

high peak community arts ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013



**“ Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up”
Pablo Picasso**

We may not all want to be like Pablo Picasso, but at High Peak Community Arts we continue to aspire for everyone to have access to the arts, whatever their circumstances or health.

With financial cuts putting the squeeze on all aspects of public life, the arts have often felt particularly vulnerable. But we have been fortunate in the High Peak and have continued to receive support from the Arts Council, the Big Lottery Fund, Derbyshire County Council and High Peak Borough Council among others.

Children and young people who would not normally be able to take part in arts activities have been supported along with adults with a variety of health and well being needs.

University collaborations and performance projects have worked alongside storytelling in our yurt and our continued Project eARTh workshops.

Olympic umbrellas, animation and film workshops and felting and writing activities have continued to inspire a wide range of participants in communities across the High Peak. We have also worked well with groups and institutions outside our area.



There are more details of these and other projects on the following pages.

None of this work would be possible, of course, without the exemplary work of our small team of staff based at High Lea Hall who manage a diverse range of projects in the community. They also continue to apply for and attract new funds in a difficult economic climate.

Our pool of freelance artists too continue to surprise and delight with their creative and innovative work.

All of this of course requires good governance and it is the work of the trustees to ensure that this continues. I am grateful to my colleagues on the board of trustees for providing support and common sense so that the important work of our organisation continues to reach the far corners of our community.

Dawn Bryan Chair



ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

This year the community programme was jam packed with great art, we worked across the Peak, with loads of different groups and people and worked right the way through the year, with events running from April 2012 right through to March 2013. Sessions included storytelling, cartoon making, drama, comic books, creative writing, lantern making, dance and huge amounts of creativity. We worked with a wide range of artists old and new and also developed work with new partners in new communities.

The community programme worked in Whaley Bridge, Glossop, Buxton, Fairfield, New Mills, Gamesley, Low Leighton, Chinley, Chapel-en-le- Frith, Hadfield, Padfield and London! Some of the big events for the year included: Buxton Olympic Event, Padfield Plum Fair, Whaley Water Weekend, The Co-op Storytelling and Making Project, Chernobyl Childrens Project, New Mills Festival, The Glossop Research Project, Surestart Playscheme, The Glossop Volunteers Community Companion Film Project, Hadfield Lantern Festival.

We had a grand total of 2382 participants, so a big thanks to everyone that turned up in pouring rain, braved the snow in March and donned their wellies and cagoules to take part in great community art. A big thanks also goes out to all our partners, including Derbyshire Libraries, Leicester University, Fairfield Surestart, Little Giants, Hadfield Community Group, Padfield Residents group, Glossop Volunteer Centre and everyone else. Last but not least thanks to all the artists who helped make our projects happen, your hard work and input is greatly appreciated.

Co-op Storytelling Project July 2012 – January 2013

In June 2012 we received £2000 from the Co-op to fund a story telling and making project that worked with children and parents, entertaining them with stories and also giving some top tips for storytelling at home. The project consisted of 7 workshops across the Peak, including artists Helen Appleton, Christine McMahon and Gordon McClellan who made the sessions special, accessible and fun. Sessions ran through the summer and were embedded in our summer programme, but also took place in December with Christmas events at Surestart and in January 2013. The project was a success in all sorts of ways, not least because of the quality of stories told and the input from parents and partners. There is something quite special about how a workshop is brought to life by everyone involved and the sessions that we were able to run as a result of the funding from the Co-op were a great example of this. Parents told stories, children contributed; storytellers held their breath and the libraries that housed the events were alive with the sound of magical words. Thanks to the Co-op for their support and to everyone that made the events so entertaining.

Community-run festivals

Throughout the High Peak there are festivals run by local people, who fundraise through the year to create a community programme that's all about the local character and culture. Our involvement in events like these is something we look forward to and we try to meet the needs of local people by providing a yurt and artists and activities that suit the event and get people involved.

