

# high peak community arts ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17



***'Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.'***  
**Pablo Picasso**

Throughout the High Peak there is evidence of the impact of High Peak Community Arts on peoples' everyday lives. Ceramic and felt bird boxes hang in community spaces, a silk wall hanging can be found in a local church, elsewhere can be seen glass fused decorative panels and willow sculptures. Music workshops in three local schools are encouraging young people, disengaged from learning, to be confident and creative, a young writer's camp discovers new talent and a Film Cuts Club enters films into national festivals. Our

community programmes and projects continue to inspire and involve adults and young people who would normally have limited access to the arts. They in turn reveal previously hidden talent. High Peak Community Arts demonstrates the power of art to transform lives.

The extensive and wide-ranging arts activities that inspire and involve are organised, promoted and delivered by a hard working staff team, talented freelance artists, volunteers, loyal community partners and a board of trustees. This year we are pleased to welcome three new trustees, all with much to contribute. Unfortunately Andrea Lyons leaves the board with our thanks for her valuable contribution.

No organisation can stand still and training of staff, trustees, artists and volunteers has ensured that we have continued to progress. For example, Alison Bowry attended the International Community Arts Festival in Rotterdam, and returned enthused having seen community arts from around the world. Equally, new inputs help development. Last year, the folk singer Bella Hardy, became our first Ambassador. I am now delighted to announce that she is joined by nationally renowned local poet, Helen Mort. They, along with Joan Bakewell, our Patron, will be supporting and promoting the organisation in the years ahead.

Securing funding continues to be difficult for all charities. Thanks to our committed and resourceful staff team we have been successful in bids from a number of sources, such as 'Tesco Bags of Help', and 'White Stuff Foundation' has generously chosen to continue their support. During the year a grant from Arts Council England's 'Catalyst: Evolve' saw us employ a Business Development and Marketing manager to develop new streams of income and improve communications. Caroline Storr was appointed in December and her specialist knowledge is already having a positive impact.

At the heart of High Peak Community Arts are the adults and young people who are our participants. They are an essential part of the decision making, choosing the artists and projects, performances and presentations. It is their enthusiasm and determination, which maintains the high quality of our work.

I would like to express my thanks to the trustees, the staff, the volunteers and the participants for their part in ensuring another successful year.

**Ann Lyon, Chair of the Board of Trustees**

# ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

## Arts, Health & Wellbeing Project eARTh 2:

We entered our seventh year of Project eARTh in June 2016, our exciting programme for adults experiencing mental distress or other long term conditions, with groups in New Mills and Buxton for participants across the High Peak. In Project eARTh, our participants create art work for the community. This year, this included:

- 1) Completing the willow sculptures for Whitestones Care Home: With artist Carole Beavis - a life size donkey, three sheep and two chickens - which were unveiled by the Mayor of the High Peak in Summer 2016.
- 2) Ceramic and felted birdboxes and birds: This was a large scale project with both Buxton and New Mills groups, creating ceramic bird boxes with artist Caroline



*"I learnt how to apply the glazes to create a colourful finish"*  
Participant

Chouler-Tissier, and some felted bird pods with artist Carol Wilson. Participants chose to whom they would like their bird boxes/pods donated – venues across the High Peak including Buxworth and St. Marys' ( New



*"One week it just happened, I just did it – I didn't know it was in me!"*  
Participant

Mills) Primary Schools, the Moorland Centre in Edale, High Lea Park, and The Cavendish Hospital. We held a well-attended Celebratory Exhibition of the all boxes,

plus ceramic and felted birds at Spring Bank Arts Centre on Saturday 5th November 2016, unveiled by the Mayor of the High Peak.

- 3) Fused glass: Working with artist Alex Blakey, participants in both groups made 6 large scale glass fused panels - Three for Corbar View (Community Mental Health Team) in Buxton, and three for Manor House



*"Today felt really relaxing and therapeutic, and I realised the headache I'd had for 2 days had gone"*  
Participant

Surgery in Glossop. We held a Celebratory Exhibition at Spring Bank Arts on Saturday 18th March, with the art work unveiled by Cllr Alan Barrow.

