

# high peak community arts ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 20



**‘It’s not about standing still and becoming safe.**

**If anybody wants to keep creating, they have to be about change.’**

***Miles Davis***

High Peak Community Arts has been creating and evolving for 40 years. Determined never to rest on our laurels or stand still, we have continued to generate creative programmes that have engaged, challenged and stimulated successive groups of the adults and young people who are at the centre of all that we do. Throughout, participants and staff have been enthusiastic, open minded and positive in responding to the challenges and new ways of working that 40 years have brought.

Marking our 40th anniversary has been the defining feature of our past year. It has been a pleasure to host community celebrations of HPCA’s work since 1979. Former workers, participants, trustees and volunteers have all combined to mark our significant milestone - not only in individuals’ memories but also in a public archive that will be housed in the Derbyshire Record Office. A grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund has funded a professional archivist and we look forward to the hosting of highlights online, and a celebratory film and exhibition.

Not wanting to spend too long looking back, our artistic programme has continued to produce new work. One example is the Project eARTH’s ‘Tea Service’, which marked the 40th Anniversary. Another is the summer youth performance, which was inspired by the moon landings of 1969. In other work with young people, we have taken trips to Manchester’s Band on the Wall, to an exhibition in Rowsley and a youth seminar in Nottingham, and produced writing, film and performance. Our adult programme has installed public art in Whaley Bridge, made willow sculptures and artwork for residential settings,

enjoyed experimenting with photography, produced a calendar of original printed artwork and begun new projects in music and metalwork.

Over the past twelve months, HPCA has celebrated its past and set out optimistically on its next stage. The year ahead is unknown. The coronavirus pandemic has already changed every aspect of our daily lives and the way we work. Some projects, such as Project eARTH’s ‘creating a song’, have had to pause to meet government guidelines, being replaced by activities in smaller groups or kits to collaborate from home. Still others, such as ‘Film Cuts Club’, have been continued online, albeit in a modified form. What these adaptations show, is that HPCA will continue to change and create, whatever the framework, whatever the challenges.

My sincere thanks go to the dedicated staff of HPCA who have worked tirelessly and successfully to maintain the quality and range of interesting and exciting arts projects despite these most difficult of times.

I would like also, to thank the trustees, the volunteers, the community partners, our supporters, the artists and especially the participants for their part in ensuring another successful year.

I can assure you that HPCA will, over the coming years, not stand still. We shall continue to look to the needs of High Peak communities as it is those needs that will inform and guide the way we adapt and change whilst maintaining the quality of our community arts projects.

**Ann Lyon, Chair of Trustees**

# ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

## Arts, health and wellbeing:

### Project eARTH

We ran Project eARTH (our programme for adults' experiencing mental distress) for its 10th year, in partnership with High Peak Mental Health Project and funded by The National Lottery Community Fund.

Workshops ran for 36 weeks of the year in both New Mills and Buxton, with free transport from across the borough. Projects this year included:

**40th Anniversary Tea Service:** Both groups worked in ceramics, with artist Caroline Chouler-Tissier, to finish making High Peak Community Arts' 40th Anniversary Tea Service (see 40th Anniversary feature on page 7).



*"Giving new life to past projects, seeing what people achieved – a privilege to see work from the past and reinterpret them."*  
Project eARTH participant

**Alice in Wonderland Willow Sculptures:** The New Mills group worked in willow weaving with artist Juliette Hamilton to make life size sculptures of the Mad Hatter's Tea Party (see 40th Anniversary feature).

**Imprinting the Wild:** The Buxton group worked with artists Duncan and Emma Pass to create images by collograph and silk screen printing, with creative writing on a nature theme. We then used the images and words to create a calendar for 2020, given free to participants and



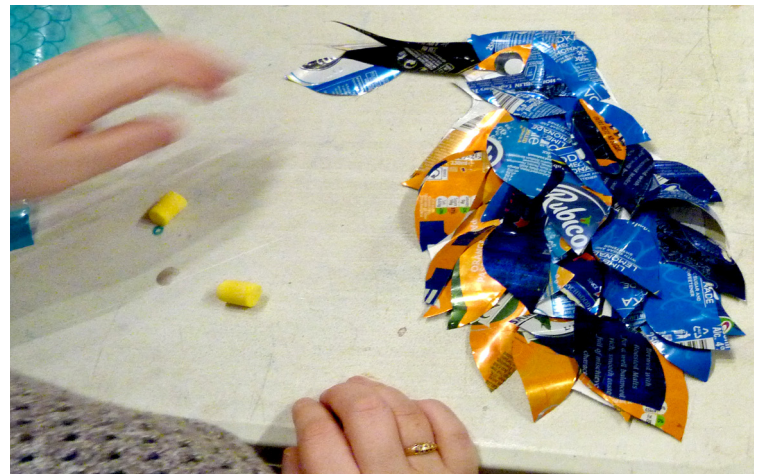
*"I learnt to think about how much you love and appreciate nature and write it down, & how to use the paints and printing machines"*  
Project eARTH participant

on sale locally. After a celebratory event the prints and calendars were also displayed during New Mills Festival.

