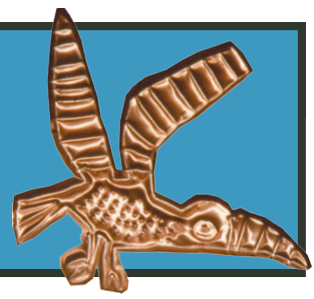


# high peak community arts ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 21



**World Kindness Day**

**Project eARTH**  
**www.highpeakarts.org**

**“To create one’s own world in any of the arts takes courage”**  
**Georgia O’Keeffe**

This has been an unusual and difficult year: a year in which the ‘courage’ to be flexible and ready to react to changing situations was necessary for art in the community to continue.

The year began as the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic hit. April saw us researching and planning a wholesale transformation of our operations, little knowing that these changes would continue for the whole year and beyond. We quickly realised that maintaining contact and continuing with activities was essential simply to help many of our participants through the isolation. Determined to continue to provide meaningful arts activities, we adapted our programmes and provided vital support to people in quarantine.

With an emphasis on staying connected and beginning with projects which could be completed at home, we matched methods and activities to suit the different groups. Postcards and kits of embroidery were sent out, telephone calls made, on-line workshops set up and Zoom discovered.

Despite the difficult circumstances, participants completed a wide range of creative projects.

For example, beautiful embroidery which made a quilt and cushions for Reuben’s Retreat and four felted pictures and online broadcasts generated by the youth programme’s online music, filmmaking, and visual arts projects.

Participants reported positively on their involvement in the projects. Some described it as a ‘lifeline’. The dedicated team of High Peak Arts employees demonstrated how, particularly at a time of crisis, their work in the community provides, a social network, friendship, the opportunity for self-improvement, and enhanced confidence as new skills were mastered. As restrictions eased, we found a way to balance the threat of Covid with people’s need to unite. We gradually moved back to face-to-face work, putting in place regular testing, social distancing, ‘bubbles’ and enhanced cleaning.

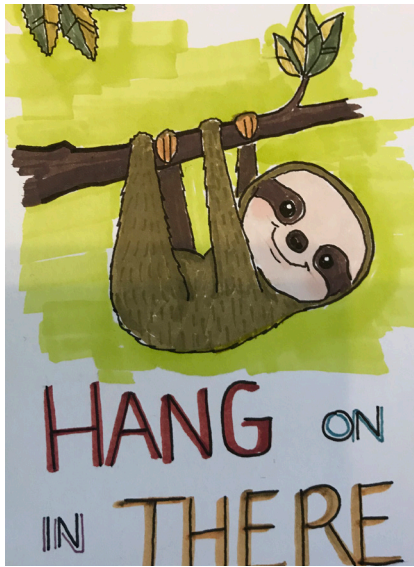
What we thought were temporary emergency changes have led to real and lasting improvements. Home projects have allowed more people to access art than before, and the benefits of working outdoors has been realised. New online adaptations particularly suit those younger people who feel comfortable online. Zoom can continue to be used for planning meetings with participants who live throughout the High Peak.

As we look forward to another year, I wish to thank the trustees for their support, advice and guidance, the artists for their imaginative projects and most important the participants for their ability to adapt and succeed. Above all, it is thanks to the High Peak Community Arts staff whose courage and dedication has ensured that we end this COVID year stronger with more extensive ways of reaching people and a richer menu for enabling people to access and learn from the High Peak Arts programmes.

**Ann Lyon, Chair of Trustees**

# ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

All our face-to-face activity was suspended in the middle of March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The early part of the year from April 2020 was characterised by consultation with participants and research into online and other outreach methods before implementing a radically different way of working. Our consultation showed us a strong need to continue work in some form and provide whatever support we could to the most vulnerable and often isolated participants across our whole programme.



For example in Project eARTh many participants do not have internet access, so we redeveloped the programme based on postal or hand delivered door to door projects, with phone calls to keep in touch. In the youth programme, online sessions began testing on 4th April and proved to be a lifeline for many through the course of the year.

## Arts, health and wellbeing:

### Project eARTh

#### Postcards

We began with a simple postcard project in which participants decorated and returned five blank postcards, which we then sent out to other participants. This worked very well and helped to cheer up people and assist in reducing feelings of isolation.