- 4) Silk painted wall hangings for Buxton URC Church: The Buxton group worked with artist Lesley Ann Withers

with silk painting inspired by looking at the close up detail of organic forms, and creating circular designs as though looking through a microscope. They also experimented with tie dye, and all the work was put together to create three panels for a newly decorated room at the URC church in Buxton, unveiled by the Mayor of the High Peak on Monday 13th March 2017.



- 5) Orchard Textiles: The New Mills group worked with artist Amanda Whewell on a textiles project. Inspired by New Mills Community Orchard, participants used hand printing, appliqué and embroidery to create separate panels, which were then sewn onto calico to make curtains for High Lee Hall. We held a Celebratory Exhibition on Thursday 27th April 2017 at Spring Bank Arts, attended by The Mayor of The High Peak.

- 6) 'Sky, Rock, Lake, Earth': The Buxton group started a project using film, poetry, visual images and music



inspired by the Peak District landscape, and by a trip to Tittesworth reservoir.

Project eARTh is funded by The Big Lottery and in-kind support from Derbyshire Community Foundation Trust (NHS).



*"Had to learn to push through barriers with perseverance – the outcome was wonderful, amazing"*  
Participant

### Creative Wellbeing:

This is our programme in partnership with Good News Family Care for homeless women, including those escaping domestic violence; and for women recovering from drug / alcohol dependency.

1) Weaving: With artist Carol Wilson, the group created a variety of woven hangings, including those using lavender as the warp, and weaving with wool.

2) Canal Boat Art: With artist Debra Tracey, participants learnt the skills of traditional canal boat art and painted coasters, jugs, planters and other objects for sale and use around the farm. This completed the funding from Lloyds Bank Foundation, 2014 – 16.

3) Willow Sculpture: With artist Christine Redstone, participants made a willow sculpture of an angel, Gabrielle, for the farm, with funding from the Jefford Weller Fund of Foundation Derbyshire



*"If a person builds up confidence in one group, they are more likely to join other groups"*  
Participant

4) Ceramic Birdbaths: With artist Caroline Chouler-Tissier, the group made two ceramic bird baths with funding from the Santander Discovery Fund.

We celebrated all these projects on Wednesday 10th May 2017, with the angel and birdbath being unveiled by Councillor Jean Todd.



*"Amazing – we were all individuals, and yet it looks like it all belongs together. I love looking at the bird bath and recognising the work of different people in it"*

Participant

### Arty Afternoons:

We ran a taster session and then a four week pilot of an intergenerational project in partnership with Glossop Art Project, for elders at Whitfield House in Glossop, and sixth form students from Glossopdale Community College. With artist Claire Isherwood, this included participants making felted flowers for a wall hanging; Christmas mobiles and paper birds; and doing ceramics, weaving, and water colour painting. The funding was from DCC Councillors Initiative Funds, and DCC Intergenerational Fund.



# ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

## Youth Arts



*"They are wonderful tutors and bring out the magic and wonder in my children!"* Parent

### Film Cuts Club:

We completed the first year of our new grant from BBC Children in Need, with Mark & Benn Turton, continuing to provide filmmaking activities in our year-round Saturday club at Hadfield, Glossop and for a term at the after school club in Chapel en le Frith High School. The groups made around 6 to 8 short films, including Pepe the Polar Bear, Alone and Chapel TV – which are all available on our Youtube channel.



*"He is so much happier in himself, since joining Film Cuts. He is proud of his achievements and feels that he really belongs and is a part of something great."* Parent

We entered 6 different films into three Film Festivals across the country – Into Film, the High Peak Independent Film Festival and the Oska Bright Film Festival.