**Birds of a Feather:** The Buxton group worked in mixed media with artist Karen Herrick, making a series of 17 framed mixed media artworks on a bird theme. The work was designed for the relatively new County Council Thomas Fields Residential Centre in Buxton, helping to adorn its blank walls. At the unveiling on November 25th by the Deputy Mayor of the High Peak, the manager reported how they immediately engaged the residents who stop to look at them all and are calmed, as they walk the corridors.



**Photography:** The Buxton group worked with photographer Josh Tomalin, using mobile phone cameras, with phones available to borrow. Participants enjoyed exploring portrait, street and abstract photography, and choosing their favourite photos for the final exhibition and printed book.



**Brookfield Pond:** In New Mills we worked in metalwork to make a sculptural relief panel for railings by Brookfield Pond in Whaley Bridge. With artist Adele Kime, this was an ambitious project in an art form new to all, with participants cutting up tin cans to use; using piping and washers, embossing in copper, hammering lead and learning a multitude of skills working with different metals (see note on COVID-19 lockdown below).



*"I liked the coming together of song. Inclusion of the flute and ukelele were inspired"*  
Project eARTH participant

**Create a Song:** The New Mills group worked with singer / songwriter Claire Mooney to create a song about Project eARTH. The songwriting was completed and participants' lyrics reflect how they feel they benefit from attending the project. They are a poignant reminder having started to record when lockdown put the project on hold (see note on COVID-19 lockdown below).



**Fused Glass Clocks:** The Buxton group worked in fused glass with artist Deborah Rogers of the Cultural Sisters, to make two fused glass clocks for GP surgeries. After exploring different ways to work with glass the group were in the middle of designing the clocks in the final sessions held (see note below).

**COVID-19 Lockdown:** Workshops stopped in the middle of March 2020 as the country 'Stayed at Home' to stop the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus. The fused glass clock and production of the Brookfield Pond railings are on hold, and we couldn't perform our celebratory song at the 10 years celebration of Project eARTH, at the end of May 2020. At the time of writing we are waiting to re-schedule these completions when it is safe to do so.

**One off workshops:** Including in pastels with artist Sandra Orme, and in cartoon / comic book drawing with artist Jim Medway.

**Etched Glass Unveiling:** The artwork, 'Our Window on the Valley', completed in winter 2017/18, was finally installed at Whaley Bridge Station, following delays including the potential breach of Toddbrook Dam in August and the resulting evacuation of much of the town. It was unveiled on September 13th by the Mayor of the High Peak and the Vice Chair of Derbyshire County Council.



### Creative Wellbeing

We continued this project with Good News Family Care, working with homeless women including those escaping domestic violence, and women in recovery from drug and alcohol dependence.

**Sheep to Craft:** Funded by The Laura Ashley Foundation and the South West Peak Park Landscape Partnership, residents, staff and volunteers worked with artist Carol Wilson to learn skills to transform fleece from Good News Family Care's sheep into crafted items.



*"Helps you focus and feel a sense of achievement when you complete a session or craft"*  
Good News Family Care resident

This included processing the fleece by washing and sorting, dyeing it with synthetic and natural dyes, carding it ready for wet and needle-felting, and spinning into yarn, both with a drop spindle and spinning wheel. With the processed fleece and yarn, they made 3D felted animals and birds; 2D felted pictures; a large scale collective felt picture; a collective woven wall hanging on the peg loom; cushion covers from pin loom squares and the rigid heddle loom; and knitted items such as hats, snoods, scarves and teddy bears. As part of an income generation initiative, the participants made and packaged needle felting kits to sell; and labelled some hand spun and dyed chunky yarn. We held a Winter Celebration in December 2019.

# ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

## Youth arts:

Much of the youth programme was supported by three year grants from both the National Foundation for Youth Music and Arts Council England. This longer term funding greatly strengthens the work and helped us to win another nomination as finalist in the Children and Young People Now Awards 2019, in the Arts & Culture category.



We also developed our partnership with M6 Theatre by travelling to do some film and animation work for them in Rochdale, and two of our Film Cuts Club alumni got places on the BFI Film Academy at Home in Manchester. Music and film material from Film Cuts Club, Tall Tales, Young Writers' Camps and Music Arts Pod are available to view on our website and YouTube Channel.

