

high peak community arts ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012



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 second 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. These projects are described in detail over the following pages and the images on the centre pages give a flavour of our work.

We organised a number of public events to showcase our project work over the year and we continued to offer our community based workshops in various locations around the borough. These activities have ensured that we continue to have a high profile in the area and that our work is valued widely.

Our small staff team continue to manage current projects whilst working to secure funds for the future programme.

We have a commitment from the Arts Council for continued funding until 2015. Funding from Derbyshire County Council and High Peak Borough Council has remained in place over the period 2011-13. Our major project funding from the Big Lottery Fund is in place until 2015. We have a realistic target for fundraising for the elements of our future arts programme that have no agreed funding to date. We thank all the funders who have supported us over the year and enabled us to continue our work in the High Peak and beyond.

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.

Arthur Burns Chair

ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

The community programme for 2011-2012 was as usual a mixed bag and there were lots of sessions that developed from community consultations, discussion and needs. We worked with a range of partners including schools and libraries and ran some great projects. Most of the sessions took place as one day events inside the yurt which continues to grow in popularity and prove itself as a pop up arts venue.

Day workshops in various locations

This year there were 10 full day workshops across the High Peak, held in various locations during the spring and summer months. The yurt allows us to work with communities that have very few facilities; it enables us to reach children and families in the heart of their communities. The activities that took place included music, storytelling and painting. Sessions were well attended and the yurt gets plenty of interest from people generally, workshops were aimed at children but parents and grandparents were also present, all the feedback from people of all ages was good and events allowed us to meet new people and make new contacts for the future. Workshops included: April's Easter Egg Day at Chapel Park; May's Walk in time event in New Mills; June's Whaley Bridge Water weekend; the 'OneWorld Festival' and Planetarium events in July and storytelling in Hadfield and Buxton in August. We also took part in the New Mills Arts Festival in September.



Watts in the Yurt

This project enabled a group of young people from Whaley Bridge to travel to Manchester to attend 2 days of workshops at Fablab, a fabrication laboratory. The idea was to involve young people in learning about design, 3D printers and laser cutters. Two bike generators were created and these were exhibited for use in our yurt at the Whaley Bridge water weekend in June. To create the power system, we worked with a group of young people from High Peak. At FabLab we learnt all about the principles of electromagnetism and then we designed and made the twin-powered system - a wind turbine for top of the yurt and the cycle-powered generator that was used to demonstrate principles of different forms of energy and how they relate to each other.

At Whaley Bridge we got to show off what we had made with Julian Tait a technologist and film-maker creating an innovative workshop at the festival. The young people that had made the equipment at Fablab came along to help run the event and were there for setting up and explaining the principles to the public. Everyone that participated had a great time and learnt how person powered energy generation can be converted into electromagnetism.



A Walk in Time

Funded by the Big Lottery Fund, this project transformed a little used area of High Lea Park, New Mills into an attractive and accessible space for people to visit and enjoy. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Sculptor Lorraine Botterill led workshops for children and young people to explore past, present and future bio-diversity through art. A splendid totem pole and a carved bench now provide a picturesque mapping of local wildlife. Young people from New Mills Youth Centre learnt to carve wood and worked with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to learn how to make bat-boxes, which were sited in the area. Children from a primary school worked with Environmental artist Tony Allen to make a giant willow spider and we worked with New Mills High School Gardening Group to plant flowers and shrubs that encouraged bio diversity. On 17th September we held a Celebratory Day for all those involved and for members of the local community. Storyteller Gordon MacLellan led a day of environmental stories in a yurt to celebrate the culmination of the project

YOUTH ARTS DEVELOPMENT

Youth Arts Network High Peak

In 2011-12 we consolidated the network with further meetings to look at funding opportunities, information sharing and chances to collaborate. From these discussions we developed the first collaborative performance – We Make Our World – with the space at Buxton Pavilion Arts Centre donated by Buxton Opera House. Groups from across the district were invited to join the programme, and through the Grants for the Arts budget, High Peak Community Arts was able to fund a series of workshops with a film-maker/VJ, musician, and drama practitioner as Creative Director.

