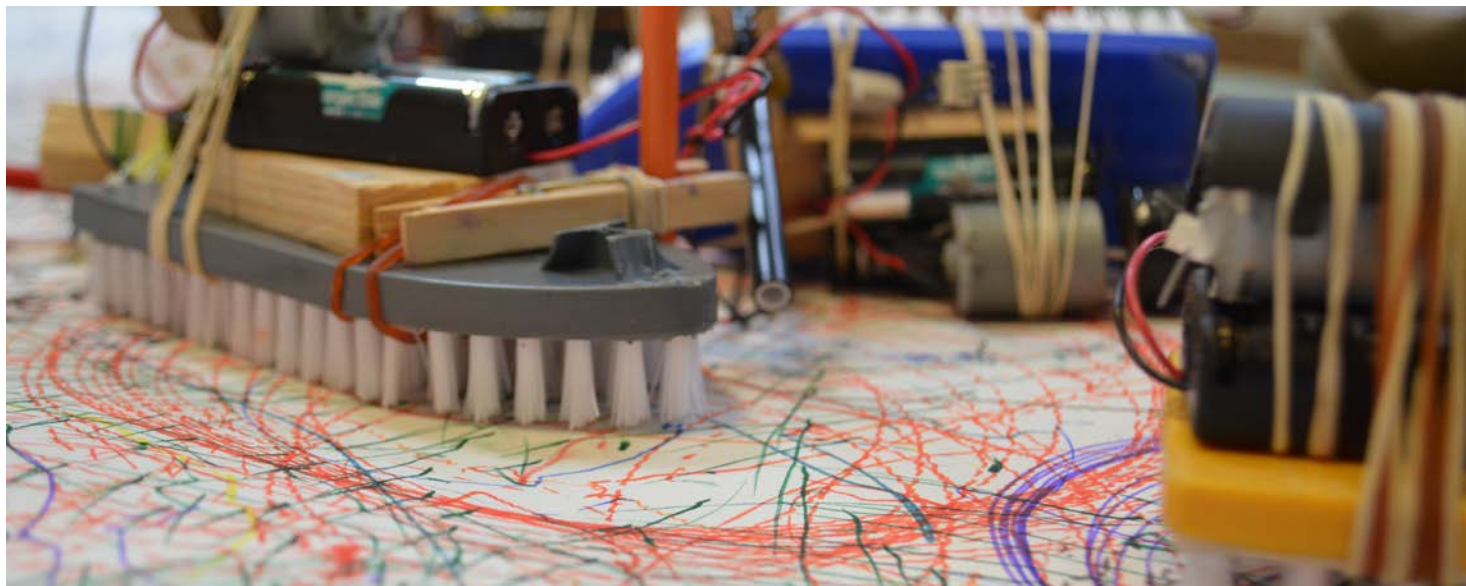


high peak community arts ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16



“Creativity takes courage” Henri Matisse

Matisse’s observation could have been our watchword in 2015-2016 as we faced the first year in our history in which High Peak Community Arts had to operate without revenue funding from Arts Council England. We met the challenge with new resources: an increased grant from the Big Lottery for Project eARTH, successful new grants from BBC Children in Need, The National Foundation for Youth Music, and Grants for the Arts for the Youth programme; and becoming White Stuff’s partner charity for their Buxton store.

In particular, we benefited greatly from the additional fund from Big Lottery to accompany the first year of Project eARTH’s new five-year grant. This money was committed to organisational development and by working with an external consultant we were able to submit a successful application to Arts Council England’s Catalyst: Evolve scheme. This grant now gives us the very best chance of meeting the challenging times ahead. This is such a difficult period for fund raising across the charities sector and we are very fortunate to have a committed and passionate staff and trustee team who have left no stone unturned in securing these resources.

On top of this we were delighted that Bella Hardy, BBC Folk Singer of the Year 2014, agreed to become our first Ambassador, joining Joan Bakewell as our Patron, in supporting and promoting our organisation.

Throughout the year, the staff team have continued to work with our range of community partners and pool of brilliant freelance artists. Together they have delivered music in schools, filmmaking, performances and collaborations to produce many pieces of public work. The results include

ceramic installations, a felted wall hanging, a winter charity record and ‘Visit the Peak District’ posters now featuring in train stations across the region. We also presented our work at the first national Conference on Arts and Health at The Royal Festival Hall, London. Much more detail is described within this report.