*'It was a lovely treat to receive the postcards during this dreary and anxious time. They were a ray of sunshine and a welcome way to keep in contact with people from the group other than one's close friends'*  
Project eARTh participant

#### Ugly Bug Ball

We ran a postal embroidery project on the theme of the 'Ugly Bug Ball', led by artist Amanda Whewell, with participants receiving all the materials, equipment and instructions to complete one piece of embroidery.

Several members of the community outside of the project got involved too; and it proved so popular we sent out kits for second and third pieces, eventually collecting 93 beautiful completed 'bugs' to make a quilt and cushions for the charity, 'Reuben's Retreat'.



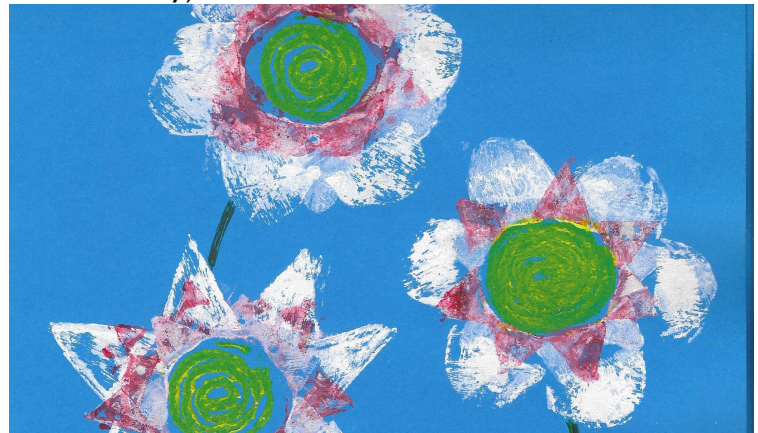
*'Loved this because we are making it for the community, for someone else. Contact with the outside in a way and hopefully a better future'*  
Project eARTh participant

#### Simple craft / writing activities

We sent out a few simple craft activities such as pom-pom making and paper bag wreaths, led by artist Deb Rogers, and some creative writing ideas, aware that not everyone was interested in embroidery.

#### World Artists for World Kindness Day

This was a seven week project for June / July, led by artist Amanda Whewell, resulting in 500 sets of 12 double sided colour coasters of participants' artwork, to give to food banks to give away on 13th November (World Kindness Day).



*'Such a good idea. Has really helped me relax for a few evenings. Very much appreciated. Thank you'*  
Project eARTh participant

Each participant was hand-delivered a kit with three creative activities inspired by seven artists from around the world (one per week). Amanda also made short films for our website, Facebook and YouTube for those who could access them.

Participants used a sketch book for their artwork, which we then collected in, and chose one image from each participant to create the coasters.



### The Felted Fall of Autumn Leaves

In the Autumn we met with smaller groups on alternate weeks to start an Autumn felting project, led by artist Carol Wilson – completed at home during the November lockdown – and making four large framed pictures of 36 completed felt squares for ‘The Vineyard’ in Glossop.

*‘Loved being back with the group, loved the step by step teaching with [the artist]. I’ve realised how much we gain from being in this room – it’s not just the artwork; it’s the support we give one another that’s priceless.’*  
Project eARTH participant



### Five Ways to Well-being Bunting

In December workshops and at home in Jan/early Feb, participants made bunting on the Five Ways to Wellbeing, led by artist Deb Rogers.

### #Showthelove

In February, we held a short ‘at home’

project with artist Deb Pitman to make postcards with messages about the Climate Emergency and our love for the planet. These green themed postcards formed a display over Valentine’s weekend for the office window of our local MP, both to send him a message about our concerns, and to show the wider public. They were then displayed in the windows of High Lee Hall.

### Mexican Embroidery

Led by artist Amanda Whewell in Feb/March, again with home kits accompanied by films, participants enjoyed an embroidery project based on the embroidery of the women in the Otomi region of Mexico. Everyone was



able to create a design, and then either embroider it themselves or pass it back, so that another participant could embroider it for them. It was decided to make this a long term projects so that participants could contin-

ue to embroider through the summer. So far we have collected 21 beautiful 30cm square pieces; again including several made by other interested community members. The resulting wall hanging will be given to The Bureau in Glossop.



*‘Amanda came with the latest project today, it was like my birthday getting a present. Time disappears alongside everything else, there is just you and a paint brush, or a needle and thread’*  
Project eARTH participant

### Blue John Weaving

This was a home weaving project on a Blue John theme in March & April led by artist Carol Wilson, again with extra time for those wishing to complete it. We aim to make a wall hanging for Castleton Youth Hostel.

