

high peak community arts ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 19



“A simple line painted with a brush can lead to freedom and happiness.”

Joan Miro

A memorable year! The year in which High Peak Community Arts starts to celebrate 40 years of providing innovative community arts projects within, and across, the High Peak. Importantly, these arts projects are for adults and young people who would normally have limited access to the arts. The projects have created opportunities for them to draw a motif, to produce a ceramic tile, to contribute to a piece of fabric, to write a simple line.

This year's programme has sought to inspire and involve adults, some of whom are experiencing mental distress, some homeless or escaping from domestic violence, or recovering from drug abuse, by providing the space, time and structure within which they could develop their talents and secure their identity. Their achievements can be seen in the glass etching on Whaley Bridge Station, the altar frontal in St George's Church, New Mills, the silk paintings at Spring Bank Arts Centre, New Mills, and the 'rainforest' wall hanging in Fairfield Sure Start Centre. Equally, young people including those with additional learning needs or disengaged from learning grew in confidence as they created films, experienced musical performances, performed publically, for example at Manchester's Band on the Wall, and were given time to engage with writing at a Writers' Camp. Early years children and their families benefitted from practical art and literacy based activities. Then to begin marking the 40th Anniversary, a tea service project began to make ceramic

mugs and plates recording many of our past projects. For all there was 'freedom and happiness' in participating, and in creating.

It is the dedicated High Peak Community Arts staff who plan, organise and manage the varied and innovative programmes, aided by talented freelance artists, local community partners and volunteers. It is an on-going challenge for the staff team to secure funding from grant bids and the financial support of local businesses and individuals. With their resourcefulness we have guaranteed the availability of inspiring projects.

Every organisation needs a watchful eye, and behind the scenes the Board of Trustees provides governance advice and support: my thanks to them.

The dedication and energy of all has enabled High Peak Community Arts to operate over forty years.

Every year the most important people have been the participants, who are the essential part of our decision making. With enthusiasm and determination they illustrate how important the arts can be in helping us understand ourselves and find our place in society. The high quality of the artwork produced shows how hidden talent is released and new interests emerge. It starts with a simple line painted with a brush; it ends with freedom and happiness.

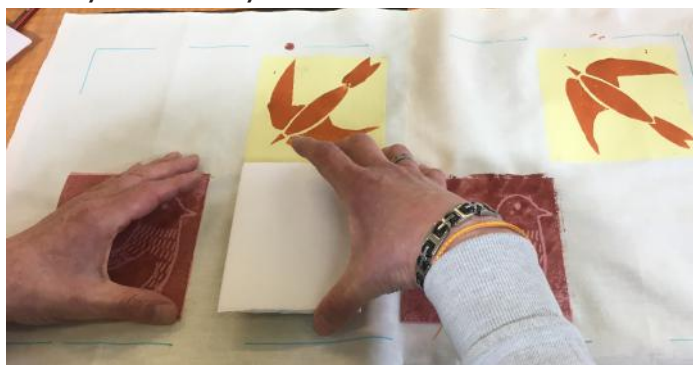
Ann Lyon, Chair of Trustees of High Peak Community Arts

ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

Arts, Health & Wellbeing

Project eARTh

This was the ninth year of our programme for adults experiencing mental distress or other long term conditions. In Project eARTh we work collectively to make art works for the community. We hold weekly groups in New Mills and Buxton for people across the High Peak with free transport provided, including a minibus from Glossop. The programme is run in partnership with High Peak Community Mental Health Team, High Peak Mental Health Project and High Peak CVS. It is funded by Reaching Communities from the National Lottery Community Fund.



This year, projects included:

- a) Completing 'Bird Life' textiles with artist Amanda Whewell: printing, embroidery and appliqué to create curtains for Buxton URC church. A Celebratory event was held on June 18th 2018, attended by the Mayor of the High Peak, Cllr Linda Grooby.
- b) Creating an altar frontal for St. George's Church in New Mills, with artist Amanda Whewell, using 'kantha' embroidered squares featuring New Mills landmarks and images, and tie dyed squares. A celebratory event was held on July 26th 2018, when the Altar cloth was unveiled by Ruth George MP and the Mayor of the High Peak, Cllr Linda Grooby.