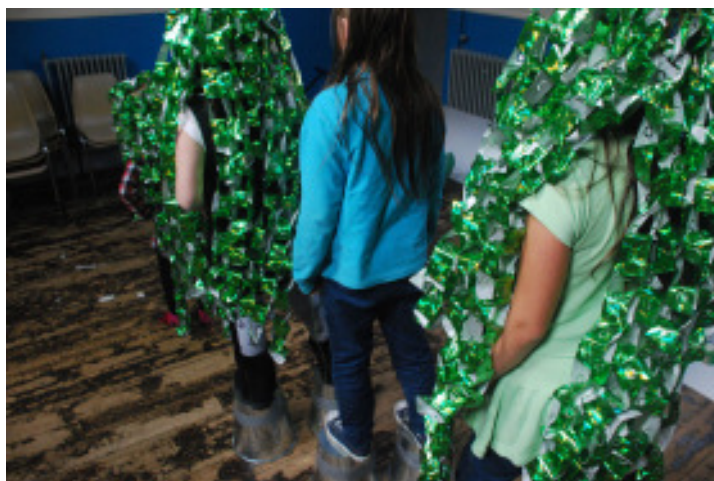
We Make Our World

– a first collaboration for the Youth Arts Network High Peak
The show brought together seven different groups from 4 different towns. Elements of the performance from different groups came together into one narrative, with different artforms re-imagining the performance space at the Pavilion Arts Centre and challenging convention.

In the final week there were three days of rehearsals and it was in this time that ideas were shared and cross over between the groups was possible. We Make Our World played to a sell-out audience of 150.

The outcomes from the project were wide-ranging, and through the evaluation we were able to establish recommendations for future collaborations.

The show brought the audience on board one of 4 boats and set sail into the main auditorium, where they were guided to disembark into the central seating area. They then watched a show of physical theatre and music, with the stage lighting playing over both performers and audience. One drama group, gave way



to the other, telling the tale 'Missing', and then passed back to more music, movement and then the screened film from Chinley. Audience included lantern-bearers from the Children's Centre, and everyone was collected to be lead through the Studio Theatre, where Chinley's Pool was projected onto the floor, the lead character from New Mills, drowning in the depths. Finally the lantern-bearers lead the way out of the building and round into the Pavilion Gardens, where Chinese Lanterns with audience dreams were lit to float up across Buxton.

* A total of 266 people took part in the project, of which 184 were young people from Buxton, Chinley, Chapel en le Frith, New Mills and the Hope Valley.

* Over 90% of the participants learnt brand new skills to bring to the show.

* There was a crossover of material between the Chapel, Hope Valley and ROFA groups and between the New Mills and Chinley groups.

* The results were surprising and challenging for all involved.

* Long term links were formed

* People appreciated different elements of the show:

* People worked together with people they would not normally meet

* They got a big boost of confidence from working hard and achieving a successful show at the end

* They learned things about themselves

* The experience has spread into other areas of their lives

Piloting Open Access Provision

Given that the year of 2011-12 was a time of re-structure for many of our partners, we used the preparation time for We Make Our World to pilot different models of participation in different settings. This included a dedicated drama group, tea time in New Mills High School; drop in film & animation skills in an open-access youth club, Chinley and music-creation as part of the activities at the Jam Night youth club in Chapel en le Frith.

These groups all provided content and / or performers for the final show, We Make Our World. We found that the most focused and high quality work can be produced in dedicated sessions, as opposed to embedding activity into a general youth club night. While this is true, dedicated sessions are more likely to recruit those who have already developed an interest in the arts, and not those who could develop an interest through sessions happening across an activity.



