

high peak community arts ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15



‘Please celebrate the joy of being creative: it is the gift each of us has, something we can share and go on enjoying year after year. It helps us feel good about ourselves and about each other...and what could be better than that?’

Uplifting words from our patron Dame Joan Bakewell this year; a year that has seen some huge challenges for the organisation but one in which we have again shown our true strength and attracted significant new funding.

This year (2014 - 2015) has been the final one in which High Peak Community Arts received revenue funding from Arts Council England after 36 years continual funding support. We reapplied to be a National Portfolio Organisation for 2015 – 18, but this time were not successful.

Despite this, the Arts Council concluded in their final report that:

‘HPCA are a considerable asset to the area and supports communities to experience the arts both within the High Peak and beyond. The organisation has also catered for a wide variety of community groups across different sectors by way of its partnerships and flexibility.’

Staff, trustees, volunteers and other supporters have worked extremely hard to find alternative funds to carry on its work in the future. As a result, we have been awarded another 5 years of Big Lottery Funding for Project eARTH with increased sums towards salaries and overheads, and Grants for the Arts funding from the Arts Council for our Youth Programme to take us forward into 2015 – 16.

As well as fundraising for the future, we continued with a full and exciting artistic programme, supported by our talented pool of freelance artists. Opera, film, animation, and music with young people; yurt days with children and families; explorations of local history with communities; public art with adults experiencing mental distress; and creative projects with homeless women and those recovering from drug / alcohol dependency have been co-ordinated by our small staff team. There are details of these projects on the following pages and a list of our grant funding is on the back.

All this of course has required good governance, and support from trustees. I am grateful to my colleagues on the board of trustees for their time, energy and commitment to our organisation, so it continues to reach out into the community.

Dawn Bryan, Chair

ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

YOUTH ARTS PROGRAMME

This year has been our busiest ever for the youth arts programme, with more than 145 individual young people taking part in long term projects, with a total of 211 workshops.

Our two modules of funding from the National Foundation for Youth Music continued:

Music Pod 1

This completed at the end of the academic year, with music producer, Diamond, and MC Fox working in Chapel en le Frith Pupil Referral Unit and Buxton Community School. 20 disengaged young people took part in music activity, learning computer production skills and lyric writing, and recording tracks and film material. 9 achieved their Bronze Arts Award and 4 travelled to Contact Theatre to experience informally presenting their work in performance. 9 also worked with Contact Theatre video artists 'The Bearded Fellows' to make a music video.



With these partnerships now in place, we were able to apply to the National Foundation for Youth Music's Fund A and successfully secured the resources to expand this programme to cover two full academic years. With further support from the Derbyshire Music Education Hub we will be delivering this work in three places from September 2015.

BLUE JOHN
should he go outside into the world?
Tuesday
2nd September
7.30pm
Pavilion Arts Centre
St John's Road, Buxton

Young people from the High Peak in their own original musical, telling the emotional journey of Blue John, from the book by Berlie Doherty

Tickets £5 (£1 children and all concessions), available from Buxton Opera House 01298 72190 or call High Peak Community Arts on 01665 744 518

Derbyshire County Council | Arts Council England | High Peak Community Arts

Tall Tales

Our second Youth Music funded module is the performing arts programme, Tall Tales, and in 2014 it produced its first show, 'Blue John', from the popular children's story,

by Berlie Doherty. We also secured further funding from the Foyle Foundation to add drama and production design to the music activities funded by Youth Music. 30 young people took part in weekly music and drama workshops in Fairfield, Buxton and Gamesley, Glossop – two of the most economically deprived estates in the High Peak. The workshops were run by composer, Andy Smith, Flautist and percussion, Sarah Atter, and digital musician, Caro Churchill.



Participants also had specialist vocal coaching from Buxton opera singer, Daisy Barker, and were guided through the process of dramatisation with theatre maker Paul Hine and designers Barret Hodgson and Katy McCall. We worked closely with Residents of Fairfield Association Dreamscheme and the Gamesley Community Café, who both greatly supported three months of estate-based workshops and the summer school, and made an ambitious project possible.



The two groups came together in the intensive summer school and the final show was performed in both Gamesley, at the Geoffrey Allen Centre and at Buxton's Pavilion Arts Centre. Local audiences were impressed, saying,

"When we walked in and just saw a load of cardboard boxes, and I thought "Well, what are we going to look at?" - But then... what that lighting man put on those boxes, it was amazing."