- c) A short collage project with artist Anne Humberstone.
- d) A ceramic tiles project with artist Caroline Chouler-Tissier.

- e) Reuben's Birds – making ceramic birds for the garden at Reuben's Retreat in Glossop, with artist Caroline Chouler-Tissier.

These were unveiled by the Mayor of the High Peak, Cllr Linda Grooby on October 18th 2019.

'Love working with clay, so relaxing and absorbing' participant



- f) 'Our Window on the Valley' – glass etching to make art work for Whaley Bridge station, with artist Andy



Comley. This was unveiled on 13th September 2019 by the Mayor of the High Peak, Cllr Ed Kelly.

- g) Felted Sumatran Rainforest Wall Hangings – making three large scale wall hangings with wet and needle felting, with artist Carol Wilson. These were unveiled at the Fairfield Surestart Children's Centre by the Deputy Mayor of the High Peak Cllr John Walton on May 13th 2019.



- h) Stained Glass Inspired Silk Painted Panels – Silk paintings inspired by the Charles Kempe designed stained glass windows at Spring Bank Arts Centre, with artist Amanda Whewell. Made for the Ingham's Room at the Centre, these were unveiled there by the Mayor of the High Peak, Cllr Linda Grooby on February 28th 2019.



i) Starting a 40th Anniversary Tea Service project – making ceramic mugs and plates to celebrate projects from the past 40 years of HPCA, with artist Caroline Chouler-Tissier.



Creative Wellbeing

We continued our programme with Good New Family Care (GNFC), which has been running since 2014, working with homeless women including those escaping domestic violence, and women in recovery from drug/alcohol dependency, and other women in the community.

This year we continued with '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 and spinning into yarn. The participants learnt all the above skills, and made felted pictures, brooches, and 3D animals, this year using synthetic dyes, but planning ahead and planting at the farm



'I come stressed, and in a couple of hours, being together with other women, relaxed in the activity, I leave feeling less stressed.' participant

to enable natural dying in the next year. They also learned drop spindle spinning and made a small amount of yarn. The project aims to generate income from the sheep, enabling the women to learn about marketing and micro business, as well as

arts and crafts, and the plan is for some of the fleece from 2019's shearing to be commercially spun to sell as yarn, and to use in projects. We have created a brand name, 'Good Ewes', and chosen brown paper, hessian bags and card packaging to avoid plastic use. This year, the women made kits to sell at craft events - 'How to make your own needle felted sheep' and 'How to make your own needle felted robin', and assembled themed bags of fleece for sale. Funded by The Ashley Family Foundation, The South West Peak Landscape Partnership; and The John Booth Foundation.



Together Through Art

Programme with elders.

This year: 'Our Rivers' – we completed 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. This was



unveiled at a Celebratory Event on 4th July 2018, by the Deputy Mayor of the High Peak, Cllr John Walton. Funded by the Co-op Community Fund.

Sharing our Learning

We also gave presentations at the East Midlands Launch of 'Creative Wellbeing' the All Party Parliamentary Groups' Report from their Inquiry into Arts, Health and Wellbeing; and to Arts Derbyshire.

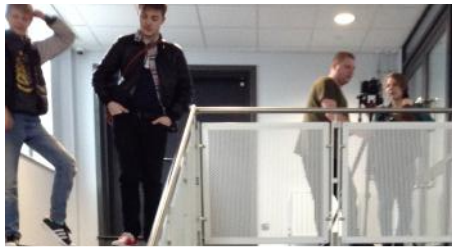
ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

Youth Arts Programme

It's been a busy year in the Youth Programme with 224 young people taking part in workshops in schools and community venues, and travelling so that participants from different towns can work together, and make performances including at New Mills Festival and Band on the Wall in Manchester. Films and music are available to see on our website and Youtube Channel.

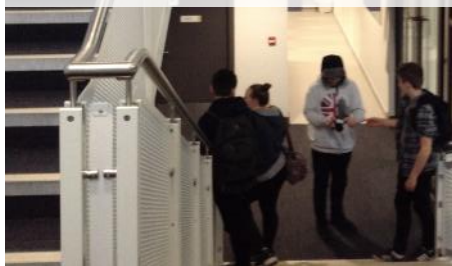
Film Cuts Club

Our filmmaking club for young people with additional needs aged 8+, run by film makers Mark & Benn Turton.