### Zoom Chats

From January to March, with yet another lockdown, we also held weekly zoom ‘chats’ for those who had access to this. We had a quiz, chat and a chance for people to show each other their artwork.

### Creative Wellbeing, Sheep to Craft

This project was put on hold, as it was almost finished, and necessitated waiting for GNFC’s sheep to be sheared for its completion, which did not happen until Summer 2021.

# ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

## Youth arts:

### Film Cuts Club

Our Saturday club was the first activity to trial online workshops led by Mark & Benn Turton, starting on 4th April with a small group of mainly older young people.



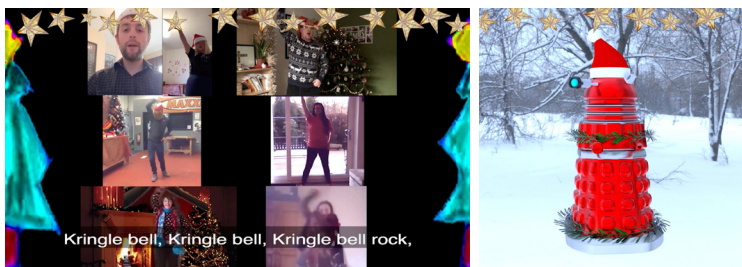
We ran online until the end of July, producing content for 'The Here, There and Everywhere Show'



– a fun magazine parody. The two part of this show were completed between September and November and broadcast online on two Friday evenings - still available on our YouTube Channel.



Continuing online sessions produced a musical Christmas message broadcast on Christmas Eve. The club then worked on things to film when face-to-face workshops



re-started. In breakout rooms we either worked in one-to-ones on participants' individual ideas or small groups, e.g. completing the script for Chef & Stones which was a story idea started before the pandemic.

Between September 2020 and January 2021 we secured a 'Covid Next Steps' grant from BBC Children in Need, a Covid Responses grant from the National Lottery and a Youth Activity Grant from Derbyshire County Council. This allowed us to launch the Social Arts Exchange (see below) as a feeder project for Film Cuts Club when it re-launched face-to-face (May 2021).

*"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your patience, positivity and enabling engagement with our students. The students' experiences are not only beneficial to their wellbeing and self-esteem, they are championing the Social Arts Exchange creative mentoring programme for their peers!"*  
Teacher from referral school

### Social Arts Exchange

A programme of one-to-one creative mentoring for young people most effected by the isolation and anxieties of the pandemic. The programme worked with partners such as primary and secondary schools to offer face-to-face mentoring with young people identified by the partner referrers. The programme was launched by artist practitioner, Frances Walker, who then led training for some of our regular artists, to develop a

small team including Lucy Jackson, Benn and Mark Turton. Most of these sessions happened in school, with some using community settings or outdoor 'walk and talk' sessions. We then signed people up to our out-of-school activity for ongoing support and the benefits of working in a social setting.

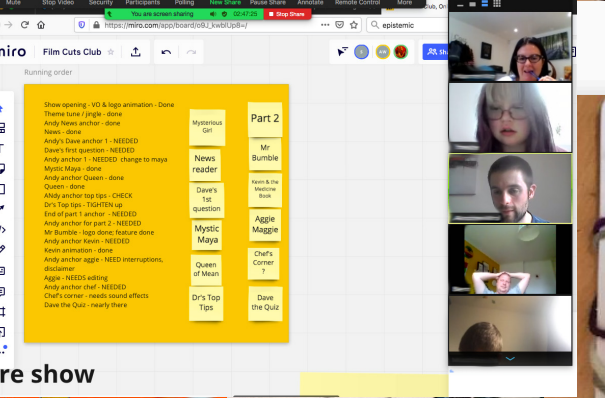


### Young Writers' Camp & Tall Tales

Our plans and theme for this year's project completely changed as most of the sessions had to be delivered online. A new theme of 'Voices of a Changing Earth' came from tester sessions in the Easter holidays with