"I came with the Gamesley Community Café... we thought it sounded a challenge for the children, so we were really looking forward to seeing what they had produced and it excelled all my expectations..."

Seeing the show, the author Berlie Doherty said *"They've captured the elements of the story beautifully... I think it's a wonderful production."*

A steering group of young people were involved in selecting the musician team and making decisions about the direction of the final piece. One participant took a work experience placement with us, working on publicity for the show, and 10 participants are working towards either Explore or Silver Arts Award.

One young woman said:

"It's given me back my sense of wonder. I'd lost it a bit, but I love stories and we started with just the story and created all this – and it's like 'anything's possible!'"

Our Youth Music grant continues for another year, and we have just secured additional funding from Arts Council England, Grants for the Arts, amongst other places.



Film Cuts Club

The Film Cuts Club completed the second year of Children in Need funding, run by filmmakers Mark and Benn Turton. They provided filmmaking activities for children with additional needs in three towns; in an after school club at Chapel en le Frith High School; a brand new Saturday club in Hadfield, Glossop; and in partnership with the parent support group, Happy Days in Buxton.

85 young people have taken part, with a range of educational needs from speech and language impairments to emotional and behavioural difficulties and those on the autistic spectrum.



The activities build individual abilities by training young people to take every role in the production team of a film, rotating between roles, before specialising in the area most suited to their interests and potential. Team work is an important aspect of the work as the young people collaborate to create a film together, building their social skills and negotiating to see different people's ideas included.



The Film Cuts Club produces high quality results with young people for whom expectations are often very low. Workers on the project noted their depth of understanding, tackling serious topics and demanding high standards from themselves:

"Last year M came across as someone who needed guidance... but this time she had a whole new determination, working towards the final result – which was just like talking to her as a member of a production team."

During the year they have made more than a dozen short films which reflect their needs and interests. 26 young people have achieved the Arts Award Explore level and 8 have achieved Bronze.

The Children in Need grant continues for one final year, and we will look for continuation funding.

Shout Action

We have also continued to support the open access young filmmaker's project Shout Action, in New Mills who are completing their second film, Nine to Five.

Arts Award & beyond!

All our youth projects offered the opportunity to gain an Arts Award qualification, with 26 young people achieving the Explore level, 17 achieving Bronze and another 14 young people working towards either Bronze or Silver. This year we had three work experience students coming through the Shout Action and Tall Tales project and from New Mills School. We have also launched a partnership with Contact Theatre in Manchester to bring some of their original shows to the High Peak, starting with *The Novice Detective* at Providence Church, New Mills, in June 2014.

ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME



Digital Affective Histories

Our continuing partnership with Leicester University has used the arts and digital methods to connect university research with local communities in Glossop. Digital Affective Histories started as a comparative study of the modern day use of mill buildings in Glossop and Leicester, and worked with artists, Paul Gent and Nicky Ward in arts workshops at Glossop Market and community venue, Bradbury House. Mark Turton used reminiscence interviews to develop film material, and it was all combined by Leicester University into an app and 3D realisations of the research. This year-long project culminated in a day of celebration in Glossop with participants coming back to see the film material and watch a specially commissioned projection show by nationally renowned digital media producer, Barret Hodgson of Vent Media.



Summer Programme and events

High Peak Community Arts remains committed to promoting the arts and enabling people and communities to participate in a wide variety of art forms. Our communities programme is often a first point of contact and an opportunity to promote the value of the arts and, in particular, participation in the arts.

This year we have continued to offer an open-access festivals and summer programme engaging children and families in one-off arts experiences. We have programmed