Our participants have been the driving force behind the work we produce and across both the Arts and Wellbeing and Youth Programmes our members continue to explore the arts. Most projects have a steering group and we have taken groups to inspirational art experiences outside the district, such as to the Beyond Limits sculpture exhibition at Chatsworth House and the World Premiere of Wonder. land at Manchester International Festival. These experiences enrich projects and push the quality of what we produce ever higher.

This year our team has celebrated milestones such as Alison Bowry’s 25 years with the organisation. We also had the bitter-sweet celebration of the retirement of Rick Seccombe after 20 years as the company administrator. As Chair I would like to extend my thanks and congratulations for the hard work they have both committed to High Peak Community Arts over many phases of our history. Without their involvement it is unlikely we would be in such a positive position to face the future.

I would like, also, to thank all the staff for the energy and commitment they have displayed throughout the year in delivering the HPCA programme.

Ann Lyon, Chair

2015 -2016 Arts And Wellbeing

We have had another full and successful year of Arts and Wellbeing projects, with a second five year grant from the Big Lottery for Project eARTh, and an exciting trip to London to give a presentation at AESOP's 'National Conference on Arts and Health' at The Royal Festival Hall in February 2016.

Made in Derbyshire – 'Blue John'

In April - May 2015 we ran a short project as part of 'Made in Derbyshire', inspired by Berlie Doherty's book, 'Blue John' with the farmer attending the Celebration along with The Vice Chair of the County Council and High Peak Mayor. Funded by DCC's 'Made in Derbyshire'. Working with adults from across the High Peak experiencing mental distress and other long term conditions, and with artist Carol Wilson, we created a series of wet felted and needle felted wall panels for Buxton Library's children's section, inspired by Berlie Doherty's story and Tim Clarey's illustrations. Not only was the story by a Derbyshire based writer, and featuring Derbyshire's historic caves and unique stone, we used wool from whitefaced woodland sheep from Derbyshire, with the farmer attending our celebration. This was funded by Derbyshire County Council's 'Made in Derbyshire'.

Project eARTh 2

We were very pleased to be successful in our bid to the Big Lottery for a second 5 year Project eARTh programme (June 2015 –May 2020) for adults experiencing mental distress or other long term conditions.

In Project eARTh, participants work collectively to create art works for the community. The projects in this year included:

- 1) 'Take Notice' collages with artists Sandra Orme (Buxton) and Caro Inglis (New Mills). The New Mills group made a joint collage for the One World Festival as part of this project.
- 2) 'Lantern making' for 'Buxton Lights Switch On' and 'Hadfield Lantern Parade' with artist Gordon MacLellan. Both groups made lanterns, and joined in with the community lantern events.
- 3) 'The Buxton Story' Mosaic for the Cavendish Hospital. The Buxton group worked with artist Debra Tracey to create a beautiful two metre long mosaic for the lounge of the Fenton ward. This was unveiled by The Mayor of the High Peak and Vice Chair of Derbyshire County Council in April 2016.



Mosaic Making



Blue John Felting



'Take Notice'



Lantern Making



Mosaic Making

- 4) 'Seasons of Goodwill'. The New Mills group worked with musician Claire Mooney to create and record their own song, performed live at HPCA's AGM in November 2015, and available to buy on bandcamp.
- 5) 'Creative Writing'. The New Mills group did a project with writer Gordon MacLellan, including creating shadow puppets to explore stories and characters. The project included a trip to Buxworth Basin which inspired some of the writing and puppetry.
- 6) 'Willow Sculptures' for Whitestones Care Home. The Buxton group worked with artist Carole Beavis to create full size willow sculptures of a donkey, three sheep and two chickens for the gardens of Whitestones Care Home in Chapel en le Frith. This was started in March 2016, completed in the summer and unveiled by The Mayor of the High Peak in July 2016.
- 7) 'Visit The Peak District by Train'. The New Mills group worked with artist Caro Inglis to create collages of Edale, Hope, Bamford, Hathersage and Grindleford. The completed images were used to create a poster and postcards for Manchester Piccadilly, other stations and community venues; and images on di-bond for five Hope Valley Stations platforms (printed with funds from the High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership). The original five collages were framed for display in New Mills Festival later in the year, and will be donated to GP surgeries and other venues in the villages themselves. We held a Celebratory Event at The Moorland Centre in Edale, and at Edale station attended by The Mayor of The High Peak.

We also went on a visit to Chatsworth 'Beyond Limits' Sculpture exhibition in October 2015, as inspiration for forthcoming projects in 3D lanterns and willow sculpture.