'I don't know of anywhere else where children's own ideas are allowed to develop and flourish'

Film Cuts Club parent



We completed the second year of our 3 year grant from BBC Children in Need and then delivered most of the third year of activity. Our Saturday Club ran in Glossop throughout term time, moving from Whitfield Pure Vibes Youth Club to the new Glossopdale School site in September 2018. This year we hosted a series of acting masterclasses with Liz Richardson, resident artist at Home in Manchester. The club's film, Z-Go featured at the High Peak Independent Film Festival in July 2018, where four members took part in a question and answer session. From January 2019 we ran for one term at the Chapel en le Frith High School After School Club, including a visit from BBC Children in Need. The club made around a dozen short films, submitted a



new application to BBC Children in Need in January 2019 and booked film screening dates for May 2019 in both Glossopdale and Chapel en le Frith High School.

Music Arts Pod

Our schools programme provided music and arts activity for young people disengaged from learning, working with musicians Gareth Carbery, Lucy Jackson & Mitchell McLeod and film maker Mark Turton.



We completed the first year of funding from new Fund B grant from the National Foundation for Youth Music. Two terms of activity ran at Buxton Community School and Glossopdale School, with two trips to professional performance venue, Band on the Wall, in



Manchester. We also ran two taster days at Buxton Pupil Referral Unit, producing two short animated films with original soundtracks.

Young Writers' Camp

In the Easter holidays 2018 we held this progression activity for the third time for participants aged 8+ across the youth programme. This year we chose the



theme of 'Campaigns that changed the world', inspired by

the centenary of some women gaining the vote, and used it to create content and story ideas to use on projects throughout the year, especially the Tall Tales project. We started with a trip to the People's History Museum in Manchester, followed by writing and devising activities with Writer Lucy Jackson, Film maker Mark Turton, and Musician Gareth Carbery.





ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

We also applied to Arts Council England for a Project Grant for work across the youth programme and in July received notification of a three year grant, running to 2021. This allowed us to run our first ever dedicated



writers' camp for age 13+, launching a partnership with award-winning M6 Theatre in Rochdale in October 2018, working on themes of mental

health and wellbeing.

Other progression activities for participants included hosting Black by Liverpool-based theatre company, 20 Stories High in October 2018.

Tall Tales

Our open access performing arts project for young people aged 8+, based in Gamesley in Glossop and Fairfield in Buxton.

Following the Young Writers' Camp, and thanks to the successful Arts Council England bid, we ran the 5th season



of this project from April – July on the two estates with workshops delivered by Gareth Carbery, Lucy Jackson,



Artist, Lydia Meiyng and Dancer, Trixi Bold. This evening activity recruited nearly 40 young people into a 5th summer school in August 2018. The summer school included instrumentals,

singing and song writing, drama, dance, visual art from the



same team and film making with Mark Turton. August concluded with two informal performances of 'Join the Fight', and then reconvened in September 2018 to mount the final show in New Mills Festival



– a promenade piece set in 6 different venues with a gameshow, news conference, drama, dance and music.



'The first time you have to write a word, it just seemed stupid and I didn't think I could do it – Then Lucy came to help. So then I did do it and I was happy, and then for me, it just kind of flowed out...'

Tall Tales participant (11)

External evaluation

This year the open programme included external evaluation from Nick Nuttgens, who produced a report which is available on our website.

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 2018, with 20 Explore, 13 Bronze and 1 Silver awards gained.

Work experience

We took two year 10 students from Hope Valley College for work experience in June 2018, who helped us design artwork for the Tall Tales programme and set up a crowdfunder campaign for For the Love of Books.