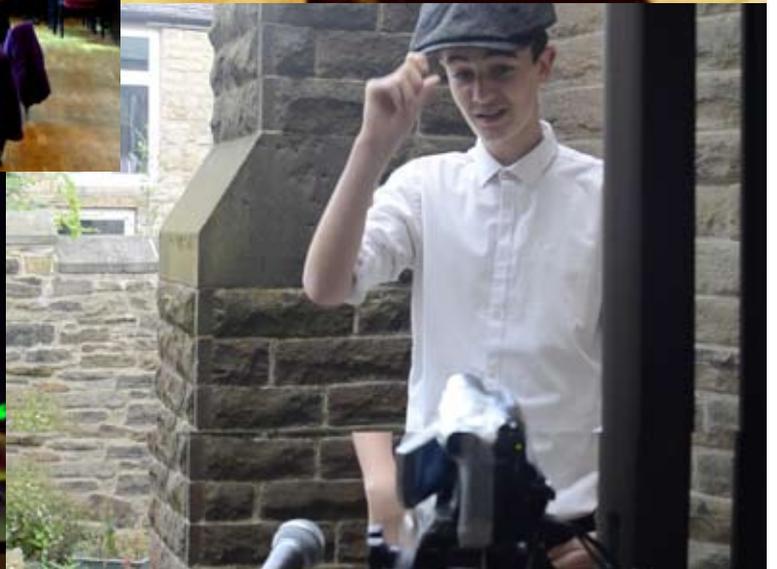
visual arts, made time machines and animations and told stories, with artists such as Katy McCall, Andrea Pazos, Nicky Ward and Creeping Toad.

When we attend events such as Glossop Carnival, the One World Festival in New Mills and Whaley Water Weekend we often meet participants who have never engaged with the arts before. In contrast, taking our 'Magical Storytelling Yurt' to Buxton Festival we can also reach audiences new-to-us, who are more familiar with arts venues.

We have also continued our partnership with Derbyshire Libraries Service and the Chernobyl Children's Project to offer summer workshops for young families, and we offer everything free of charge so that cost is no barrier to the rich experiences the arts can offer.

With the end of our Arts Council revenue grant at the end of this financial year this free, open access summer programme is likely to be the most difficult part of our work to fund. Community groups run their events often on a shoe string, and early enquiries show that they are not in a position to pay the full cost of our contribution. Offering activity free at the point of access has always been fundamental to the way we operate.





ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

ARTS AND WELL-BEING

Project eARTh

This was the fifth and final year of the first 'Project eARTh' – environmental arts and health for adults experiencing mental distress and other long term conditions. So, along with running an exciting programme for the final year, we were also busy evaluating the project and reapplying to the Big Lottery for another five years. By writing that we completed the first Project eARTh, you might have deduced that we were successful in this bid, with another five years from June 2015 – 2020!

Project eARTh is a partnership with High Peak Community Mental Health Team, High Peak Mental Health Project (Glossop), and High Peak CVS. We run two groups per week – one in New Mills and one in Fairfield.

Over the five years, 84 people reported improvements in their wellbeing, and 64 being healthier and more active – making friends, joining other groups, classes, courses etc, doing voluntary or paid work. In June 2014, we spoke at the Arts Derbyshire, Arts and Health Conference about the project and its successful partnership working.

In 2014 - 15, we had six projects, all of which went well and had high quality end products for the community:

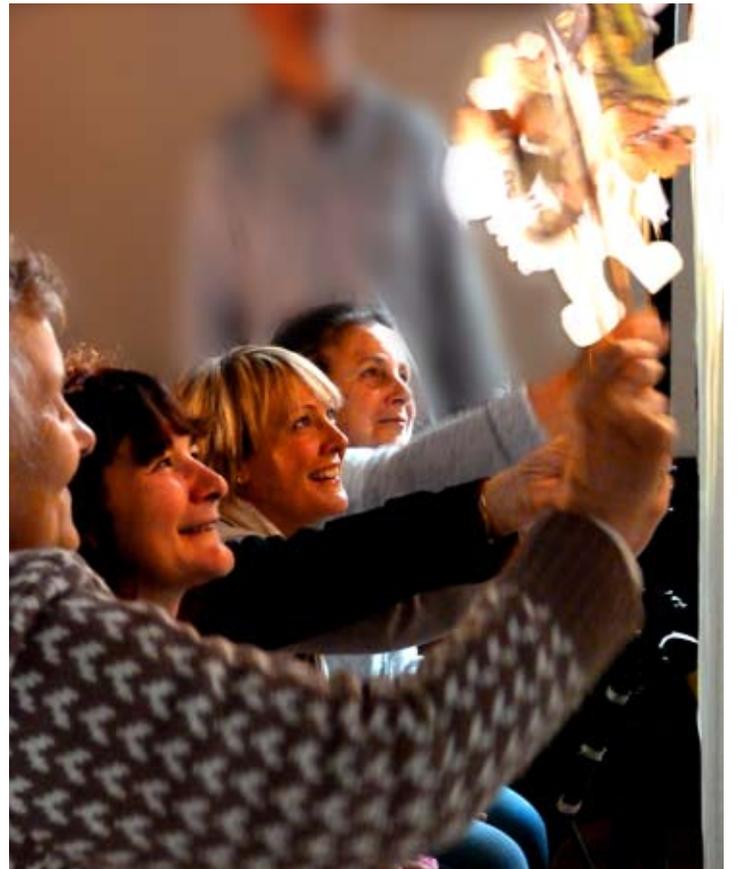


1. Making Your Garden Grow: Both groups worked on this project with Caroline Chouler-Tissier and created a wonderful installation of 3D ceramic flowers to be displayed in Buxton Pavilion Gardens' Conservatory during Buxton Festival 2015.

2. Mosaic Trail: Both groups also contributed to a Mosaics Trail – with artist Debra Tracey, creating 7 large and 9 small mosaics of local wildlife to be installed by Derbyshire County Council Countryside Service along Gamesley Woodlands Path. These beautiful mosaics were unveiled in April 2015.



3. Shadow Puppets: The New Mills group had lots of fun with Mark Hornsey from Babbling Vagabonds, in a 5 week project creating a series of short shadow puppet films based on fairy tales. These can be seen on our Youtube channel.



4. The Fabric of our Lives: The New Mills group worked with artist Sue Lawty to create a beautiful hand woven tapestry especially for Spring Bank Arts Centre, where the group meet each week. This large and ambitious piece looks stunning, and was unveiled in April 2015.

5. Living Willow Den: The Buxton group made a lovely living willow den for Harpur Hill Children's Centre, working with artist Tony Allen.



6. Grinlow's legacy: The Buxton group carved four large scale wooden sculptures for Poole's Cavern picnic area, with artist Sarah Fiander.



Then with writer / storyteller Gordon Maclellan, they created their own myths and legends to accompany them. Year 5 of Burbage Primary School also got involved, and created a further adventure to bring the story up to date – all of which is written up in a brochure, with photos of the sculptures themselves.



Peakabout Arts

We continued to offer support to this arts and wellbeing group who meet twice a month at High Lee Hall. This year, the group created and sold a wonderful lino cut calendar for 2015, amongst workshops in other art forms and continued card sales. In November 2014, they started an Awards for All funded project, looking at collage, and silk painting to start with.

Creative Wellbeing

In September 2014, we started a new two year arts and wellbeing project in partnership with Good News Family Care in Buxton. In this project we worked with women living in their Family Centre, Recovery Unit, other interested community members and the staff and volunteers from the centre. Participants included women who are homeless, including those escaping domestic violence, and women recovering from drug and alcohol dependency. The project is funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation and got off to a great start with felting, with artist Carol Wilson. The group made both a beautiful felted wall hanging for their farm project, and a lovely felted table runner for the Family Centre. These were shown at the Annual Thanksgiving Service in November, at which two participants spoke publicly of how much they had benefitted from the arts



project – from both the art itself, and the teamwork involved. This was followed by a mix of Shadow Puppets (with Mark Hornsey of Babbling Vagabonds) and singing workshops (with singer Rose Hodgson) from January to Easter.

The group created two shadow plays – one fantasy, created themselves and one based on a folk tale, The Three Trees. They performed both of these, along with the songs learnt, at an informal sharing with children from Good News Family Care's nursery. The project as a whole has created a great feeling of community amongst staff, residents, volunteers and community members.



ACCOUNTS

Copies of the accounts for 2014-15 are available on request, or view them online via the Charity Commission website 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 2014-15 grant funding for projects was received from:

Big Lottery Fund – Reaching Communities
BBC – Children in Need
National Foundation for Youth Music
Derbyshire County Council
Lloyds Bank Foundation
Foyle Foundation
Derbyshire Music Education Hub
High Peak Borough Council and New Mills Town Council



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**ARTS COUNCIL
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no. SC039557)

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.

Patron

Dame Joan Bakewell, Baroness Bakewell of Stockport

Trustees 2014-15

Dawn Bryan – Chair
Andrea Lyons – Treasurer
Pam Garside – Secretary
Robert Barton
Arthur Burns
Ann Lyon
Sarah Males
Jane Taylor

Membership

There are currently over 150 members.

Staff

Alison Bowry – Arts and Wellbeing Programme Manager
Sophie Mackreth – Youth Arts Programme Manager
Jan Melia – Community Programme Manager
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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