Whaley Water Weekend

June 9/10th 2012: Artist Jim Medway

ran the session and everyone who came in to shelter from the wet got a chance to make some great cartoons; many of these unsurprisingly had a wet, wet, wet theme. Ducks in boots, cats with umbrella, water monsters were all present and the walls of the yurt became an interactive comic book.



Padfield Play Park opening July

15th 2012: The opening of a park is a

special occasion. For the community of Padfield this event marked the end of a lot of hard work, planning and fundraising. The event was a real celebration with loads of activities for children of all ages and we provided storyteller Gordon McClellan. The sun shone and there were lots of people, who stayed all day to enjoy the new space and take part in the party. In total we had 111 people through the Yurt doorway.



Plum Festival September 9th 2012: The event hosted sports activities, music, song, dance and the Redgate coal run, where people run uphill carrying a sack of coal on their backs, no mean feat I can tell you, Redgate is pretty steep! The event was a great opportunity to tell tales and Helen Appleton provided listeners young and old with some great stories. We also provided puppet making and were inundated with great ideas. Some of the participants even made up their own puppet show inside the yurt. In total 167 people took part in our activities at this event. The event was a first in terms of the weather, as it was the only day all summer that the yurt did not get wet. No rain on a summer's day in 2012 was quite something!

The Glossop Research Project Sept 2012 – March 2013+

The project began with a request for support from Leicester University needed for a funding application to the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) as part of the "connecting Communities" programme. The programme aims to connect universities and the research they conduct with local communities and this bid was part of a national programme in which

the arts has had quite a strong presence. The bid was then forgotten for a couple of months until the university got back to us to say that their application had been a success. What happened next is a great story and one that has provided us with a new string to our bow. The project had to be created from scratch. Arts based research is relatively new and what was needed here was a bespoke programme of workshops that met the needs of the research project and also connected with people. The sessions needed to be as accessible as possible and use methods that people could work with. Artist Paul Gent, who had recently introduced himself to us, was a great choice. His art work is accessible and his manner as an artist suited the communities we were working with. We used mapping methods, created a board game with young people from Glossopdale College, created opportunities for people to tell their story, created artwork and developed a whole range of open access sessions including sessions at Glossop market which were eventful and exciting for all sorts of reasons. We also made three films with filmmaker Mark Turton based on people's perceptions of community in Glossop. Sessions in this project started in September 2012 and ran through until March 2013 culminating in a showcase event in London as part of the AHRC events calendar. The project demonstrates not only how the arts engage people but also how important the arts are as a tool for development, research, inclusion and as a way of making people feel safe and comfortable enough to talk about themselves, their experiences and feelings. In this project the arts put everyone on an equal footing.



Hadfield Lantern Festival Nov -Dec 2012

In November 2012 we won a tender bid to provide lantern making workshops for Hadfield Community Group. With the help of Gordon McClellan, we delivered five sessions in schools and two open access community sessions. The workshops proved extremely popular and staff were needed to support the sessions, particularly the community events held in Hadfield Hall. 8 people booked on them but 80 turned up each day! This made the sessions very busy and productive and we ended up with some fantastic lanterns in all shapes and sizes. As a result the procession around Hadfield was a real spectacle. The project had a total of 525 participants and took us right up to Christmas creating a great end of year buzz.

YOUTH ARTS DEVELOPMENT

Performances with the Youth Arts Network

In November 2012 we coordinated the second collaborative performance by members of the Youth Arts Network High Peak (YANHP). "Darkness" was inspired by the natural internal landscape of a cave, and performed three shows on one night at Peak Cavern in Castleton. We worked with local youth club, Fairfield Dreamscheme and collaborated with the Buxton Opera House Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, in a process where both groups visited Poole's Cavern for inspiration and worked together to create the bare structure of the story. Young residents of two local children's homes worked on the costumes for part of the show.

The process we followed was developed from participants' and audience feedback after the first event in 2011. The inspirational trip to Poole's Cavern, the joint planning and the youth leadership within the Dreamscheme group were all developments which added artistic quality to the experience of participants. Feedback from the audience has included

"I took my kids (aged 8 and 16) to the 'Darkness' performance at Peak Cave and we all loved it! What a great concept and brilliant setting and the actors showed such enthusiasm – we were well impressed. Absolutely well done to all involved!"

