

# high peak community arts

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14



**“The arts really matter. They’re not for an elite, or for a minority. They’re for everybody.”**  
**Tony Hall, Director General BBC, March 2014.**

A reminder from one of our major cultural institutions that access to the arts is at the heart of their ambitions. And it’s something that we at High Peak Community Arts have continued to aspire to over the past year...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. During 2013-14, we were fortunate to receive a variety of grant funding to enable us to achieve an exciting artistic programme.

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.

Opera and film projects with young people, our continuing ‘Project eARTh’ workshops and our

outreach communities programme have continued to inspire a wide range of participants in communities across the High Peak.

There are more details of these and other projects on the following pages and a list of our grant funding is on the back page.

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

## YOUTH ARTS PROGRAMME

In 2013/14 we launched three newly funded schemes in the Youth Arts programme, with new funding from Children in Need and two modules from the National Foundation for Youth Music.



### Music Pod 1

In our first module of funding from Youth Music we targeted young people attending a local Pupil Referral Unit and others at risk of exclusion. The project has worked with 20 young people in two locations, offering music production and lyric writing with two musicians from Manchester, MC Fox and Music Producer Diamond. These types of music activities are not available to them in the normal curriculum. Across a whole academic year they worked on their own tracks and at the end visited Contact Theatre in Manchester. Working with their staff and singer songwriter, Lucy Jackson, they experienced bringing written and computer-produced work onto the stage.



### Tall Tales

The second Youth Music module was from their Open Programme, secured in the summer of 2013. Tall Tales is an open-access music club and performing arts project which is based on two of the most deprived estates in the High Peak. Participants can gain musical skills and work on material from a popular children's story, (this year 'Blue John' by Berlie Doherty).

In early 2014 we created a steering group of young people from the two areas who were involved in selecting the musician team and developing themes from the story. As the project progresses beyond March 2014, groups from Glossop and Buxton will work with composer, Andy Smith, digital and spoken word musician, Caro Churchill and instrumentalist, Sarah Atter. The steering group will be involved in decision making about the direction of the final piece, as the workshops start and head towards the summer school.

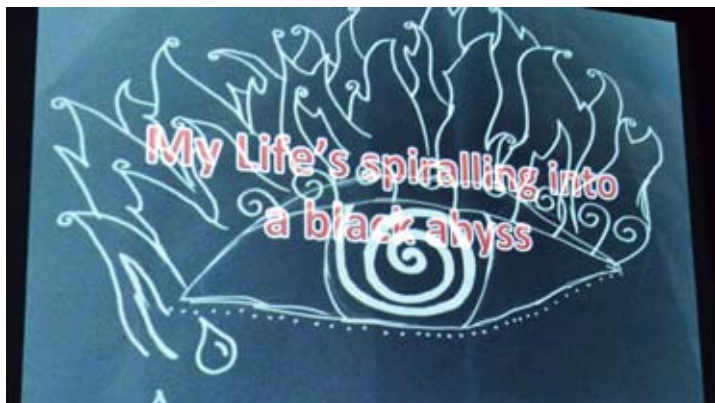


### Film Cuts Club

Our other new funding came from BBC Children in Need, to launch The Film Cuts Club with Mark Turton, working in special needs settings in three local high schools. This programme has completed its first full year and a reviewer from the funder said "I could see for myself how much the children enjoyed the work, you talk clearly about the differences it has made and give a strong case study". In the year 2013/14 we have worked with 59 young people and they have experimented with techniques and produced finished pieces of film looking at particular issues, like bullying and friendships. This year has given us the chance to develop new practice with these groups and we enter the second year with even stronger methodologies to suit each setting, including holiday activity to include parents and siblings.







### Shout Action film club

In tandem with this project, Shout Action, our independent open access filmmakers group, has progressed into a self sustained model with their own fundraising campaigns and training days with Mark Turton and Matt Kowalczyk. They are now shooting their second film, written, scripted, shot and directed by the group themselves.