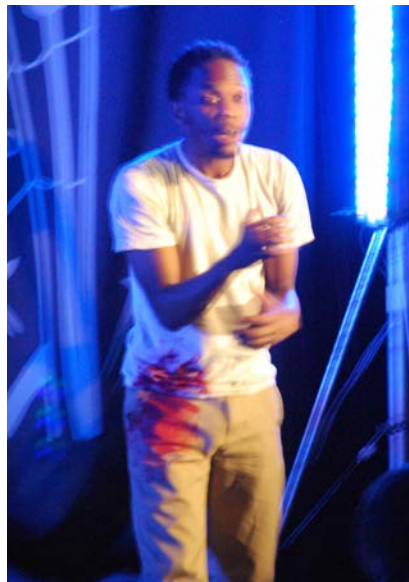
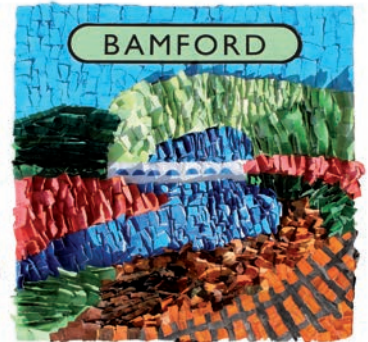
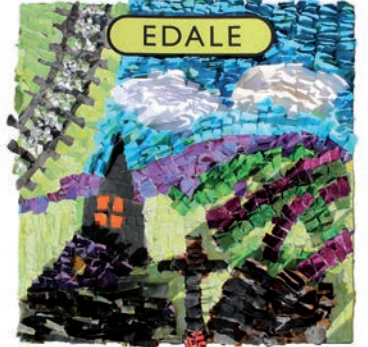
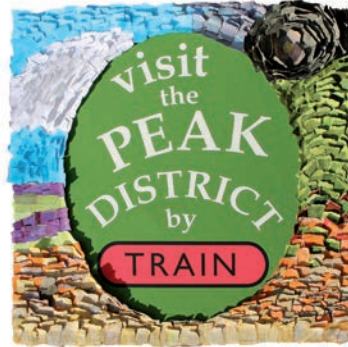
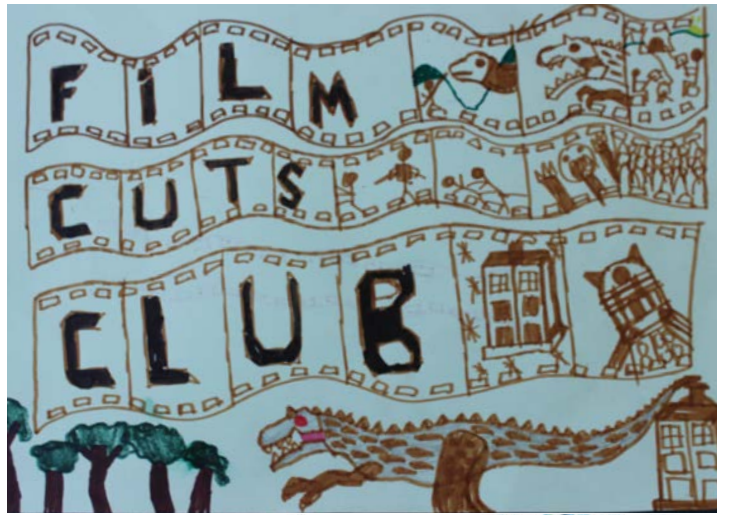
In November / December, we hosted a month long placement for two medical students from Sheffield University who attended Project eARTh, and Creative Wellbeing to learn about Arts and Health first hand.

Creative Wellbeing

This was the second year of a programme in partnership with Good News Family Care, working with homeless women and those recovering from drug / alcohol dependency. This was funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales.

- 1) Mosaics. The group worked with artist Deb Pitman to create mosaic plaques for the bedroom doors at Charis House, and then a large five foot diameter 'Welcome' sign for Oldfield Farm. The latter was unveiled by the Mayor of the High Peak and Chair of Derbyshire County Council in September 2015.
- 2) 'Ceramic Tree of Life'. The participants worked with artist Caroline Chouler – Tissier to create a ceramic 'Tree of Life' for the dining room wall in Charis House, and tiles for the hall - with flowers and the words 'Peace, Freedom and Flourish' on the tiles. These were unveiled by The Mayor of the High Peak and Chair of Derbyshire County Council in February 2016.
- 3) Printing. With artist Sandra Orme, the group explored a variety of printing methods, and printed onto cards, bags and aprons to sell – as well as making pictures for themselves.





