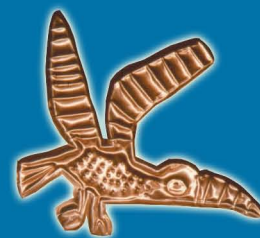


# high peak community arts ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



## ***‘What art offers is space - a certain breathing room for the spirit.’***

***John Updike***

Week by week, throughout the year, the High Peak Community Arts team engages people in the arts. Working with our community partners, including local schools, and through an extensive pool of talented freelance artists, the team delivers a wide-ranging, innovative and exciting programme of arts activities. This year’s programme included: music and filmmaking, art and ceramics, poetry and printing, felting and weaving, and embroidery. A writer’s camp, an arts summer school, and a creative writing day all enhanced the week-by-week programme. The outcomes have included: a mosaic trail, steel sculptures, a totem pole for a care home, curtains for a local church and a welcome sign for a community field. More important, but less tangible, has been the manner in which activities have engaged, and lifted people’s spirits. Many of those involved would not, otherwise, have had access to the arts. Young people, some disengaged from learning or with additional needs, the elderly, adults with health and well being needs have enjoyed stimulating arts programmes. People of all ages have worked individually and co-operatively to produce outstanding artwork.

Throughout the year, High Peak Community Arts has provided the physical space that has allowed people to enjoy and benefit from an involvement in art. It has encouraged individuals and groups to find that mental space for creativity.

The programmes have allowed people to breathe, and have raised spirits.

In addition to managing the diverse range of programmes, the staff of High Peak Community Arts work tirelessly to secure much needed funding and support from local and national businesses and organisations, as well as individuals. This year, the launch of ‘Friends of High Peak Community Arts’ and an outdoor performance of ‘Twelfth Night’ generated additional support and funding.

Behind the scenes, a Board of Trustees provides governance and advice. A team of volunteers support staff and offers much valued extra help.

High Peak Community Arts is not, though about the staff, the artists, the volunteers or the Trustees, it is about the participants. It is they who are at the very centre of the space the staff provide. It is the participants, adults and young people alike, who drive the organisation. Their enthusiasm and involvement illustrate the power the arts have to change people’s lives. It illustrates how, with the barriers to participation in the arts broken down, hidden talent is released; new interests are stimulated and high quality artwork produced.

High Peak Community Arts is, in this report, celebrating another successful year. I wish to express my thanks to the committed staff team, the trustees, the artists, the volunteers and the participants for the part they have played in ensuring our continued success.

**Ann Lyon, *Chair of the Trustees of High Peak Community Arts***



# ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

## Arts, Health & Wellbeing Project eARTh 2:

Now in its 8th year, this is our programme for adults experiencing mental distress or other long term conditions, funded by the Reaching Communities fund of the



*"I learnt how a landscape could be used as music notes"*

**Participant**

Big Lottery. We have continued to work in partnership with High Peak Community Mental Health Team, High Peak Mental Health Project and High Peak CVS. We held weekly groups in New Mills & Buxton for people across the High Peak, with free transport, and participants created art works for the community. We completed:

- 1) 'Sky, Rock, Lake, Earth', with artist Aidan Jolly: an animated

poem with music and poetry inspired by the Peak District Landscape. Launched at Poole's Cavern as part of Buxton Art Trail 2017.

- 2) Canal Boat Art, with artist Debra Tracey: learning to paint roses and castles onto tiles, jugs and planters.

- 3) Mosaic Trail with artist Debra Tracey: creating 59 mosaics for Furness Vale Community Field, with an accompanying leaflet.

- 4) 'Queen Bee' steel sculpture project with Yr 5 of Hayfield Primary school, with artist Tracey Car-



*"I Enjoyed working on the smaller details"*

**Participant**

tledge: Designing a steel sculpture for Hayfield. We had extra funding from 'Tesco Bags of Help' for this. This sculpture (together with one designed by Project eARTh adults, designed the year before), was unveiled at a Celebratory Event on April 12th 2018, with Ruth George MP, and the Chair of Derbyshire County Council, Cllr George Wharmby.

- 5) 'Uplifting Nature' with artist Elaine Lim Newton: creating three ceramic 'totem' style sculptures for the garden of Haddon Hall Care Home in Buxton, with a

Celebratory Unveiling with the Mayor of the High Peak, Cllr Linda Grooby in May 2018.