### Hear By Right

In 2013 we achieved the National Youth Agency's Hear By Right award, Silver level recognising the quality of approach to meaningful participation by young people across the whole organisation.

Through this process we have committed to investing in youth engagement at the heart of our organisation. Youth steering groups and work placements are already in place and we continue to develop these roles and structures, guided by the experiences of those already involved. We look forward to a point when one steering group will direct the youth arts programme.

### Practice development with EMPAF

In March 2014 we joined the expedition by EMPAF (East Midlands Participatory Arts Forum) to the International Community Arts Festival, Rotterdam 2014. As a network we were commissioned by Netherlands-based CAL-XL to tour a wide range of community and participatory arts examples across the country. The tour, the 'Caravan of Dreams', took a small team of people from Junction Arts, the Core Corby, Excavate and High Peak Community Arts to work together for five days, travelling, talking, blogging, filming and witnessing a fantastic diversity of practice. We plan to develop the Caravan of Dreams to find funding for international residencies and deepen the collaboration between European countries.

In April 2013 we were also invited by People Express in Swadlincote to visit their project, Shout, and conduct external evaluation with volunteers and participants. Together, we produced a short film, "Family Friendly Art; something for everyone", which highlighted practice affecting the experience of arts activity by families with a range of needs.

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

The year has been rich and fulfilling with lots of activities happening in the yurt and many more happening in libraries, gazebos and in far flung places including Edinburgh.

The summer programme began in May with the yurt providing shade for children and families; we visited Whaley Bridge, Glossop Carnival, Buxton Festival, New Mills, and had a busy, fantastic summer with activities running right through until November 2013. We also ran sessions in the wonderful libraries at Gamesley, New Mills and Buxton and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff there that helped make storytelling and our arty rainy days worthwhile. Thanks go to everyone who turned up as well. In all, over 2500 people came to our community based events, enjoying drawing, recycled arts, face painting, storytelling, music, performance, puppet making, digital arts and much more.



Summer events are the bread and butter for yurt based activities and we hope, over the coming year, to continue to provide access to great art at festivals, in fields and parks and anywhere else they will let us put the yurt in place. Vince Canning continues to support the process of taking it up and taking it down and we also had help this year from young people on work experience placements for a couple of weeks over the summer. It's hard to choose a favourite; really it's down to the weather, the people and the atmosphere which this year has been great.

Summer events included:

Chinley's school festival in May

Whaley Bridge Water Weekend in June

One World Festival in July

Glossop Carnival in July

Buxton Opera Festival in August

Ram stock in August

New Mills Festival in September

We also took part in play schemes and in other community based one off events around the High Peak.