Communities, Children and Families

This year we have continued to support a small programme of summer events and community initiatives to engage children and families.

Digital Affective Histories

Having worked with Leicester University throughout the previous year, this project culminated with 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. The day presented all the material produced during comparative study of the modern day use of mill buildings in Glossop and Leicester, including artwork from Paul Gent and Nicky Ward, and film material from Mark Turton.

Summer Programme

This year included 3 days story telling in the yurt at Buxton Festival, and Whaley Water Weekend, with story-tellers Shonaleigh and Gordon MacLellan; our usual featured arts workshop for Chernobyl Childrens' Project with artist Nicky Ward; a 'silent disco' in our yurt, for the One World Festival; and we opened our doors for another Open Day at High Lee Hall in New Mills, inviting people to join us for 'iPaddling' workshops for New Mills Festival. These events are an important part of our core programme, despite many being un-funded.



For the Love of Books:

The start of a year's project working with children and their parents in three nursery settings across the High Peak, funded by The Clore Duffield Foundation and Awards for All. This was our first specifically focussed early years project which was managed by Katy McCall, a local artist who is also a specialist early years learning curator for Tate Liverpool. In this year we established strong working partnerships with Gamesley Nursery, in Glossopdale, and St. George's Nursery in New Mills, initiating an understanding of the value of creative work with families.

We delivered 10 sessions in each location, inviting a diverse range of artists to co-design workshops that nurtured a love of books through playful, open-ended activities. We worked with Anthony Hall from the Owl Project, Najia Bagi, Michiko Fuji, Frances Walker and Jim Medway, and have engaged more than 130 participants so far. The work developed confidence in families' creativity, with a focus given to children's communication, early reading and literacy. Involving teachers, practitioners and parents, the work strengthened links between nursery, home and local libraries, with a chance to deepen dialogue with parents about their children's learning. We also found a gap in professional development opportunities around 'developing creativity' for early years teachers and practitioners.



Youth Arts

Our Youth Arts programme is designed to provide first and ongoing experiences in the arts from targeted work with specific groups to open-access provision, the chance to get accreditation with the Arts Award and take work experience placements and volunteer as they get older.

Film Cuts Club

The Film Cuts Club is our filmmaking club for young people with additional needs, run by filmmakers Mark and Benn Turton. We completed our third and final year of our first grant from BBC Children in Need, with the Saturday club at Hadfield Youth Centre, with whole day sessions which attracted a wide age range and mix of abilities and a few older young volunteers. The club aims to teach the full process of film making to all participants, with everyone taking a turn at different roles - writing and planning, directing, camera work, acting and then editing and post-production. Participants then specialise in an area that suits them most and they form teams where each person's strengths support the others in the group.

Sessions at Chapel en le Frith after school club ran for one term from January – April, with the group working collectively to produce a magazine-style show, with features drawn from ideas across the group.

In the final term we heard that our follow-up application to BBC Children in Need had been successful and we are now promoting the relaunch of the Hadfield Saturday club in the upcoming May.

Music Arts Pod

Our brand new schools programme launched in September 2015 with funding from the National Foundation for Youth Music and Derbyshire Music Education Hub, paired with a grant from the High Sheriff Fund and a private donation. We developed partnerships with Glossopdale Community College, Buxton Community School and the Pupil Referral Unit at Chapel en le Frith to provide weekly music and arts activities for pupils who were identified as disengaged from their learning. The projects launched with a trip to Contact Theatre in Manchester to use the recording studio and work with professional musicians with different backgrounds. In the sessions that followed the young people worked with Lucy LeClaire, Eskay, G-Cut and MC Fox to learn new skills, such as programming music on software; writing lyrics about their lives, and using this to talk about 'life in general' in an open way; researching their musical influences; film, art and design skills; and instrumental skills. There were also one-to-one mentoring sessions with the artists, which helped some to plan their direction and decide to achieve more at school.