Open access provision

Between April and July 2012 we established a new film-based youth club for New Mills, "Shout Action", as one of our Youth Arts Hubs. We recruited participants from the local high school and two local youth clubs, and they were given free reign to create a narrative for the film. The resulting 20 minute short, "Super Chowder" is available to view on our website, under Youth Projects, Shout Action. We continued to look for follow up funding, unsuccessfully – and now the core group of participants has formed a fundraising team and using a Crowdfunder campaign, have run events such as Super Hero Day, bag packing at the local supermarket and continue to fundraise at local events in the coming year.



Progression for young people within the organisation

This year we have been working toward gaining our Hear By Right Award at Silver level. This process has lead us to examine a number of our working practices and the development of our work experience placements has stemmed from this, forming part of the pathway for participants.

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ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

Young people can come into contact with us from early engagement in projects, such as Darkness, or the Youth Arts Hubs. As they improve the quality of their skills they can work towards Arts Award qualifications and this year we have had 10 young people working towards bronze and silver arts awards. Young people can also form steering groups, engage in peer mentoring and leadership training, apply for our work experience and we are in the process of developing a youth steering group to lead our youth arts programme.

Fundraising

Having experienced a drought in fund raising in recent years, this year has seen a distinct improvement, with successful long term bids coming through from Children in Need and the Foundation for Youth Music. Both these projects start in the new financial year, and they will allow us to develop new partnerships and build on existing ones to create legacy for project work. We have also been awarded funding for a second Youth Music module to commence in 2014.



Olympics

The Olympic Torch Relay was a major event for Buxton and the High Peak. We worked as a whole team to bring elements from across the programme to the event. Project eARTh created more than 30 fabric painted umbrellas to line the route, looking stunning on the day and attracted the BBC TV cameras. The yurt housed flag making, Olympic ring making and storytelling and we had over 700 members of the public, young and old during the afternoon. We also worked with a local youth group before the day, preparing them with interview skills and we launched a call for Crowdsourced material from the general public. Young people from the ROFA Dreamscheme went out to interview the crowd, athletes and torch bearers and we put an invitation in the local press and leafleted for members of the public to visit our digital pod and submit their own photos and footage to form part of a finished film commemorating the event.

ARTS AND WELL-BEING

This was the third year of the five year Project eARTh, environmental arts and health for adults experiencing mental distress, and other long term conditions. The project is in partnership with 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 a week, in New Mills and Fairfield, Buxton. This year we also ran a Memory Box Project for people with dementia and their carers in Glossop.

Project eARTh:

This was another enjoyable year, with exciting projects, high quality arts work and people benefiting from the experiences. There were 48 core participants this year, (92 since the project began) and 36 community members – family, friends, regular volunteers, other community groups and work experience pupils. Since the project began, 62 people have reported on improvements in their well being and 43 people have become more active in the community by joining other groups, classes, going to colleges, returning to work etc. This year we held 60 weekly workshops, as well as celebratory events, and trips out, totalling 72 sessions in all.

Projects:

1. Ancient landscapes:

Exploration of the geology of the Peak District, 350 million years ago – when it was under water – through crochet and other textiles. Artists from Stone and Water worked with both groups and with Borderland Voices (another arts and health group) to create an installation which was displayed in Leek, the Buxton Arts Trail Summer 2012, New Mills Arts Trail Autumn 2012, Glossop Library in Winter 2012, and Castleton Visitor Centre in Spring 2013 (and since then at the Green Man Gallery, Buxton). Stone and Water have continued with this project so that the beautiful installation grows....