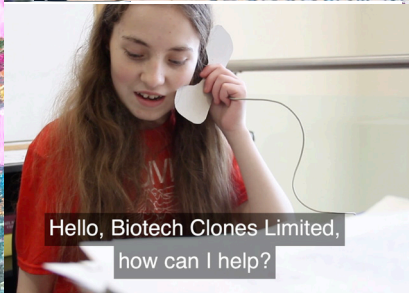
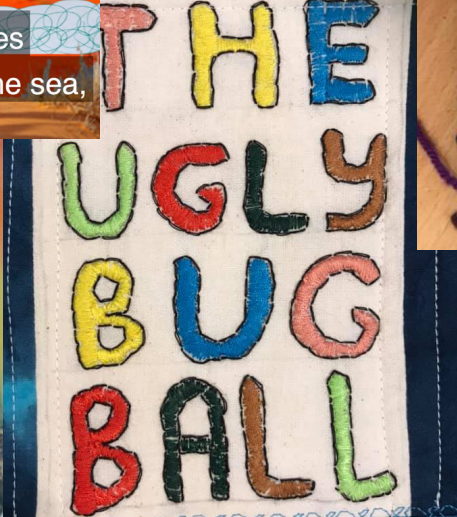
I would like to remind you that our books are read right to left as it helps the



We lived in the wild, under the trees  
Nothing could separate us, not even the sea,



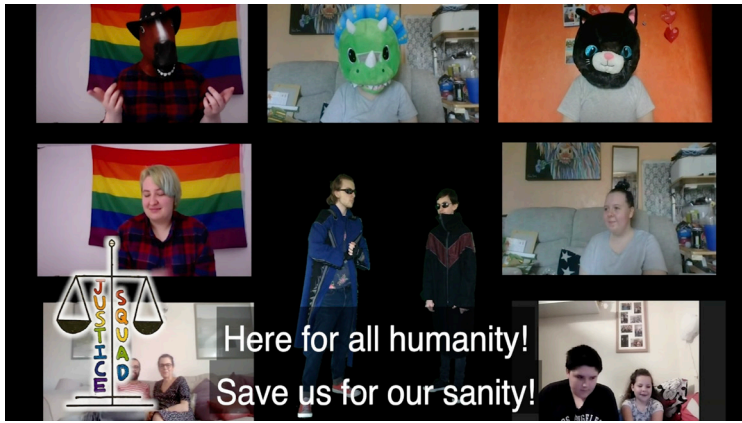
Just accept it  
and be just as you are



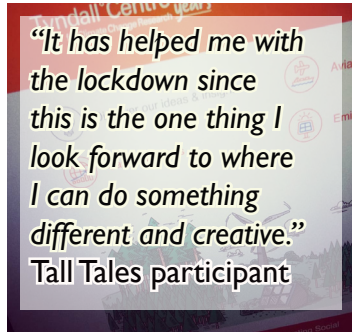
Hello, Biotech Clones Limited,  
how can I help?



# ARTISTIC PROGRAMME



our regular team of musician, Gareth Carbery, musician and writer, Lucy Jackson, filmmaker, Mark Turton, drama practitioner, Trixi Bold and artist, Frances Walker. Then evening sessions launched in May to July followed by a full four week programme for August. After initial scepticism over how collaborative workshops could work on-line, 2020 turned out to be one of the most productive



years, with the most committed participants ploughing all their energy into working in a very focussed way. In August we had a question and answer talk with Dr. Chris Jones from the Tyndall Centre, the international Climate Change research centre at

Manchester University. Then the ideas for 'Just in Time' were completed in time for face-to-face days every Friday in August, for rehearsing and recording music and



filming stories. Over three Friday evenings from 21st August we broadcast the three parts of Just in Time, which are still available on our YouTube Channel.



"Getting to talk to people and actually have something to do, and get dressed properly for, has been really helpful for my mental health." Tall Tales participant

## 13+ Young Writers' Group

The work which was begun in October 2019 with M6 Theatre was largely suspended during the pandemic, with just a handful of online 'keep in touch' sessions to look at the material which had been produced up to January 2020. These sessions allowed us to bring together the shape of the script, with a view to completing and filming in May / June 2021.