Film Cuts Club



Film Cuts Club



Music Arts Pod



Wonder.land at Manchester International Festival



Personal masterclass with Jupp from Elbow



Tall Tales

For the second and final year of funding from the National Foundation for Youth Music, we had additional funding from our Grants for the Arts fund from Arts Council England (described further below under Write to Roam). This allowed us to programme a wide range of workshops for 12 weeks on each estate of Fairfield and Gamesley, focusing on skills such as instrumental playing, vocals, sampling and digital music, drama, design and introducing the themes of the book which had been chosen by the steering group, 100% Wolf by Jayne Lyons. We recruited 28 young people into the Summer School, beginning with a trip to Manchester to work at the Art Gallery with artists Katy McCall and Andrea Pazos. The group found images and designed for the show's projections, experimenting with different ways to project image in theatre. The core of the

Summer School was based at Hope Valley college, with Paul Hine leading the theatre making and Andrew Smith leading the musical composition. We also had activities led by experienced community musicians Aidan Jolly and Caro Churchill, digital music production led by Kristian Gjerstad and the design and projections led by Andrea Pazos and Katy McCall. As the week concluded we travelled back to the towns where the workshops began.

In Gamesley we transformed the church hall into a theatre space, bringing in staging, projector, lights and black out. The local community audience packed the hall for the first show and experienced the world premiere of 100% Wolf. Two days later we took the show to the Pavilion Arts Centre in Buxton, where the young performers thrived on setting the work in a professional venue.

Write to Roam

This project is designed to support and enrich the activities of our whole youth programme in a partnership with Brighter Sound, the music organisation based in Manchester. As well as feeding funding into Tall Tales, Write to Roam supports the steering group for that project, allowing members of the project from the two different towns to meet a few times a year, to maintain the connection between the groups and plan the future direction. This year the steering group made the decision to write their own material. From this decision was born the Young Writers' Camp to run in April 2016, and which will allow us to bring young people from across all our projects together for the first time.

Write to Roam also funded:

- 1) Seeing shows. Tall Tales participants to visit shows in Manchester and beyond; July 2015, Wonder.land at Manchester International Festival; December 2015, Inkheart at the brand new Manchester venue, Home. February 2016, Bivouac, by the French street theatre company

Générik Vapeur at the Showzam festival in Blackpool.

- 2) Hosting shows. We have also been able to bring touring shows into the High Peak, with the one-woman show by Jackie Hagan, 'Some People Have Too Many Legs' being promoted by a group of students at Glossopdale Community College in May 2015. In October 2015 we took The 14th Tale, produced by Fuel Theatre in London to Buxton Community School.
- 3) Enriching the schools programme. Trips to work at Contact Theatre for the Music Arts Pod; tickets to see the Broke'n'Beat Collective at Contact Theatre in February 2016, which was a show co-produced by 20 Stories High and Theatre Rites.
- 4) Arts Award. Additional project sessions to complete Arts Awards with both the Film Cuts Club, Tall Tales and the Music Arts Pod, which included reflecting on learning, sharing a skill and reviewing live events. This year a total of 47 young people either achieved or worked towards an Arts Award at Explore, Bronze or Silver level.

high peak community arts



ACCOUNTS

Copies of the accounts for 2015-16 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, limited company and a registered charity. During the year revenue funding was received from:

Derbyshire County Council

High Peak Borough Council

White Stuff Foundation

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

Arts Council England – Grants for the Arts

National Foundation for Youth Music BBC Children in Need

Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales

Arts and Humanities Research Council Awards for All

Derbyshire Music Education Hub

Clore Duffield Poetry and Literature Awards

Derbyshire County Council High Peak Borough Council

Ernest Cook Trust Bingham Trust The High Sheriff Fund

In addition a donation was made in memory of Sally Mitchell



Supported using public funding by
**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. We strive to be accountable to our community and so we actively encourage broad membership.

Patron

Dame Joan Bakewell, Baroness Bakewell of Stockport

Ambassador

Bella Hardy, from March 2016

Trustees 2014-2015

Dawn Bryan – Chair, stepping down to Trustee November 2015

Ann Lyon – appointed Chair following AGM November 2015

Andrea Lyons – Treasurer

Pam Garside – Secretary

Robert Barton

Arthur Burns – resigned November 2015

Sarah Males

Jane Taylor – resigned November 2015

Membership

There are currently more than 200 members.

Staff

Alison Bowry – Arts and Wellbeing Programme Manager

Sophie Mackreth – Youth Arts Programme Manager

Jan Melia – Communities Programme Manager

(resigned May 2015)

Rick Seccombe – Finance and Administration Manager
(retired September 2015)

Glenn Casely – Finance and Administration Manager
(appointed November 2015)

Freelance Artists

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

OUR AIMS

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.

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High Peak Community Arts Limited

Registered Charity No. 517887

Company Registered in England No. 2036083