- 6) Two large Ceramic 'Welcome' signs for Furness Vale Community Field, with artist Caroline Chouler-Tissier:



*"That 'Dabbing' action (of imprinting shapes into the wet clay) I find very therapeutic. It helps my mind go quiet."*

**Participant**

unveiled and celebrated with the mosaic trail on June 12th 2018, with The Mayor of the High Peak, COGS community group, and 50 children from Furness Vale Primary School.

- 7) 'Carved From the Earth' poetry workshops with writer John Lindley: creating an anthology, with a book launch attended by Ruth George MP on March 22nd 2018.

- 8) Starting 'Bird Life' textiles with artist Amanda Whewell: printing, embroidery and appliqué to create curtains for Buxton URC church. We held a celebratory event on June 18th 2018, attended by the Mayor of the High Peak, Cllr Linda Grooby.

## Creative Wellbeing:

Continuation of our programme with Good New Family Care (GNFC), working with homeless women including those escaping domestic violence, and women in recovery from drug /alcohol dependency.

- 1) On May 10th 2017, we held the celebratory event for the ceramic bird bath, completed in March 2017 with artist Caroline Chouler-Tissier, funded by Santander Discovery Fund; Canal Boat Art made in Summer 2016 with artist Debra Pitman, funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation; and the willow angel made in Autumn 2016 with artist Christine Redstone, funded by Foundation Derbyshire. Attended by Cllr Jean Todd.





2) A creative writing project with poet Sophie Sparham, in partnership with Writing East Midlands, funded by Writing East Midlands, Aviva, HPBC and the John Booth Charitable Foundation. We held a Celebration on National Writing Day on June 27th 2018.

3) The first phase of 'Sheep to Craft', with artist Carol Wilson. A project using the fleece from GNFC's own Llyen sheep – washing, sorting, dying, and carding the fleece to then use for wet and dry felting, spinning into yarn, and then using the yarn. Eventually the project will aim to generate income from the sheep, enabling the women to learn about marketing and micro business, as well as arts and crafts. Funded by The Ashley Family Foundation, The South West Peak Landscape Partnership and The John Booth Charitable Foundation.



2) We started a project at New Mills Volunteer Centre, with artist Amanda Whewell in which participants created a textile wall hanging for the Volunteer Centre using tie dye, embroidery and silk painting. Funded by the Co-op Local Community Fund. It was completed in the Spring and unveiled on 4th July 2018 with the Deputy Mayor, Cllr John Walton.



*"This is great; very relaxing and confidence building"*  
Participant

## Together Through Art:

This is our programme with elders.

1) An intergenerational project with elders at Whitfield House in Glossop and sixth form students at Glossopdale School, in partnership with Glossop Art



*"I like having the girls with us as they show us such inspiring ways of using the materials and techniques"*  
Participant

Project, with their artist Claire Isherwood. Participants experienced a wide range of arts in weekly sessions and a celebratory event on April 19th 2018. Funded by Foundation Derbyshire, and Derbyshire Intergenerational Service.

## Other events:

We ran a day of Creative Writing with singer / songwriter Bella Hardy on the first National Writing Day on June 21st 2017. Bella ran workshops with women at Good News Family Care; children at Buxton Junior School; elders at Haddon Hall Care Home; and children and teens from our youth programme. Funded by Writing East Midlands and HPCA.

In July we also provided our annual arts workshop for Chernobyl Children's Project, with 'Chernobyl Kino' now available on our Youtube Channel.



*"When you look at a sheep, you don't think of all it takes to get to the wool."*  
Participant



# ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

## Youth Arts

There has been another busy year with news of a successful 3 year grant from the National Foundation for Youth Music (Youth Music) coming in November 2017 – this provides funding for elements of most of the youth programme.



## Film Cuts Club:

Our filmmaking club for young people with additional needs age 8+ completed its first year of a 3 year grant from BBC Children in Need at the end of April 2017, and then delivered most of the second year of activity. Filmmakers Mark & Benn Turton ran our Saturday Club in Glossop throughout the term time, moving from Hadfield Youth Club to Whitfield Pure Vibes Youth



Club in July 2017 and taking a trip to BBC Media City in Salford in December 2017. Dawn Watts from BBC Children in Need visited us in March 2018, calling in to one of the sessions at the Chapel en le Frith High School After School Club. In June 2017 two workers, a parent and a young club member attended the Creative Minds conference in Manchester to engage with the wider sector of disability arts.