### Music Arts Pod:

We completed the first year of our new partnerships with Glossopdale Community College, Buxton Community School and Chapel en le Frith Key Stage 4 Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), with musicians Lucy Jackson, Mitchell McLeod and Gareth Carbery, working with young people disengaged from learning. Young people worked in music and the creative arts for a whole year, and 15 achieved a Bronze Arts Award. The groups



*"The best bit was being creative with music in a chilled atmosphere where we can talk about life in general."* Participant

experienced working at Band on the Wall, with their technician and showcased their completed work – 5 poems, 6 songs, 3 films and one graphic story. We worked with teachers and our musicians to track their progress in their relationship with learning. The second of this 2 year project started in September 2016, with a new partnership with Buxton Key Stage 2 and 3 PRU.

*"We treat them without hierarchy, as equals and we've helped them develop an understanding of the role of a teacher / leader. It's helped them work through some issues at school."* Mitchell McLeod



### Write to Roam & the Young Writers' Camp:

Funding from Arts Council England's Grants for the Arts is designed to support and enrich the activities of the youth programme. This year we launched with our first ever Young Writers' Camp, based at Poole's Cavern in Buxton, where young people from across our programme and some from Manchester's Brighter

*"A horrible aura of rotting leaves turning from green to brown in a soggy atmosphere. I was there, imagining a warm aura from the sun repelling the bitterness of cold weather. I decided to escape from the temple, regretting my determination for the expedition, into an avalanche of mud and a blizzard of hailstone."* Excerpt from the Collection









# ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

Sound took part in activities inspired by the environment and created the Young Writers' Camp Collection – A Creative Commons of story ideas and characters to be used by anyone to create new work. 23 young people worked with Kristian Gjerstad, Paul Hine, Lucy Jackson and Mark Turton over 4 days roaming over the caves and woods. The final collection can be found on our Youtube channel, our website, and is available to buy in book and DVD.

Write to Roam also funded trips to see professional theatre, such as *Bedtime Stories* by Upswing Theatre, and hosted touring work in the High Peak, such as the *14th Tale* by Fuel Theatre from London.



## Tall Tales:

Our Write to Roam funding matched with contributions from the Music Education Hub and local Councilors' Initiative Funds, allowed us to deliver a third year of this popular project. Young people aged 8+ on both Gamesley and Fairfield enjoyed 10 weekly workshops in music and creative writing and then joined together at the 6 day summer school. Many participants continued from the Young Writers' Camp into these estate-based workshops, using material and inspiration from the Collection to start new work, knowing that they were working towards performing back at the same location. They worked with Lucy Jackson, Kristian Gjerstad, Andy Smith, Katy McCall and Paul Hine in writing, instrumentals, sound design and drama.



*"The children were brilliant, the whole experience was absolutely wonderful..."* Audience feedback

This year they produced the sell-out show *Mind Your Head*, hosted at Poole's Cavern in August 2016. The show brought together ideas from the Young Writers' Camp and was our first show made entirely from young people's original material.

## Arts Award and beyond...

Every project has included additional project sessions to complete Arts Award qualifications from Trinity College London. This year we had moderations in June 2016 and January 2017, with 40 young people achieving



*"Some lovely and rewarding journeys demonstrated..."* Arts Award Moderator

awards at Explore (Entry Level), Bronze (Level 1) and Silver (Level 2), with many more working towards an award, including two working towards Gold (Level 3). We also welcomed Ji-Yuan and Jae from Buxton Community School for a work experience placement, when they created our Youtube Welcome Video!

## Communities, children and families

### For the Love of Books:

In the summer of 2016 we completed our one year pilot of arts and literature workshops with three nurseries: Gamesley, Ollersett and Fairfield. The programme was run by Katy McCall with arts workshops from Najia Baji, Michiko Fuji, Anthony Hall, Jim Medway and Frances Walker. They each chose a favourite children's book and then designed a creative environment inspired by the book. The project built creative confidence in early years children and their parents,



*"The artists all brought a different approach to each session, using their artistic practice to introduce families to so many learning opportunities."*

Worker at Gamesley Early Excellence Centre

supported the skills of early years practitioners and left Book Sacks with each nursery to loan out to families. Using our learning from the pilot we successfully secured two years funding from the Ragdoll Foundation to continue the project and develop a research partnership with Sheffield University.