Young People in Care

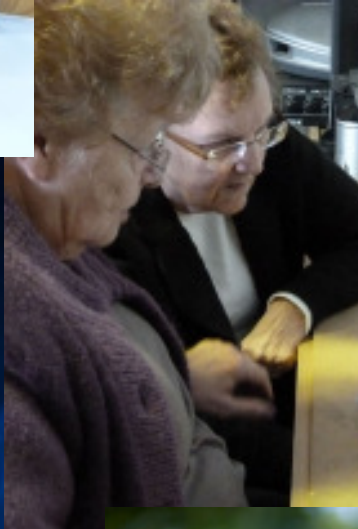
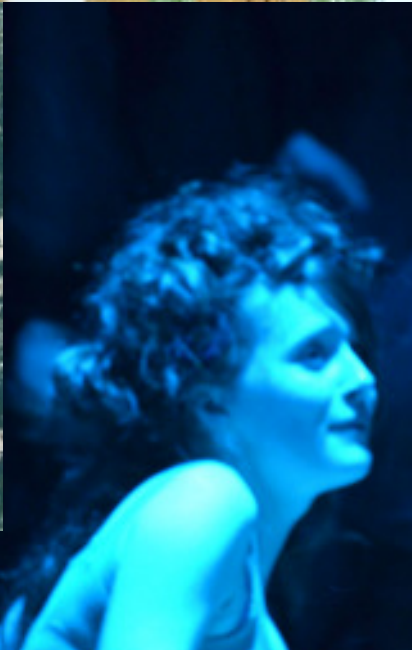
We have continued our partnership with the Glossopdale Community College, Learning Support Base, in searching for funding to extend the Film Cuts Club into an after school club for more schools in the district. This search is ongoing.

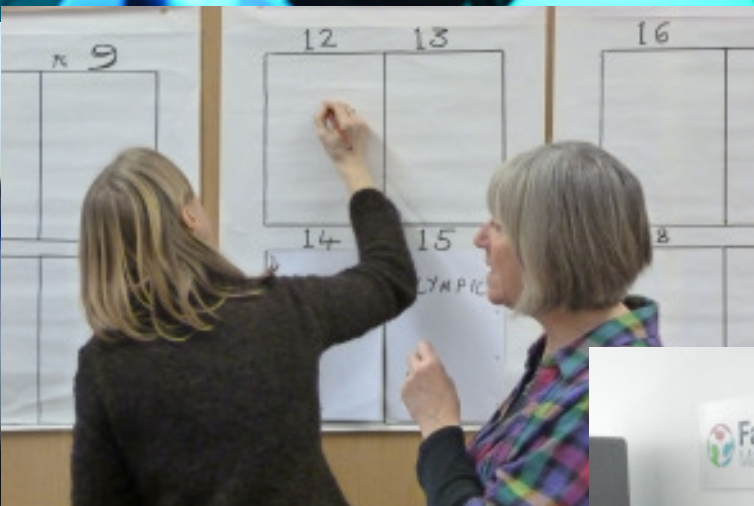
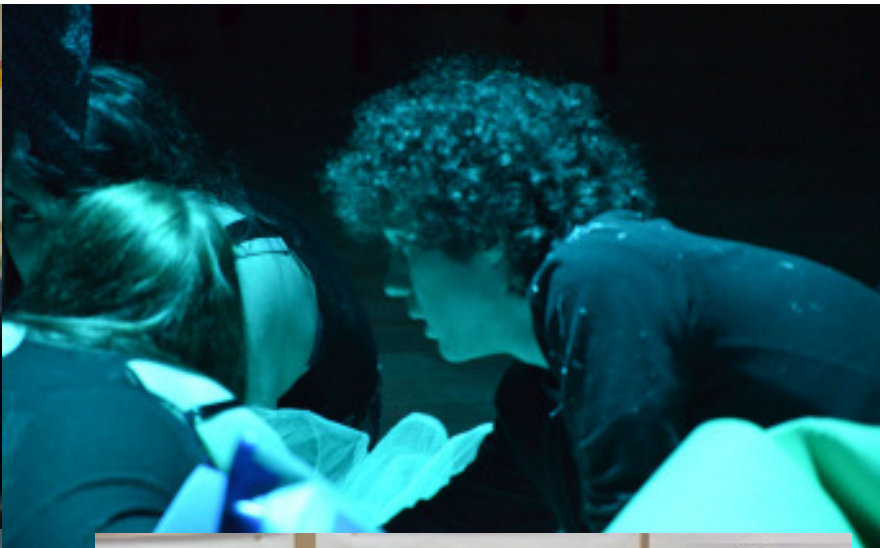
We also developed our relationship with the local Children's Home, College Road, Buxton, welcoming one of their residents onto the team for We Make Our World, as the filmer / documenter for the week's rehearsals and performance.