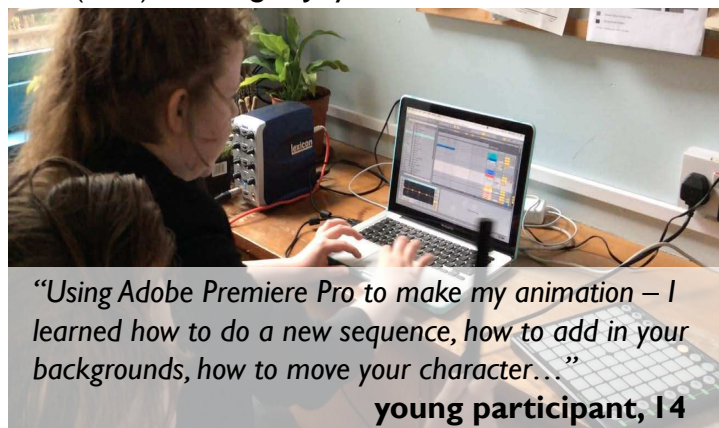
The club made around a dozen short films during the year, and showed 5 titles at the inaugural High Peak Independent Film Festival in July 2017. There was also great kudos for Mark and Benn and our youth worker

Liz Sexton-Jones when we were shortlisted for the national Children and Young People Now Awards 2017, in the Arts & Culture category, with only 3 other nominees nationwide!

## Music Arts

### Pod:

Our schools programme continues to provide music and arts activity for young people disengaged from learning. We completed funding from the National Foundation for Youth Music (Youth Music) Fund A grant, with project work delivered by Lucy Jackson, Mitchell McCleod, Gareth Carbery and Kristian Gjerstad at Buxton Community School, Glossopdale School and Buxton Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) finishing in July 2017.



The new grant from Youth Music enabled us to launch a new Music Arts Pod in January 2018, with activity in Buxton and Glossopdale continuing, and exploration with a new staff team at the PRU.









# ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

## Young Writers' Camp:

Thanks to our Arts Council England grant, we ran this progression activity for the second time for participants aged 8+ across the youth programme. It gives us the chance to create content and story ideas to use on projects throughout the year, especially the Tall Tales project. On 1st April, we held a masterclass for participants aged 13+ with Keith Saha from 20 Stories High. For those aged 8+ we took part in a R&D session with Upswing Theatre from London – having seen their Bed-



*"I'd like a chance to work on stuff for older ones, but I also really like working with the younger ones too. I like helping them learn stuff. It's good for my confidence."*

**young participant, 14**

time Stories in February 2017.

In the Easter holidays, our second full Young Writers' Camp was run by Theatre practitioner, Phil Coggins from Babbling Vagabonds, writer Lucy Jackson, filmmaker Mark Turton and musician Kristian Gjerstad. We were based at Longdendale Environmental Centre and used the setting of the woods and Crowden Outdoor Education Centre as inspiration.



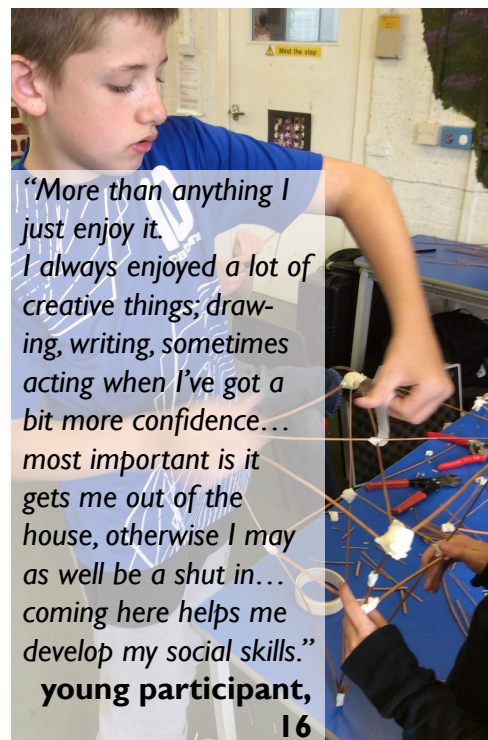
Other progression activities for participants included a trip to see Branded by Sophie Willan in June 2017 and She Bangs the Drums by Contact Young Company in March 2018. We also worked with Glossopdale School to co-host Headz from 20 Stories High in October 2017.

## Tall Tales:

We ran the 4th season of our open access, performing arts project for young people aged 8+, based on

Gamesley in Glossop and Fairfield in Buxton. We had additional funding from Derbyshire Music Education Hub, County Councillors Initiative Funds, Tesco Bags of Help and The Bingham Trust to run evening sessions with Gareth Carbery and Lucy Jackson on the two estates from April

– July. This recruited into the annual summer school in August 2017 – again based at the Longdendale Environmental Centre. The summer school concluded with a performance of 'Enchanted Gathering' – a promenade piece of music, drama and multimedia projection.