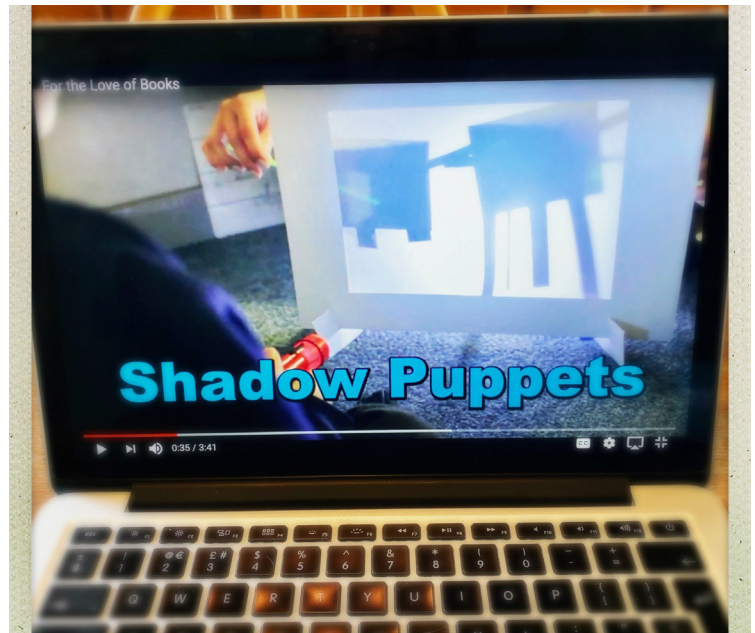


## Arts Award

We ran some online Monday sessions from January 2021, with a dual purpose to keep in touch and support young people in another lockdown, and to give something creative to work towards.

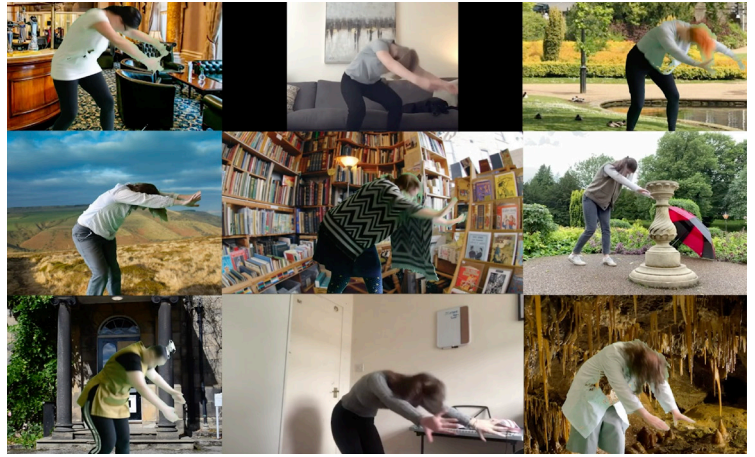
## Early year & families:

The plan for our early years programme also had to change in this year, and in May 2020 instead of face-to-face workshops the early years team of Karl Harris, Frances Walker and Margit van der Zwan, produced five 'activity sessions' each with a video and worksheets for families to follow at home. Fun Family Fridays ran for the five Fridays in May, hosted on our website, and national sites such as Be Creative and Fantastic for Families.



**HPCA archive:** Robert, our archivist, completed the cataloguing of our archive, and began the transfer to Derbyshire Record Office. We were able to share highlights of what we had found on our social media, but being able to share the archive through in-person workshops proved a little more challenging in the circumstances. We were able to remember some wonderful past projects and get in touch again with a variety of people through filming, and can look forward now to planning the workshops and exhibition.

**Other events:** All our events were suspended for this year, as we focused on supporting those most affected by the pandemic. As government guidelines on groups gathering became clearer we looked forward to re-programming the choir concert fundraiser which had been planned for April 2020.



## ACCOUNTS

Copies of the accounts for 2020-2021 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 2020-2021, revenue funding was received from:

Derbyshire County Council  
High Peak Borough Council  
The Friends of High Peak Community Arts  
Other donations and earned income.

We raise funds independently and additionally for all our artistic activity. During 2020-2021 funding for projects was received from:

The National Lottery Community Fund – Reaching Communities  
Arts Council England – Project Grants  
BBC Children in Need  
The National Foundation for Youth Music  
The Lottery Heritage Fund  
The National Lottery Community Fund – Covid 19  
Derbyshire Music Education Hub  
The Cooperative Community Fund  
The Ragdoll Foundation  
The Bingham Trust  
Buxton Community School  
High Peak Locality Public Health, Derbyshire County Council  
South West Peak Landscape Partnership

## 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 2020-2021

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  
Lidija McKnight – Fundraising and Development Manager (appointed June 2020)

### 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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Twitter: @HighPeakComArts

Instagram: @highpeakcomarts

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Company Registered in England No. 2036083



High Peak Borough Council  
*working for our community*