

high peak community arts ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011



CHAIR'S REPORT

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

During the year our work included projects for young people less likely to have access to the arts, the first year of our lottery funded environmental arts and health project and our popular yurt based sessions for children and families at a number of locations within the High Peak.



The youth arts programme has completed several long-term projects, such as the Hope Valley Music Making Project, and also piloted some new work and seen these new links develop into spin off opportunities as well. We are supporting some participants to achieve their Arts Award, at either Bronze or Silver level and some of the work is now available to view online via our Youtube channel and on our website. We have also created a plan to develop an open-access, weekly 'Youth Arts Night', with smaller projects for targeted groups which can sign-post young people into this weekly group.

April 2010 saw the start of our exciting new five year environmental arts and health programme funded by BIG Lottery Reaching Communities Fund – Project eARTh. The project got off to a great start with two groups in a wide range of arts activities. By the end of the first year, we had a wealth of information from our evaluations to demonstrate positive well-being outcomes for the 47 participants.



We have raised our profile in the last year in a number of ways. We held a very successful screening of our recently produced films in March 2011 at the Pavilion Arts Centre in Buxton. We redesigned our website during the year. We continued to offer our yurt based sessions in various locations around the borough.

Our small staff team continue to manage current projects whilst working to secure funds for the future programme. Our major success this year was to secure a commitment from the Arts Council for continued funding from 2012-15 as part of their new National Portfolio funding programme. Funding from Derbyshire County Council and High Peak Borough Council has remained in place in both the years 2010-11 and 2011-12 and we are hopeful that their support will continue. We have a realistic target for fundraising for the elements of our future arts programme that have no agreed funding to date.

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

Art in the Park

With funding from Derbyshire Community Foundation, we set up 2 days of storytelling and associated art activities for children and families at Chapel-en-le-Frith Park and Thornsett Playing Fields where we worked in collaboration with Derbyshire Youth Service. A professional storyteller led each day with stories and art activities taking place in the yurt. The events were very popular and many new contacts were made as these were new locations to work in with the yurt.



Bugingham Palace

A fun event making state-of-the-art bug homes for creepy crawlies in New Mills Orchard. Expertly led by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and well attended by local children and families.

Travelling Light

With funding from the Institute of Physics, we created a 360° Camera Obscura set within our yurt. Film-maker Julian Tait designed and made the apparatus. We presented workshops at the One World Festival in New Mills and at the Manchester Science Festival. Both events were really successful; people were able to see live projections of the world outside transmitted onto a table and to experience the wonders of science and art at work. The rotating turret allowed us to pan around 360° much to the delight of viewers inside the yurt.

Planetarium – Peak Dale School

This was an exciting new science meets art workshop held within our yurt with Peak Dale School. The theme for the day was “Our Place in the Universe.” The yurt was transformed into a Planetarium and we led the school children on a tour of the Night Sky using images, dialogue and music. Afterwards, each class worked with a visual artist to create paintings inspired by the pictures they had just seen. The children and staff were very enthusiastic with their praise. We plan to develop this idea next year.

Furness Vale Field Day

An innovative artist-led printing activity set within the yurt, consulting with local people of all ages over their future wishes for the park, enabling them to translate these ideas into printed visual images that they hung on a ‘wish tree’ outside the yurt for all to see and reflect on.

Chinley Field Day

We led a day of environmental art for children to raise awareness of the wildlife in the park. The day was rainy but the feedback from participants was good and Friends of Chinley Field were really grateful to us for supporting them. This is a new group and one that we will support again in the future.

Derbyshire Literary Festival – Hadfield Tales in a Tent

A day of storytelling in the yurt with a book making activity outside run by local librarians. Held in the heart of a hard-to-access community in Hadfield. New links were forged with the library department and with the local community. A very successful day which will lead to more collaborations with local libraries.

Tree Dressing Day

A drop-in art activity in High Lea Park, New Mills, led by an environmental artist. Children and families created decorations to suspend on a tree in the park to celebrate the importance of trees in our lives.

Chernobyl Children’s Project Workshop

A group of children from Belarus, recuperating from their illness, come over each year accompanied by parents, carers and a doctor. We regularly set up art workshops for them to join in. This year they had a great time exploring a host of art materials most of which are not available at home for these children suffering from a variety of disabilities.

YOUTH ARTS DEVELOPMENT



Hope Valley Music Making

We completed the Hope Valley Music Making Project with performances in May 2010 and March 2011. The first round of the project brought together 51 young people from the high school and three different primary schools. We created a short film from the performance and evaluation material, which is available on DVD and on our Youtube channel. From September 2010 some of the lead trainees took on more of the planning for a second round of the work. Another nine pupils took part in training and three new teams were formed to visit new primary schools. The assistant trainees from the first round now had a chance to lead their teams, and relished the new level of responsibility. The second performance involved eleven trainees from Hope Valley College and 69 primary school pupils.

Youth Arts Network High Peak

In partnership with High Peak CVS we supported a placement for a Youth Arts Network Development Officer to research plan for a network in the district. James Cross worked with us between July and December, updating our youth arts database, contacting other Youth Arts Networks in the county and experimenting with different tools to run a network. He set up a blog page, Facebook

group, mailing list and interactive map and helped us to launch the Network at an inaugural meeting on 8th Feb 2011.

13 organisations attended the first meeting, including Buxton Opera House, Buxton Art Gallery, Derbyshire's Arts in Education Officer, Kim Johnson, and voluntary sector organisations such as the Hangout Drama Club and Buxton Speech and Drama Festival. In the next year we plan to bring groups together in a collaborative performance, as a pilot to find out what the network could do in the future.