*"More than anything I just enjoy it. I always enjoyed a lot of creative things; drawing, writing, sometimes acting when I've got a bit more confidence... most important is it gets me out of the house, otherwise I may as well be a shut in... coming here helps me develop my social skills."*

**young participant, 16**



*"It's good to work towards performance because instead of everyone rambling on, you've got set goals you want to reach. And it feels amazing when you get there."*

**young participant, 15**

## Other developments:

- 1) External evaluation: This year the open programme included external evaluation from Sophie Hunter, who produced a report which is available on our website.
- 2) Arts Award: The national accreditation from Trinity College London. Through Film Cuts Club, Music Arts Pod and Tall Tales we have delivered Arts Award from Explore (Entry level 3) to Silver (Level 2) and supported a number of participants looking at working towards Gold (Level 3). We had a moderation in November 2017, with 20 Explore, 29 Bronze and 3 Silver awards gained.
- 3) Work experience: We took 2 year 10 participants from the Tall Tales project for work experience in June 2017.



# Communities, children and families

## For the Love of Books:

A partnership with early years settings in the High Peak to deliver CPD and practical arts and literacy-based activity with early years children and their families.



Karl Harris, specialist Early Years Practitioner has been managing the project, which launched in February 2018 with sessions delivered by a team of artists Daisy Strang & Frances Walker and musician Beth



*"I used to take my daughter to some Saturday art sessions at a gallery in Manchester and this really reminds me of what she was doing there. It's better here though as she has now her classmates making stuff with her."* **Parent**

Bishop. The project launched in Gamesley Early Excellence Centre, completing with a celebratory 'bring your parent to school' day and staff commented that the work had inspired new practice. The project now moves on to St George's Nursery School in New Mills and Fairfield Nursery in Buxton.

## Marketing & Business Development

This year, activities in the area of business development and marketing have accelerated due to targeted support and funding. Key highlights of this year were:

1) Signing up a new Ambassador, the very talented writer, Helen Mort. An ex-Derbyshire Poet Laureate,



Helen has been described by Carol-Ann Duffy as being "among the brightest stars in the sparkling constellation of young British poets.."

- 2) Launch of The Friends of High Peak Community Arts on September 13th 2017. To date, we have 30 Friends. Their generous support provides HPCA with a valuable source of unrestricted income.
- 3) Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night' - in High Lea Park as part of New Mills Festival 2017. Over 200 people attended this high-quality, engaging family theatre, which also helped raise our profile within the community, and raised unrestricted income from ticket sales.
- 4) Setting up a new e-newsletter which is now regularly sent out to all members who have expressed an interest in receiving it.
- 5) Successfully completing the Crowdfunding campaign for 'For The Love of Books.' The campaign exceeded the set target, raising a total of £1430 towards this project, described above.
- 6) The 2017 AGM. We brought in new attendees to our meeting with music from a talented quartet from The BBC Philharmonic.
- 7) The design and print of a new events leaflet for 2018. We worked with the professional artist and graphic designer, Rob Wilson, to come up with a leaflet template that can be used in successive years. The leaflet brought events from across the programme together in one piece of print for the first time.



*"Fantastic, the lads were so funny :) Great night, good weather n brilliant location, fab end to an amazing festival :)"* **Audience feedback**



## ACCOUNTS

Copies of the accounts for 2017-18 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  
The Friends of High Peak Community Arts  
Unite, Stockport

We raise funds independently and additionally for all our artistic activity. During 2017-18 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  
The Ragdoll Foundation  
Santander Discovery Foundation  
Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust  
Derbyshire Music Education Hub  
Derbyshire Intergenerational Fund and Older People's Fund  
Foundation Derbyshire – Jefford Weller Fund  
South West Peak Landscape Partnership Writing East Midlands  
Bingham Trust The Ashley Family Foundation  
The John Booth Charitable Foundation; Aviva Community Fund  
The Co-op Local Community Fund Tesco Bags of Help  
A private bequest from Mary Roberts and donations from Marple Runners and from individuals through crowdfunding.



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## 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

Helen Mort

### Trustees 2017-18

Ann Lyon – Chair

Pam Garside – Secretary

Lucy Rennie – Treasurer

Dawn Bryan

Robert Barton

Sarah Males

Maia Preston

Mark Sweeney

### 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

### Freelance Artists

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

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