

high peak community arts ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 22



Photo: Tall Tales Summer School 2021

“Everything goes away: you come here; you mess with the clay or whatever; and you just focus in on what you’re doing. You get what they call ‘flow’, where the whole world just goes away for a bit and your only job is to make a beautiful thing - or just make a thing it doesn’t have to be beautiful! So, my mental health has been a lot better”

Project eARTH participant

This year has seen a great transition for the team at High Peak Community Arts as we moved premises from our home for the last 33 years at High Lee Hall in New Mills.

While it was sad to leave our familiar old place in the park, we are really enjoying our new offices at the Adult Education Centre on Spring Bank in New Mills.

Our Archiving project, launched during our 40th year in 2019, was well-timed for this move and the resources and permanent collection have now relocated to Derbyshire Record Office, where they can be accessed by anyone and can be added to as the next 40 years progress.

As always, our hardworking staff have barely missed a beat through all the upheaval and the board of trustees thank them for maintaining their usual high standards at the face to face projects - despite all the disruption.

As the government Covid restrictions gradually lifted, many projects were able to complete pieces of work which had been left in limbo in March 2020.

Project eARTH finished the song they had written and the fused glass clock, now hanging in St Anne’s Parish Centre. Film Cuts Club filmed the spoof crime drama ‘Chef & Stones’ and the 13+ Writers group filmed ‘Gone to Ground’ about our local role in the climate crisis. Both these groups carried on writing and editing the scripts over zoom – not an easy feat!

Project eARTH, Tall Tales and Film Cuts Club have had to cope with the remaining covid restrictions, but have produced

collective work, for Project eARTH in collage, print, felting, fused glass and textiles, and for Tall Tales in film, music, VR (Virtual Reality!), drama and dance.

We were especially pleased for Tall Tales to join the Our Place project, led by Junction Arts, which connected our ‘Beacons’ music video with other projects from across the East Midlands. Closer to home, Project eARTH’s artworks are hosted in more and more public spaces, from Zink Project’s new premises in Buxton, and Longdendale Environmental Centre to two public Seed Exchanges, in Buxton & New Mills, where people can donate and swap leftover seeds and seedlings.

New initiatives have grown and strengthened, such as the creative mentoring sessions hosted by local schools which are now in high demand.

We also seized the chance to recruit three new young workers on six month placements through the government Kickstart scheme. It was a good opportunity to have the perspective of a new generation at the heart of our organisation, and they each gained individually in planning their futures.

Later in the year we returned to hosting celebratory events, although on a small scale, to mark the achievements of a project.

As always, the work of HPCA would not be possible without the sterling support of the board of trustees who all work on a voluntary basis. This year we are also grateful to Derbyshire County Council for agreeing our lease at the Adult Education Centre at very short notice.

Dawn Bryan, Chair of Trustees

ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

Arts, health and wellbeing:

Project eARTH:

We started the financial year, just emerging from the third lockdown. In order to keep group numbers low, we split each group in two, initially starting with each smaller group meeting on alternate weeks.

Nurture Nature:

We did a collage and printing project with artist Amanda Whewell, creating framed pictures made by both the New Mills and Buxton groups for St. Anne's Parish Centre in Buxton.



African Art and Craft:

This was followed by a project inspired by artists from Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Tanzania. It was devised by Amanda, based on the participants' enjoyment on the World Artists' project last year, and created artwork for participants to keep.

As we found the fortnightly workshops unsatisfactory, by September we had raised more funds to instead split each town group into morning and afternoon, and hold two groups per week in each town.

Alpaca Fleece:

Each group had a workshop making 3D items from alpaca fleece, before starting other projects.

Buxton: Fused Glass Clocks:

The groups finished a fused glass clock project, which had been put on hold during lockdown, working with artist Deb Rogers to make two clocks.



This clock is now in St. Anne's Parish Centre, Buxton.

Leaf/Paper/Leaf:

The Buxton group then did a paper making and illustration project with artist Mir Jansen, creating artwork for the new premises of the Zink Project in Buxton, with a celebratory event at the end of January 2022.

Aprons:

They followed this with a project with artist Deb Rogers for the participants to make their own aprons, to wear when we do messy arts projects in the future.



Seed Exchange and Bilberry Bees:



The group then started a ceramics project with artist Roisin O' Connor to make ceramics vegetables, fruit and flowers for a 'Seed Exchange' structure for installation in the Pavilion Gardens when completed, and some ceramic bilberry bees for Buxton Railway Station.

The Seed Exchange is a shelved structure with containers where people can leave seeds and seedlings they do not need, and take any they would like to grow.