Glossopdale – Film Cuts Club Working in the Learning Support Centre at Glossopdale school, the Film Cuts Club has created a beautiful animated film that has left a lasting impression on the participants. Many of the young people involved have autistic-spectrum needs which highlight their atypical commitment and enthusiasm for working in a team in this project. The Learning Support Centre co-ordinator noticed the impact of the group on participants' achievements in school, with some of the more challenging pupils graduating from year 11 with a level 3 in the Personal and Social Health subject. She identified the value of working towards and achieving the high quality product at the end – for a group of pupils who are often marginalised in similar lesson-based activities. Their ownership of the whole process meant that they cared more about the results and were able to engage in empathy with others – in a real life situation, rather than the hypothetical scenarios that are normally used. On 17th March 2011 the film was screened to a full house at Buxton Pavilion Arts Centre, in our 'Short Cuts' film screening, and it has also been included in the DCC 'Parachute' DVD and website which showcases all the projects which received a MediaBox bursary. We are now seeking funding to establish a long-term after-school club.



Between October 2010 and February 2011 they worked on a story and stop-motion animation techniques to make the short film, 'The Dark Devil'. which is available to view on our Youtube channel and our website.

Project of the Stars

Stemming from the partnership with Grapevine, Making Rainbows project, we managed to secure funding for the Project of the Stars – a film making project which was originally aimed at young people coping with mental ill health.

We ran taster sessions in June and July and the final project ran intensively during August 2010. Young people worked in drama,

film, music and animation to create a 10 minute film called "What Have I Done?" - a thought provoking piece about tough choices, making mistakes and facing up to reality. Shortly after we completed the film we were offered some MediaBox bursaries by Kim Johnson. These bursaries allowed us to support the Film Cuts Club discussed below, and also a spin off from Project of the Stars – a new group at St Thomas More School. Both films, 'What Have I Done?' and 'Unlocked' are available to view on our Youtube channel.

Arts Award

We now have five young people working towards both bronze and silver Arts Awards, from Project of the Stars and the Film Cuts Club.

ARTS AND WELL-BEING



Project eARTH – funded by the Reaching Communities Fund of the BIG Lottery is run in partnership with the High Peak Community Mental Health team, Glossop Mental Health Project and High Peak CVS.

Project eARTH was launched in April 2010 and has had a very successful first year. We ran two groups - one in New Mills, and one in Fairfield, Buxton. Numbers built up steadily and during the year, we had 47 core participants (people experiencing mental distress) as well as other community members and volunteers.

Projects during the year included :

Sketch book / journal making – keeping your own personal journal.

A Summer Stroll – creating an audio CD of music and poetry inspired by a walk in the country, distributed to over 200 visually impaired people via local talking newspapers

Each group created a carved oak bench with a living willow arbour – in a wildlife garden of a new park on Fairfield housing estate; and in the Glossop Mental Health Project Garden.

Creating 'upcycled' textile wrapped chairs, and woven netting, (selected for display as part of Derbyshire Open Arts Exhibition in Buxton Art Gallery and Museum during Sept 2011 and remaining in the gallery till Oct 16th in a further exhibition).

Creating a series of hand made felt wall hangings, also on display as above, and then to a permanent home in Fairfield Community Centre.

Creating hand printed bunting for outdoor events.

Work on a large scale human sundial in ceramics and aluminium. (completed in Summer 2011).

In each project, participants have been stretched – to mix with other people, to work with different artists in each project, to work collectively as well as individually, to learn a wide variety of new skills, explore different art forms, to be imaginative and creative and to work to high standards in the final art works. The quality of their art work is illustrated by the acceptance of the two pieces entered into the competitive Derbyshire Open Arts Competition. Through this, participants have been able to report on improvements to their well-being – in feeling more relaxed, in self confidence, in self expression, in meeting new challenges, through having made friends, through pride in their achievements.

The 3 regular volunteers were excellent in supporting participants, doing photography and journal making. We now have stunning journals of weekly photographs, comments, and records of each project's progress. We had displays at a World Mental Health Day Event in Buxton, 'Get Sorted' event at the University of Derby in Buxton, and at a Creative Well-being Day in Glossop Library. We gave presentations at a Glossop and Tameside PCT Mental Well-being Strategy Event, at a Salford University CPD day, at 'Creative Interventions' conference in Leicester, to post-graduate "Art as Environment" students at Manchester Metropolitan University and to quality inspectors of Derbyshire Healthcare Foundation Trust. The presentations have been important in promoting the "Arts and Health" agenda and feedback has been encouraging.



Research and Planning –Personal Budgets Project

During the year, we have been exploring ways of setting up arts workshops for people in receipt of a personal budget from Social Services. We are now planning to establish a pilot project which people would pay for from their budgets.

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 2010-2011 grant funding for projects was received from:

Arts Council Grants for the Arts
Derbyshire County Council
Big Lottery Fund - Reaching Communities
Big Lottery Fund - Community Wildlife
Institute of Physics

ACCOUNTS

Copies of accounts for 2010-11 are available on request or view them online via the Charity Commission website www.charitycommission.gov.uk (you need to key in our charity number 517887 in the 'search for a charity' box on the home page, then click on 'accounts' for the year you would like to view)

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 2010-2011

Arthur Burns - Chair
Sarah Males - Treasurer
Pam Garside - Secretary
Dawn Bryan
Jane Taylor
Sandy Schofield
Robert Barton (from 11.11.2010)
Andrea Lyons was appointed a trustee in May 2011.

Membership

There are currently over 200 members.

Staff

Alison Bowry – Project Manager
Sophie Mackreth - Project Manager
Rick Seccombe – Administrator
Jill Turner – Project Manager

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.

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 are developing a project in your community, and you would 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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