### The Summer Programme:

This year our yurt visited Buxton Festival with Storytelling from Gordon MacLellan; Whaley Water Weekend with a family paint workshop from Katy McCall and featuring our brand new pedal power generator with Vince Canning; and at the One World Festival hosted a 'Sustainable Energy' installation, built on the day. We also provided our customary arts workshop for Chernobyl Children's project and a Pop-up and Mechanical Cards workshop for New Mills Festival.



## Marketing & Business Development

### Fundraising:

In July 2016 we were awarded £75,200 from the Arts Council England *Catalyst* fund. This 3 year fund will boost our fundraising and business development capacity - being heavily reliant on external grants, we are keen to develop new streams of unrestricted income. In October 2016, we successfully appointed Caroline Storr to the post of Business Development and Marketing Manager and she started in post at the start of December.

Between January and March 2017, Caroline undertook online and face to face surveys to inform development of a 'Friends of High Peak Community Arts' scheme, designing payment levels and benefits. Caroline has also secured Helen Mort as a new Ambassador, started to make links with the local business community, and supported Alison and Sophie with several funding bids.

### Marketing:

Between December 2016 and March 2017, HPCA has had a number of big articles in the Buxton Advertiser and Glossop Chronicle.

In February 2017, HPCA set up its first ever Instagram account and we now have 100 followers, plus 822 followers on Twitter and 600 followers on Facebook.



## ACCOUNTS

Copies of the accounts for 2016 - 17 are available on request from the Registered Office (email your details to [glenn@highpeakarts.org](mailto:glenn@highpeakarts.org)) or can be viewed on-line via the Companies House website ([www.companieshouse.gov.uk](http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk)) and searching for Company number 2036083.

## FUNDING

High Peak Community Arts is an independent membership organisation, limited company and a registered charity (no. 517887).

During the year revenue funding was received from:

Derbyshire County Council

High Peak Borough Council

White Stuff Foundation

Along with contributions from individual donors.

We raise funds independently and additionally for all our artistic activity. During 2016-17 funding for projects was received from:

Big Lottery Fund – Reaching Communities

Arts Council England – Grants for the Arts

Arts Council England – Catalyst: Evolve

BBC Children in Need

The National Foundation for Youth Music

Santander Discovery Foundation

Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Derbyshire Music Education Hub

Tesco Bags of Help

Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales

Derbyshire Intergenerational Fund

Foundation Derbyshire – Jefford Weller Fund

Bingham Trust



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



## PEOPLE

High Peak Community Arts is managed by a voluntary board, 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

### Ambassadors

Bella Hardy, from March 2016

Helen Mort, from March 2017

### Trustees 2016 -17

Ann Lyon – Chair

Pam Garside – Secretary

Dawn Bryan

Robert Barton

Sarah Males

Maia Preston – Appointed November 2016

Lucy Rennie – Appointed November 2016

Mark Sweeney – Appointed November 2016

Andrea Lyons – Resigned September 2016

### Membership

There are currently more than 400 members.

### Staff

Alison Bowry – Arts, Health and Wellbeing Programme Manager

Sophie Mackreth – Youth Arts Programme Manager

Glenn Casely – Finance and Administration Manager

Caroline Storr – Business Development & Marketing Manager (appointed December 2016)

### 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 Ltd

High Lee Hall, St Mary's Road

New Mills

High Peak

SK22 3BW

Tel: 01663 744516

Email: [mail@highpeakarts.org](mailto:mail@highpeakarts.org)

Website: [www.highpeakarts.org](http://www.highpeakarts.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/HighPeakComArts](https://www.facebook.com/HighPeakComArts)

Twitter: @HighPeakComArts

Registered Charity No. 517887

Company Registered in England No. 2036083