In November, we held an event to celebrate the Nurture Nature, the fused glass clocks; the song described below, and the Mexican Embroidery from

the third lockdown, completed over the summer 2021.



Longdendale Ceramic Tiles: In March, the group started to make ceramic tiles for Longdendale Environmental Education Centre, based on the wild-life to be found in the area, and led by artist Helen Newman.



From June 21 to May 22, participants reported feeling better after workshops on 96% of occasions. The proportions of participants reporting a noticeable improvement in May 22 since they first attended in three areas of their lives was as follows: i) Making connections (friendships and community) 71%; ii) Confidence and Resilience 86%; and iii) Wellbeing 79%.

New Mills:

Project eARTh Song: The groups recorded a song about Project eARTh with musician Claire Mooney – again completing a project started before the pandemic.

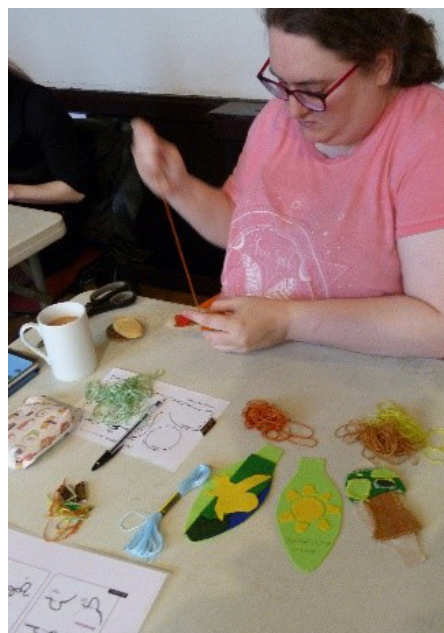
Leaf Release: In the Autumn, the New Mills group did a fused glass project with artist Kay Stowell, making small pieces to take home and a large artwork for Whitfield House, an assisted living centre in Glossop, unveiled in April.



Creative Wellbeing:

We ran a few extra sessions with artist Carol Wilson, to complete the ‘Sheep to Craft’ Project after the lockdowns. These sessions were to sort the fleece after shearing, and take it to the mill for spinning into yarn in Summer 2021. We then ran some new Sheep to Craft sessions in March 2022.

Seed Exchange: This fruit, flower and vegetable ceramic covered installation was made for Incredible Edible with Roisin O’Connor, and is sited in the Community Pantry in New Mills.



‘High Peak Communi-Tree’:

This was followed by an embroidery project making leaves for a Communi-Tree for Spring Bank Arts with artist Alison Evans. The Seed Exchange and Communi-Tree were both unveiled at the end of March.

In the Autumn / Winter 2021 we ran a ceramics project with artist Angie Hardwick, to make a large wall clock for Charis House Dining Room, unveiled in January 2022.

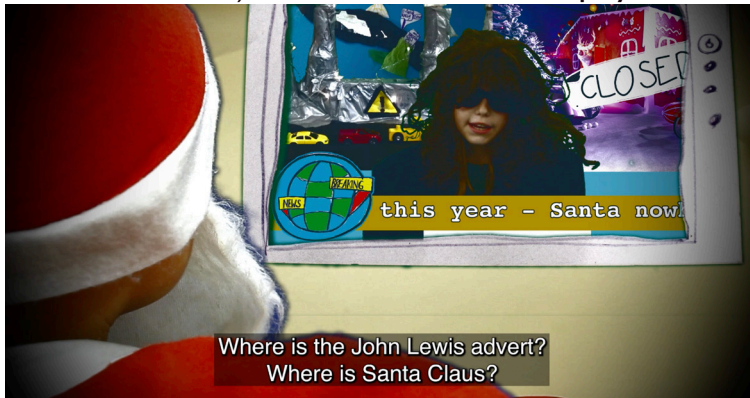
ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

Youth Arts:

The year began with continuing online workshops and outdoor meet-ups as Covid-19 restrictions were gradually lifted.

Film Cuts Club:

From April we alternated online Zoom sessions with outdoor meetups every other week, with one session a location shoot for the Chef & Stones script they had been working on since February 2020. Mark & Benn Turton re-launched face-to-face Saturday sessions at the end of May 2021. These new sessions recruited from the Social Arts Exchange, below, and we quickly had more than 20 members regularly attending. A Youth Activity Grant from Derbyshire County Council allowed us to provide transport for those outside Glossop who couldn't get to the club. During this year the group have produced a large volume of animations, short films (including *The Man Who Bought Christmas*, available on our website and Youtube channel), sketches and an audio play.