## Film Cuts Club

A filmmaking club for young people with additional needs age 8+, run by filmmakers Mark and Benn Turton. We completed the final year of our 3 year grant from BBC Children in Need at the end of April 2019, with a film screening at the new Glossopdale School site in May 2019, showing more than a dozen short films made during the year. We successfully secured funding from the National Lottery Awards for All, allowing us to re-launch the club in February 2020. We ran 4 sessions at the Vineyard Community Hub before the lockdown measures for COVID-19 stopped us meeting face to face. Plans were immediately made to re-launch with online workshops as soon as possible.

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CAMERAS ACTING STORIES DIRECTING EDITING

high peak community arts presents...

**FILM CUTS CLUB**

**Saturdays 11am - 3pm**  
**The Vineyard, Glossopdale Road SK10 6SN**

**PRODUCTION FREE**

**AGE 8+** TAKE FOR NOTHING WITH additional needs

**Dates:**  
Feb 22, 29  
7th March  
14th, 21st, 28th  
April 4, 11, 18  
May 2, 9, 16, 23  
June 6, 13, 20, 27  
July 4, 11, 18

For info call Sophie on 01663 744 516

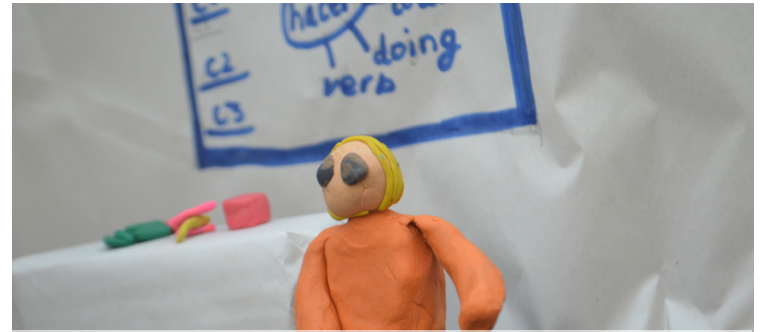
## Music Arts Pod

Our schools programme providing music and arts activity for young people disengaged from learning. We com-



pleted the second year of funding from our grant from the National Foundation for Youth Music and started the 3rd year. We secured additional funding from the Co-operative Community Fund to take the project to New Mills School.

The group from Buxton Community School completed a term of work with writer and singer, Lucy Jackson and instrumentalist Gareth Carbery, and had a trip to Band on the Wall in Manchester to try out working in a professional venue. A group at New Mills School had only just started working with Gareth and musician Kristian Gjerstad when lockdown measures for COVID-19 closed schools.



*"It was a pleasure to meet you and your young people today... you should be congratulated for the excellent work taking place."*  
Arts Award Examiner

## Young Writers' Camp

Progression activity for participants aged 8+ across the youth programme, to create content and story ideas to use on projects throughout the year, especially the Tall Tales project. This year we held our fourth full Young Writers' Camp in the Easter holidays 2019, on the theme of 'SPACE!', inspired by the 50 year anniversary of the moon landings. The camp was run by writer and



singer Lucy Jackson, filmmaker Mark Turton, musician Gareth Carbery, dancer and drama worker Trixi Bold and artist Lydia Meiying, and included a trip to Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre.

The young writers' group for age 13+ completed the script they began in 2018, working with Caroline Kennedy from M6 Theatre in Rochdale, Lucy Jackson and Mark and Benn Turton to produce a short film 'Hope in the Dark'.



# ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

*"Every year I come back because of friendships and a chance to be creative. I don't really get the chance outside"*  
Millie, 19



In October 2019, supplemented by a grant from the South West Peak Landscape Partnership, the same team ran another 13+ writers' camp, using the theme 'Local Landscape; Global Future'. The group is working on a script for filming.

Other progression activities for participants included trips to 'Surface' at the Level Centre in Rowsley in



November; and 'My Creative Future' EMPAF youth seminar on digital participation at City Arts in Nottingham; and hosting 'The Spine' by Liverpool-based theatre company, 20 Stories High in February 2020.

## 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, the same team ran the 6th season of this project from April – July on the two estates in workshops where young people tried writing, singing, instruments, art, drama, filming and dance, before signing up for our 6th summer school in August 2019 – based at Buxton Community School. 35 young people came to the summer school and created



'Come Here, Stratosphere!' - a travel show from space whose presenters get in trouble when they give away the universe's secrets. The show played two sell-out performances at Glossop's Victoria Hall and a dress performance at Buxton Community School.



