project began, LINK has undergone two major staff changes, which has altered what they wanted as their final product, and has delayed the final edits. In the near future, there will be excerpts from our films on the LINK website, (soon to be called Health Watch) and the full films available to see on our own website.

Oakford Manor

In March, we also ran two silk painting workshops for residents at Oakford Manor Nursing Home in Hadfield. A group of disabled and elder people enjoyed the sessions, assisted by their activities organiser.



BIG LOTTERY APPLICATION

From March to October 2009 we worked on a major grant application to the Reaching Communities programme. With the help of Wendy Bullar, our freelance fundraising expert, we worked with the High Peak Community Mental Health Team and Glossop Mental Health Project and High Peak CVS to develop Project eARTH, a five year environmental arts and health project for people experiencing mental distress. The application required some more work in December, on request from the Lottery's grants team, and then we heard at the end of February that we had been successful, with a grant of £246,190. It was then all hands on deck for all of March to get the project up and running in April.



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

We have continued to keep abreast with developments in arts and health through conferences and training. During the year, we also made presentations on arts and health to Nursing and Social Work students at Salford University and to Tameside and Glossop PCT.

There are changes ahead in Adult Care, working towards personalisation, in which individual service users will receive a personal budget to purchase their own services, instead of receiving them directly from Social Services. During the year, we have attended training /networking/ information sessions on this, to explore how High Peak Community Arts might offer arts projects as such a service to disabled people, elders, learning disabled people, and carers in receipt of a personal budget. We are continuing to work on this, and are now a member of the Derbyshire Micro Providers Steering Group. This aims to support small businesses and organisations in providing services, as well as give feedback from such organisations to Derbyshire County Council as the personalisation process continues to unfold.

FUNDING

High Peak Community Arts is an independent organisation - a limited company and a registered charity. During the year revenue funding was received from;

Arts Council of England
Derbyshire County Council
High Peak Borough Council

We raise funds independently and additionally for all our artistic activity.

During 2009-2010 grant funding for projects was received from:

Arts Council Grants for the Arts
Derbyshire Community Foundation
Institute of Physics

ACCOUNTS

Copies of accounts for 2009-10 are available on request

PEOPLE

High Peak Community Arts is managed by a voluntary board of management, who are trustees of the charity. They are drawn from our members - individuals, community groups and independent organisations. We strive to be accountable to our community, and so actively encourage broad membership.

Trustees 2009-2010

Arthur Burns - Chair
Sarah Males - Treasurer
Robert Gill - Secretary (died 18.11.2009)
Pam Garside - Secretary (from 17.12.2009)
Bob Auld (to 13.7.2009)
Dawn Bryan
Jane Taylor (from 4.6.2009)
Sandy Schofield (from 14.9.2009)

Membership

There are currently over 200 members.

Staff

Alison Bowry – Project Manager
Sophie Mackreth - Project Manager
Rick Seccombe – Administrator
Jill Turner – Project Manager
with fundraising support from Wendy Bullar

Freelance Artists

We have a pool of freelance artists who we contract to work with community groups for projects. New participatory artists continue to join our pool of almost 100, bringing in a range of arts skills including music, digital arts, dance, visual arts and theatre.

ROBERT GILL

Robert Gill was a member and supporter of High Peak Community Arts for over 20 years. For many of these years he served as a Trustee of the charity and attended countless management meetings and events to give us his advice and support. Sadly, Robert died in November 2009. His contributions to our activities will be greatly missed.

High Peak Community Arts exists to create opportunities for people to participate in creative arts, and develop their quality of life through self-expression, focusing on people who have least access to the arts.

We work with agencies, special needs groups, schools, community organisations and individuals to generate participatory arts projects across the High Peak.

If you're developing a project in your community, and you'd like to make use of the resources of the media centre, or to develop some new ideas using digital technology, come and see us first.

High Peak Community Arts

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High Peak Community Arts Limited

Registered Charity No. 517887

Company Registered in England No. 2036083