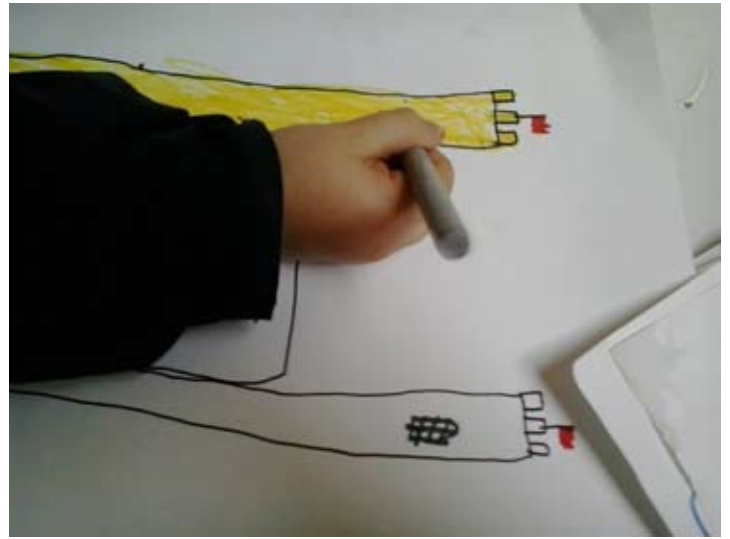
# ARTISTIC PROGRAMME



## Glossop research project/s

One research partnership with Leicester University continues to develop. The initial project has continued with Glossopoly causing a stir in all the right places. Dr Martin Phillips has showcased the board at a number of events in the university and we have also been out with it to Edinburgh. The use of arts for research purposes is really interesting. It is a great leveller, anyone can join in and anyone can get something out of doing so. Artists Paul Gent and Mark Turton have proved to be the

backbone for the project, not only creating great workshops but also putting people at ease, getting some great stories from them and doing some great art.



## And also....

Alongside festivals and the research work with the university, the community programme ran some really lovely sessions in the libraries with sure start, local schools and voluntary organisations. The communities programme also had input into the opera project and attended regional events and conferences. Our involvement in Arts Derbyshire, for example, continues, as does our involvement in work with new partners and new artists. This year artists have, as usual, been fantastic and we hope to continue to develop our work with them and also with new artists. We worked with new artists at a number of events so this year and it is always great to have artists input and ideas as well as their talent. The community programme is really shaped by those that come along to our events and help run them.









# ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

## ARTS AND WELL-BEING

This was the fourth 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. At the end of Year Three, the project was noted as an 'example of best practice' by the BIG Lottery Fund. The project runs two groups a week, in New Mills and Fairfield. We also support its offshoot, Peakabout Arts, which meets twice a month. We sit on the Arts Derbyshire Arts and Health Working Group.



### Project eARTh:

We have enjoyed another year with exciting projects, high quality arts work and many people benefiting from the experiences. There were 44 core participants this year, (109 since the project began) and 38 community members – family, friends, regular volunteers, other community groups, school pupils, social care students and work experience pupils.

Since the project began, 77 people have reported on improvements in their well being and 57 people have become more active in the community by joining other groups, classes, going to colleges, returning to work etc. This year we held weekly workshops, as well as celebratory events, and trips out, with 9 projects totalling 75 sessions in all.

### New Mills Group:

1. Comic Book: The group worked with artist Jim Medway to create a lovely local history comic book, with cartoons of everything from Elephants walking down Albion Road to Maypole dancing, to young lads playing snooker.

2. Moorland Panorama: The group created a 3 metres by 1 metre handmade felted installation, 'Moorland Panorama', for the Moorland Centre, Edale, working with artist Carol Wilson. Using natural hand dyed wool from white-faced woodland sheep, the group created a wonderful picture of the moorlands, its flora and fauna. It was unveiled at an event attended by the High Peak Mayor, Chair of the Peak Park Authority, Derbyshire County Council Head of Arts, other local councillors, Project eARTh participants and members of the public. A photographic exhibition was displayed for a further eight months. The staff report positive feedback from visitors, e.g 'Adore the feltwork'. The annual visitor figures at the Centre are approx. 35,000, so the work will be seen by a great number of people. Participants were rightfully proud of their high quality art work.



3. Dinting Station in Ceramics: The group worked with artist Adrian Holt to create five large scale relief ceramics pictures for Dinting Railway Station, depicting the station, the track, trains, the viaduct and surrounding countryside. Neil Williams from Friends of Glossop Station was a great help and support to the project, with input about the station, and moral support throughout. The friends also helped with the physical installation. The ceramics were unveiled by the Vice Chair of Derbyshire County Council, at an event attended by several other councillors, participants, family, friends, and general public. We have been shortlisted in the Association of Community Rail Partnership's Community Arts Competition.

4. Fused Glass: The group completed a short project with artist Debra Tracey at Christmas making fused glass decorations, coasters etc.