Social Arts Exchange & Music Arts Pod:



Our schools projects offered one-to-one creative mentoring and small group music and arts for young people most effected by the isolation and anxieties of the pandemic. The programme continued to work with partners such as primary and secondary schools and we strengthened the team of mentors, now including Frances Walker, Lucy Jackson, Mark & Benn Turton. Most of these sessions happened in



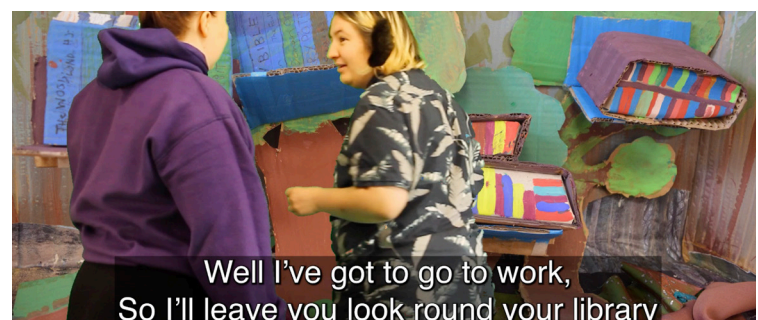
school, with some using community settings or outdoor 'walk and talk' sessions, and the Music Arts Pod started again in January 2022, with both signposting participants into out of school activity. A report of the first year of mentoring was produced by one of our Sheffield University medical students during their placement – available on our website. BBC Children in Need agreed an extension grant to continue both this and the Film Cuts Club for another year.

Young Writers' Camp and Tall Tales:

The usual Young Writers' Camp of the Easter holidays was transformed into 'Walk & Talk Creative Sessions' over three days in April. We felt travelling in a minibus was still risky, so Lucy Jackson and Mark Turton met in the morning in Buxton, and afternoons in Glossop. Although the groups missed being together, we re-connected with many young people who had not wanted to or been able to access online activity. Not all our usual venues for Tall Tales were available, so Lucy and Gareth Carbery delivered evening sessions between May and July from the Scout Hut in Fairfield, and Gamesley Community Café.

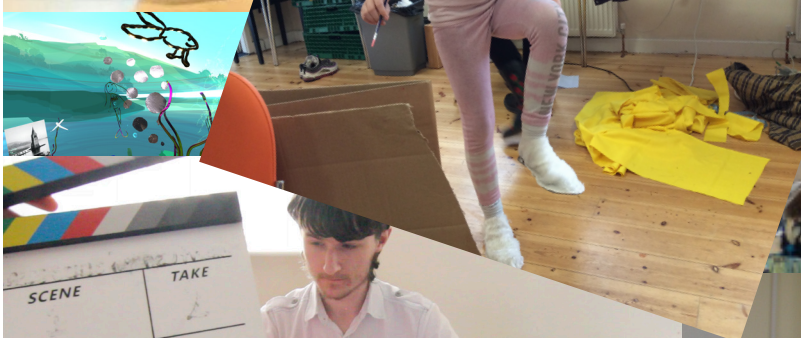


We secured a new three year grant from the National Foundation for Youth Music and thanks to additional income from the Holiday Activity Fund we were able to extend our Summer School to 8 days, and offer Youth Matters New Mills a further week of afternoon music sessions.





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all the leg room they need!



ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

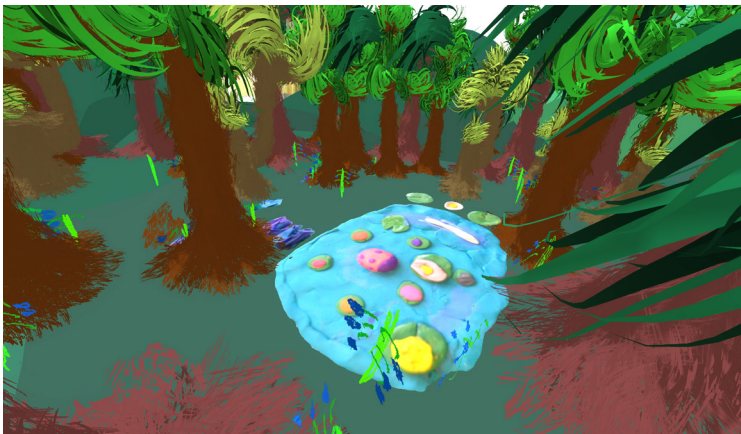


Our established team of Lucy & Gareth with Mark Turton and Trixi Bold were joined by Andrea Joseph on visual arts. Government restrictions continued for face-to-face work until the day after the summer school finished, meaning we were working with bubbles of participants. This again limited the benefit of groups coming together from different towns.