Young People from Deprived Neighbourhoods

We established a new partnership with the Dreamscheme group from Residents of Fairfield Association. The Dreamscheme aims to give young people on the estate of Fairfield opportunities to have a positive impact on their local community, through volunteering days and practical projects. They wanted to get involved in We Make Our World to reward the young people for their hard work, and also to give them another means of personal growth, through the creative arts.





ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

ARTS AND WELL-BEING

This was the second year of the 5 year Project eARTh, environmental arts and health for adults experiencing mental distress. The project is in partnership with the High Peak Community Mental Health Team, Glossop Mental Health Project, and High Peak CVS and is funded by the Big Lottery Fund. The project runs two groups each week, in New Mills, and in Fairfield, Buxton. This year we also ran a magazine project, with 6 months of workshops, funded by Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales and the Bruce Wake Charitable Trust.



Project eARTh

This has had another very good year with enjoyable projects, varied and high quality art work. There were 46 core participants (people experiencing mental distress and other long term conditions) during the year, with an average attendance of 23 per week, plus approximately 200 community members – family members, individuals, regular volunteers, primary school children, Year ten and twelve work experience pupils. Since the project began, 35 people have gained in health, well being and confidence, reporting on increased confidence, self expression, and readiness to accept new challenges. 28 participants have joined new groups in the community, including other arts activities, or returned to work.

Workshops

1. Completing the aluminium and ceramic human sundial with artist Caroline Chouler – Tissier for High Lee Park, and accompanying art work from 6 primary schools to put in a time capsule. The sundial has been enjoyed by people of all ages, young children jumping onto the ceramic 'number discs' practising their counting with the numbers, or pointing out their birthday months – as well as telling the time when the sun shines. 'It was the joy on one little lad's face and he said "It works!" And I thought, it's been worth it. Just that eureka moment of that lad'. (Project member)



2. A carved cob oven (artist Tony Allen) and ceramic montage (artist Deiniol Williams) were created for a farm project. The site specific ceramic montage was inspired by the Goyt Valley landscape, and reflected images from the OS mapping of the area, as well as a central image of a footprint, representing walkers and land / farm workers. The project included the groups' building of a wood – fired out door kiln on the farm, used to fire the ceramics. The cob oven was hand built by the group with a brick base, and carved cob. The carvings were again inspired by the mapping of the area, to complement the ceramic montage, as well as incorporating a lion's mouth around the 'roaring' door of the oven. Most effective when flames were coming out. We also made two carved oak benches, the carvings inspired by nature.



3. Lino printing project, with artist Jill Kerr, creating prints inspired by nature, and printed onto a variety of collaged backgrounds. A collective piece was entered into the Derbyshire Open Art Competition, and was successfully accepted for its exhibition. (Buxton Museum and Art Gallery June 29th to August 31st. 2012). The artist made a selection of cards from participants' work, which looked so good that the group decided to make more cards to sell. So far, approx 350 cards have been made, and many sold, raising extra funds for the group to decide how to spend in off shoot projects/outings.



4. Inspirational visit to see 'Beyond Limits' International Sculpture Exhibition at Chatsworth for both Project eARTh groups. Highly successful, provoking much discussion. This was timed just before the Buxton group started the sculptural project below.