5. Trail Tales: With Musician Phil Girling, and also involving Yr Three pupils of Hayfield Primary School, the group created music and spoken word for 2 solar powered audio benches on the Sett Valley Trail and in Bluebell Wood, Hayfield. At the press of a button, you can hear songs, poetry and prose on the theme of the changing seasons, the local area, and memories. We worked in partnership with Derbyshire County Council Countryside Service, who made and installed the benches and posts. These were unveiled in Summer 2014 by the High Peak Mayor, attended by other councillors, participants, school children, family, friends and general public.

### **Buxton Group:**

1. 'Space to Breathe': The group worked with our own Sophie Mackreth on a stop frame animation project to make a short film. After working on a storyline and theme, members took on different roles – creating the characters out of plasticine, the set from cardboard, plasticine, papers, fabrics, string, cotton wool and more, the camera work to film each shot, and recording the soundtrack. The story is of a mole, who ventures out of his underground home filled with computers, to the world above ground to enjoy a local park, an allotment, hill and windmill. He realises the real natural world in which he has 'space to breathe' is preferable to his virtual world on the computer. Copies of the film were given to Yr 3 of Hayfield Primary School.



2. Fused Glass Hanging: The group created a fused glass window hanging with Debra Tracey for the Lounge at Charis House in Buxton. Each person worked separately on a square and they were then all fixed together into one hanging. Charis house were very happy with it, 'Everyone is thrilled and feels very honoured to have this lovely and original work of art. At Charis House we support people who are often in very difficult circumstances and we can work together to overcome issues and difficulties. It adds so much to their lives to have something beautiful to think about in the midst of what must sometimes seem like chaos'. Following this, we decided to start an arts and wellbeing project at Charis House itself – and have successfully got funding for a 2 year project from Lloyds Bank Foundation.



3. 'Hand made Paper Globe and Cascade': This was a major handmade paper project, with artist Caro Inglis. The group created a 29 inch diameter handmade paper globe, with an LED light inside, to install at Blythe House Hospice, in their Quiet Room. The hospice chose a colour palette of mainly cream and gold, to fit with the room, and its stained glass window. We shared a wonderful Arts for Wellbeing Day with Blythe House in May, with workshops, and the 'switching on' of the light!

The group also made many other pieces of handmade paper, from which Caro created a large scale window hanging, 'Cascade', for New Mills Library. Originally installed for New Mills Art Fest 2014, the library have chosen to keep it, and it attracts much positive interest.

4. 'Making Your Garden Grow': Both groups visited Stoke Arts Gallery and Museum to see ceramics, as inspiration and background for a project making 3 dimensional ceramic flowers with artist Caroline Chouler-Tissier in 2014-15.

### **Peakabout Arts:**

This is an Arts for Wellbeing Group – separate from, but supported by High Peak Community Arts. It meets at High Lee Hall on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. It has successfully raised £2,240 in grants and £400 + in card sales.



## ACCOUNTS

Copies of the accounts for 2013-14 are available on request, or view them online via the Charity Commission website [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk). (Follow the links to search for a charity and then key in our charity number, 517887.)

## 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 England  
Derbyshire County Council  
High Peak Borough Council

We raise funds independently and additionally for all our artistic activity. During 2013-14 grant funding for projects was received from:

Big Lottery Fund – Reaching Communities  
BBC – Children in Need  
National Foundation for Youth Music  
Derbyshire County Council  
Bingham Trust  
Ernest Cook

## 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. We strive to be accountable to our community and so we actively encourage broad membership.

### Trustees 2013-14

Dawn Bryan – Chair  
Andrea Lyons – Treasurer  
Pam Garside – Secretary  
Robert Barton  
Arthur Burns  
Ann Lyon – appointed October 2013  
Sarah Males  
Sandy Schofield – resigned October 2013  
Jane Taylor

### Membership

There are currently over 150 members.

### Staff

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

### Freelance Artists

We contract freelance artists to work within our projects, bringing in a range of arts skills including music, drama, visual arts, digital arts.

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

### High Peak Community Arts

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*working for our community*