## External evaluation

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



*"I go to film club, but it's good to have a live role [in Tall Tales]. The only thing is I have to make sure I get it right first time. The build up is the hardest, but when you actually do it, it's okay"*  
Mia, 18

## 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 September 2019 with 2 Explore, 32 Bronze and 1 Silver awards gained.

## Work experience

We took two year 10 students from Hope Valley College for work experience in June 2019, who helped us design artwork for the Tall Tales and shadowed workshops in schools, evening sessions and in Project eARTH.

## Early Years 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. Our early years specialist, Karl Harris and the team of Frances Walker and Margit van der Zwan completed the second year of the two year project funded by the Ragdoll Foundation, with Little Stars Nursery in Hadfield, Buxton Nursery School and Bradwell Nursery School. We developed plans to launch a stand-alone group to create our early years publication.



## Our 40th Anniversary

In 2019 we reached our milestone of 40 years providing opportunities to take part in arts and culture for the communities of the High Peak. Project eARTH created work to feature at summer Tea Parties, and in the spring we secured funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to hire an archivist and explore all the material we had in store.

**40th Anniversary Tea Service:** The Project eARTH ceramics project with artist Caroline Chouler-Tissier, created mugs and plates commemorating projects from the past 40 years. These debuted at the three Anniversary Tea Parties and are now available for all our celebratory events. So far they have been exhibit-



ed in New Mills on July 18th, during New Mills Festival in September, and were used at Project eARTH's Etched Glass Celebration in September, Photography exhibition, and Calendar Launch, as well as HPCA's AGM.

**Alice in Wonderland Willow Sculptures:** Project eARTH New Mills group also made life size willow sculptures of a Mad Hatter's Tea Party to welcome and entertain at the Tea Parties. They worked with artist Juliette Hamilton to make Alice in Wonderland, The Mad



Hatter, March Hare and a Tea Pot with Dormouse. The work was also exhibited on 18th July and unveiled in their final home in the garden at Primrose Court Sheltered Housing in Hayfield at a special tea party event on July 25th.

**Anniversary Tea Parties:** We hosted three community celebra-

tions over the summer in the town centres of Buxton and Glossop, and New Mills Town Hall. 475 local people came to celebrate our birthday including current and former participants, volunteers and 8 former staff, including our first ever worker from 1979, Gerri Moriarty. We also met new people who learned about our work for the first time, with new participants signing up for both the adult and youth programme.



**HPCA archive:** In the autumn we appointed archivist, Robert Morris, to begin cataloguing 33 boxes of stored paperwork before the transfer to Derbyshire Record Office. A selection from three boxes of videos will go to the Media Archive for Central England and chosen tapes, music, film and images will be hosted online. We look forward to completing the film, exhibition and catalogue training.



**Other events:** We also held three fundraising events, featuring Whaley Bridge Choir in June, Macbeth from the Three Inch Fools in September and High Peak Orchestra in December.

## ACCOUNTS

Copies of the accounts for 2019-2020 are available on request from the Registered Office (email your details to [susie@highpeakarts.org](mailto:susie@highpeakarts.org)) or can be viewed online via the Companies House website ([www.companieshouse.gov.uk](http://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 2019-2020, revenue funding was received from:  
Derbyshire County Council  
High Peak Borough Council  
White Stuff Foundation  
The Friends of High Peak Community Arts  
Sales of tickets and merchandise and other donations

We raise funds independently and additionally for all our artistic activity. During 2019-2020 funding for projects was received from:  
The National Lottery Community Fund – Reaching Communities & Awards for All

Arts Council England – Grants for the Arts  
Arts Council England – Catalyst: Evolve  
The National Lottery Heritage Fund  
BBC Children in Need  
The National Foundation for Youth Music  
The Ragdoll Foundation  
South West Peak Landscape Partnership  
Ashley Family Foundation  
The Bingham Trust  
High Peak CVS, 5 Ways to Wellbeing  
High Peak Locality Public Health Funds  
Derbyshire Music Education Hub  
Derbyshire County Council Adult Care & Councillors' Initiative Funds  
Buxton Community School  
The Cooperative Community Fund



## 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 2019-2020

Ann Lyon – Chair  
Pam Garside – Secretary  
Lucy Rennie – Treasurer  
Dawn Bryan  
Robert Barton  
Sarah Males  
Maia Preston  
Caroline Storr  
Jean Rushby

### Membership

There are currently more than 400 members.

### Staff

Alison Bowry – Arts, Health & Wellbeing Programme Manager  
Sophie Mackreth – Youth Arts Programme Manager  
Susie Bennett – Finance & Administration 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, 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.

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Instagram: @highpeakcommunityarts

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