Early Years and Families

For the Love of Books

Our specialist Early Years and Families project visited three more settings in the High Peak. Our suite of ten sessions was delivered to children and parents/carers at a Nursery & Reception class at St George's C of E Primary School in New Mills, the Nursery at Fairfield Infant & Nursery School in Buxton and the Pre-School at Little Stars Private Day Nursery in Hadfield. The team



consisted of musician Margit van der Zwan and creative play expert Frances Walker with guidance and support from Early Years specialist Karl Harris who managed the project. Activities included story-telling, music making with percussion instruments and everyday household items, listening to cello and piano accordion, songs and rhymes, Hapa Zome print-making, large scale art using natural equipment, marbling, wild weaving, book-making and more. Metromedia Com-

munications made a short film from the sessions at St Georges. The project now moves to the Hope Valley and back to Buxton during its final phase.



Marketing and Business Development

Our Catalyst: Evolve grant continued to fund the part time post in Business Development and Communications, allowing us to build on last year's preparation and to test a wide range of income generation ideas.

1) As mentioned above our work experience pupils set up another successful crowdfunder campaign for For the Love of Books.

2) We ran 6 ticketed fundraising events including: a Sunday morning Jazz Breakfast at Spring Bank Arts Centre, New Mills; George King, Jazz pianist at Buxton

United Reform Church; three Shakespeare in the Park shows – Three Inch Fools in Buxton Fringe Festival and The Rubbish Shakespeare Company in Buxton & New Mills Festival; a Choral Christmas concert with Hayfield Singers and Duodecimo Chamber Choir at Providence Church in New Mills.



3) We ran a pay-for version of Sheep to Craft as a series of weekend courses.
4) We improved our digital tools to increase revenue – the online shop, ticket sales through Eventbrite, and a regularly scheduled e-newsletter which is available to sign up to from our website.

5) We signed up George King as a new Ambassador when he came to play for us - as a pianist and composer with an international profile his work can inspire a new generation of music makers.



6) We continued to develop our relationship with White Stuff and gained other sponsorship from local businesses such as The Cooperative and Marks & Spencer.
7) We ran Friends only offers including a studio visit with ceramicist Caroline Chouler-Tissier, and Christmas drinks at High Lee Hall.

This programme generated around £4,000 unrestricted income this year, and has the potential to continue, if we can carry on with the events, merchandising and Friends scheme after the dedicated post finishes.

Beyond the benefits of increased income the activities have also brought together our supporters, trustees and volunteers to strengthen fundraising events and merchandising. One much-loved Friend produces us handmade bags and peg-bags from recycled curtain material for our merchandise.

We have sought to balance the positive message of a strong organisation running a full and successful artistic programme, with the reality of the funding climate that we operate in. Our supporters need to know that we genuinely need their help if we hope to still be here in 5 years time.

ACCOUNTS

Copies of the accounts for 2018-2019 are available on request from the Registered Office (email susie@highpeakarts.org) or can be viewed online via the Companies House website (www.companieshouse.gov.uk, searching for company number 2036083).

FUNDING

High Peak Community Arts is an independent membership organisation, company limited by guarantee (2036083) and registered charity (517887).

During the year 2018-2019, revenue funding was received from:

- Derbyshire County Council
- High Peak Borough Council
- White Stuff Foundation
- Donations
- Sales of tickets and merchandise
- The Friends of High Peak Community Arts



We raise funds independently and additionally for all our artistic activity. During 2018-2019 projects were funded by:

- 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
- South West Peak Landscape Partnership
- Ashley Family Foundation
- High Peak CVS, 5 Ways to Wellbeing
- Derbyshire Music Education Hub
- Derbyshire Intergenerational Fund and Older People's Fund
- Santander Discovery Foundation
- Derbyshire County Council Community Priorities Fund
- Derbyshire County Councillors' Initiative Funds
- The Bingham Trust
- Carriers for Causes
- Tesco Bags of Help
- Buxton Community School
- Glossopdale Community College
- Crowdfunding campaigns



LOTTERY FUNDED



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
- George King

Trustees 2018-2019

- 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, retired November 2018)
- Caroline Storr (Business Development & Communications Manager, until December 2018)
- Susie Bennett (Finance and Administration Manager, from November 2018)

Freelance Artists

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

Website: www.highpeakarts.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HighPeakComArts

Twitter: @HighPeakComArts

Instagram: @highpeakcommunityarts

Registered Charity No. 517887

Company Registered in England No. 2036083