We were excited for our summer school to join the Our Place project, lead by Junction Arts, which brought together six arts organisations across the East Midlands to interpret the theme of Our Place in our individual ways. We used the opportunity to call out for a new artist to join the team, and young people of the Tall Tales steering group shortlisted, interviewed and chose

from the applications, allowing us to work with VR artist, Kayleigh Eliza from Leo & Hyde. Our finished piece of work, *Beacons – High Peak Stories* (in three parts, available on our website), features VR artwork of our iconic landscape, with magical worlds created by the young people, embedded into ‘beacons’, which transport us to the stories, dance and songs created with our usual team of expert artists. A short version featuring just one song was broadcast on 9th September with all the other Our Place contributions from Nottingham, Leicester, Chesterfield, Swadlincote, Derby and Sleaford. The full broadcast is available on Junction Arts’ Website.



13+ Young Writers’ Group:

We completed the work begun in October 2019, shooting *Gone to Ground* in June 2021, with further ‘Edit Parties’ for older members to come to our



office and take ownership of the whole process. The finished film has been screened in Glossop and at a South West Peak Landscape Partnership event, and is available on our website.



to save the environment – Act now before it's too late.

We also began a new project with Benn Turton, Lucy Jackson and Mark Turton in October 2021, with the group choosing comedy writing as a theme. These ideas will be developed and filmed later in the year.



Arts Award:

This continues to be embedded into projects, but achievement of completed awards took a back seat this year.

HPCA 40th Anniversary Archive

Although there was a bit of a hiatus during Covid, this did give Robert, our Archivist, the chance to get our material sorted out and catalogued efficiently. We were able to get moving with the project in 2021-2022 as Derbyshire Record Office was open to the public again. Robert took all our archive there (and was very pleased to finally get it all out of his dining room...) and integrated it into their current holdings.



It is now searchable on the DRO online catalogue with some selected highlights featured on our website. Anyone interested in our history can book a visit to see anything at their offices in Matlock. We also began to plan workshops to allow staff, board members and project participants to visit the Record Office, learn how to use the catalogue and order files to look at.

The People's War project is now 35 years old!

The archive is a fascinating window into the work we have done in the past, and to all the people who have been involved with High Peak Community Arts over the years. We are also working on a film about the archive, which will premiere at our AGM 2022. Future plans also include a touring exhibition of highlights from our first 40 years!



The cast of *Commutiny on the Bounty*, 1983

KICKSTART SCHEME

Kickstart placements:

At the beginning of 2021 we applied to join the DWP Kickstart scheme, under the umbrella of The Mighty Creatives, Leicester – a scheme designed to help young people aged 18 – 25 on Universal Credit to get paid work experience and develop their plans for the future. Elinor Coakley, Georgia Tyler and Luke Woolhead joined the team from August 2021 to March 2022, as two Trainee Workshop Leaders and one Trainee Project Manager. Their articles written from our newsletters are available on our website, and two of them continue to do some sessional work for us.

Relocation

On 4th February 2022 we moved from the premises at High Lee Hall, our home since 1989.

To keep the programme running smoothly, staff put in Friday overtime over a few months (with Friday morale-boosting chips!), and we have settled in at the county council's Adult Education Centre very quickly. We have three rooms which were the former IT suite and art rooms - or the old science block if you went to school there!

We are able to host larger meetings and groups than we could accommodate previously - and it's available for bookings.



Goodbye High Lee Hall.

Hello New Mills Adult & Community Education Centre!

ACCOUNTS

Copies of the accounts for 2021-2022 are available on request from the Registered Office (email your details to 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 2021-2022, 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 2021-2022 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 National Lottery Heritage Fund
Department for Education, Holiday Activity Fund
High Peak Locality Public Health, Derbyshire County Council
Department for Work & Pensions, Kickstart
Garfield Weston Foundation
The Bingham Trust
Buxton Community School
South West Peak Landscape Partnership



The Bingham
Trust



YOUTH
MUSIC



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Department
for Education



High Peak Borough Council
working for our community

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 2021-2022:

Ann Lyon – Chair (until February 22)
Pam Garside – Secretary
Lucy Rennie – Treasurer
Dawn Bryan – Chair (from February 22)
Robert Barton (to March 22)
Sarah Males
Maia Preston
Jean Rushby
Caroline Storr
Barbara Walmsley (from November 21)
Andrew Worrall (from November 21)

Membership

There are currently more than 400 members.

Staff

Alison Bowry – Arts, Health and Wellbeing Programme Manager
Sophie Mackreth – Youth Arts Programme Manager
Susie Bennett – Finance and Administration Manager
Lidija McKnight – Fundraising and Development Manager
Kickstart workers – Elinor Coakley, Georgia Tyler, Luke Woolhead

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
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Instagram: @highpeakcomarts

Registered Charity No. 517887

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