2. The aluminium archway and seating in Fairfield were completed and unveiled (see last year's annual report).

3. The New Mills group worked with artist Ruth Marsden to paint umbrellas with fabric paint to create a fantastic display for the Olympic Torch Relay through Buxton in July 2012. The group attended the Relay and lined the route with about 30 umbrellas – which even made an appearance on the BBC TV News. They were

also displayed in Buxton Arts Trail and New Mills Arts Trail, and proved very popular – they made a very colourful window in Sett Valley Insurance in New Mills.



4. In the summer, the New Mills group made an outdoor cob oven with environmental artist Tony Allen for Glossop Mental Health Project's Garden, with a lovely carved wooden base, and an oven shaped like a beehive. Despite a wet summer, everyone enjoyed the outdoor work, and we had sunshine for the celebratory pizza party in the garden.

5. The Buxton group had lots of fun with artist Jim Medway, learning comic and cartoon drawing and put their new skills to good use to create their own comic.

6. The New Mills group worked with artist Jill Kerr on lino printing and created a beautiful 2013 calendar. They looked so good, we had 200 printed, of which we gave away 60 to members, funders etc, and sold 140 very easily – we could have sold at least 50 more. We then created greetings cards from the images to sell.

7. The Buxton group worked with artist Hilary Hughes of b-arts to create an amazing collection of willow and tissue paper lanterns for the Buxton Christmas Lights Switch On, as well as



half a dozen shadow boxes. We created a stunning and atmospheric installation of these in the Pavilion Gardens, for people to enjoy as they walked on the Lantern Parade in November, with many passers by commenting on them, and stopping to take photos.

8. The New Mills group worked with digital artist Kooj Chuhan and learnt how to create an online blog. With many people not having used a computer at all before, it was an enjoyable, if steep, learning curve. The blog is full of interviews, articles, photos etc and can be found at www.peakabout.wordpress.com.

9. The Buxton group worked with artist Katy McCall on 'What's in a Box?' in which everybody started with a cardboard box – and then did anything at all they wanted with it! This was a chance for real freedom of expression and the result was a wide variety of decorated and transformed boxes. These have been filmed to make a short film of the finished work.

Peakabout Arts:

High Peak Community Arts and High Peak CVS supported the development of an 'offshoot' arts and health group from Project eARTh. Devising a constitution in January, opening a bank account, and getting its first grant, the group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, and is open to anyone who feels they would benefit from joining.



Memory Boxes with Glossop De-caf

This was a project with people with dementia and their carers, members of Glossop De-caf at the Central Methodist Church. It was established as part of a Winter Carers' Project, to enable people to get out more in the winter. As it snowed 5 out of the 7 sessions, it was not easy for people to get there – but those that did, enjoyed the project. Glossop De-caf is supported by DCC Adult Care and the NHS. They usually meet once a month, but for the duration of the project, we held two sessions per month. Participants worked with artists Amanda Whewell and Carol Wilson in a variety of textiles. They made their own felt, from which they made memory boxes. People brought in photographs, mementoes, and treasures from the past. Photographs were transferred onto fabric, some of which were then sewn onto the felt, some backed with calico, and put inside the boxes, along with other items of importance. We held a celebratory event in May 2013, attended by The Mayor of the High Peak, and other councillors. At this, we also showed the Glossopoly Exhibition.

ACCOUNTS

Copies of accounts for 2012-13 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 2012-13 grant funding for projects was received from:

- Big Lottery Fund - Reaching Communities
- NHS Derby
- Co-operative Community Fund
- Derbyshire County Council
- Bingham Trust
- High Peak Borough Council
- Padfield Residents



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



LOTTERY FUNDED



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 2012-2013

- Arthur Burns - Chair (to February 2013)
- Dawn Bryan - Chair (from February 2013)
- Robert Barton - Treasurer
- Pam Garside - Secretary
- Jane Taylor
- Sandy Schofield
- Sarah Males
- Andrea Lyons

Membership

There are currently over 200 members.

Staff

- Alison Bowry – Project Manager (Arts & Wellbeing)
- Sophie Mackreth – Project Manager (Youth Arts)
- Jan Melia – Project Manager (Community Programme)
- Rick Seccombe – Administrator

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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