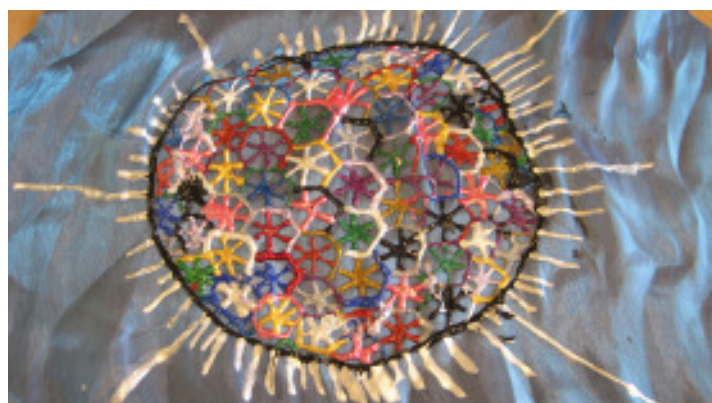
5. Aluminium archway and aluminium and steel seating for Fairfield with artist Caroline Chouler – Tissier. (This project ran into 2012 – 13) This was a large project, to create an archway for Granby Road Park, and seating for outside the shopping parade on the Fairfield Housing Estate. As well as the trip to Chatsworth for inspiration, the group visited the foundry to see and understand the casting process. The project then involved the design and modelling of the archway 'banner' using neoplast on plywood, approx 7 ft by 18", with different designs on each side; and the design of the seating itself (a central hub with five seats around it) as well as carved designs on each seat. 3 workshops were also held with young people and adults from the Residents of Fairfield Association to work on the seats. It was installed in Summer 2012.



6. Five Ways to Well being Posters and Postcards with artist Kate Sheward. A long term project in which participants experimented with a wide range of visual arts media to explore the themes of 'connect, be active, take notice, keep learning and give' from the New Economic Foundation. They then used this body of work to create digital montages and design posters and cards, launched at a public event in May 2012. with the Mayor, participants, and general public, and now being distributed across the area and beyond.



7. Ancient landscapes with artists from Stone and Water. An artistic response to the geology and life in the Peak District some 350,000,000 years ago - when it was under water. Coral reefs built from crochet, knitting and other textiles, and prehistoric reef fauna inspired by fossils in textiles and in clay. Project eARTH (environmental arts and health) worked with BorderlandVoices and artists from Stone and Water to create this installation. This project carried on into 2012 – 13 with exhibitions in Leek, Buxton Art Trail and New Mills Art Trail. Comments 'I thought the woman (manager) at Buxton Museum explained the history of the area in a really interesting and exciting way' 'I've always wanted to learn how to crochet' 'I'm looking forward to seeing the finished reef'



'It was a really fun session with lots of new ideas'

'Peak Inside' magazine.

This involved six months of workshops from September to March in creative writing, illustration, photography and desk top publishing to create a 32 page full colour magazine. Weekly sessions involved disabled adults, those experiencing mental distress, learning disabled adults and volunteers, led by specialist artists in each field – Pat Metcalfe, Lisa Ridley, Eleanor Mulhearn, Sandra Orme and Paul Devereux, led by artist and co – ordinator Caro Inglis. Glossop Talking Newspapers volunteers made an audio recording of the magazine, distributed to visually impaired people by both Glossop, Buxton and Stockport Talking newspapers. The magazine launch was on June 22nd 2012.



Arts Derbyshire

High Peak Community Arts is also on the Derbyshire Arts, Health and Wellbeing Working Group, and through this, the steering group for a county wide arts project with elders in care settings, Arts Impact.

ACCOUNTS

Copies of accounts for 2011-12 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)

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 2011-2012 grant funding for projects was received from:

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



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



 Lloyds TSB | Foundation for England and Wales



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 2011-2012

Arthur Burns - Chair
Sarah Males - Treasurer
Pam Garside - Secretary
Dawn Bryan
Jane Taylor
Sandy Schofield
Robert Barton
Andrea Lyons

Membership

There are currently over 200 members.

Staff

Alison Bowry – Project Manager
Sophie Mackreth – Project Manager
Rick Seccombe – Administrator
Jill Turner – Project Manager (resigned March 2012)
Jan Melia – Project Manager (appointed March 2012)

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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