

high peak community arts ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 23



Photo: Project eARTh, silk painting

“It has helped me through dark times. It’s been very important because here I’ve felt like I’ve been listened to. I can express my creativity. They bring out the best in you.”

HPCA young participant

People across the High Peak have again benefitted from a wide variety of workshops this year, with film work, arts and writing supporting many through challenging times.

This year has been a chance to settle into our new premises and focus on the impact of our projects. New Mills Adult Education Centre has proved to be an ideal base for outreach across the district.

Project eARTh has once again created work now being enjoyed from Longdendale, New Mills, Chapel en le Frith and Buxton. They have worked with local festivals, including performance and photography at New Mills Festival and colourful flags for One World Festival and Buxton Pride Picnic. Participants from the two groups have shared work such as packs of greetings cards and poetry posters with a local primary school, their own local community groups and GP surgeries.

The youth programme has continued to release material online such as The Crown Jewels short film from Film Cuts Club (released for the Coronation). This year Tall Tales was also able to return to live performance for the first time since 2019, with an eager audience coming to see Aunty’s Antidote in Buxton.

There have been special opportunities for the adult and youth programmes to work together – with contributions from ages 0 – 90s helping to make The High Peak ABC – a beautiful publication which is now available from bookshops and our website for everyone to enjoy. As ever our committed trustees and staff team will be crucial in the year ahead in supporting our ITV public campaign for funding with The People’s Projects. We couldn’t achieve the quality of work without their efforts in working, volunteering and guiding the organisation.

Dawn Bryan, Chair of Trustees

ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

Arts and Health

Project eARTh is a community creative health project, running for over 13 years. The project's usual format is to run two weekly groups, one each in New Mills and Buxton. From April to July 22, we were still running with two smaller groups per week in each town to be more covid secure, with additional increases in costs incurred, before returning to one group in each town in September 2022. We held celebratory events at the end of each project:



Seed Exchange:

The Buxton group created a Seed Exchange. Participants worked with artist Roisin O' Connor to make ceramic vegetables, fruit and flowers for a 'Seed Exchange' structure, for Buxton's Serpentine Community Garden project. The Seed Exchange has a wonderful indoor location in The Pavilion Gardens in Buxton, with its large footfall of residents and visitors. The group also made some ceramic bil-

berry bumble bees for the Friends of Buxton Station.

Ceramic Tiles:

In March, April and May 22, The New Mills group visited Longdendale Environmental Education Centre, and then worked with artist Helen Newman to make a series of ceramic tiles for the centre and its grounds, featuring the local wildlife – birds, animals, trees etc.

Cyanotypes:

The New Mills group worked with artist Lucie Maycock to make striking blue, light-sensitive cyanotypes and then



used them to create framed collages for Arden House GP surgery in New Mills. This is the surgery attended by some of the group, who were keen to make artwork for the setting.

Shadow Puppets:

In late June and through July, the Buxton group worked with artist Tara Saunders from 'Babbling Vagabonds Theatre Company' on a shadow puppet project. This was more for fun amongst ourselves than sharing in the wider



community – and was thoroughly enjoyable making up stories, puppets, and sound effects, and then acting them out. Outside some people's comfort zones, but all got involved and surprised themselves!

Light Within:

The New Mills groups worked with photographer Josh Tomalin and dancer Courteney Cruse on a photography project in July.

Participants photographed Courteney as she danced, using 35mm film, and suggesting moods, emotions and ideas for the dance; and also wrote some short pieces inspired by the dance.

Everyone found it a most relaxing and uplifting day.

The negatives and black and white

photos printed onto clear film were then used to create light box style sculptures, and a celebratory event was held in September as part of New Mills Festival in which Courteney performed a specially choreographed dance amongst the sculptures and read a poem using participants' words.



Cyanotype Cushions:

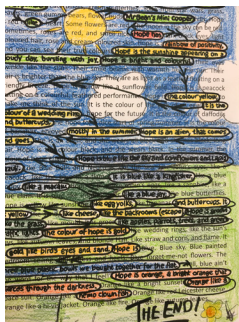
In September /October, the Buxton group worked with artist Ruth Flanagan to make cyanotype collages, printed onto cushions. The group created 10 lovely cushions, which the steering group had chosen to give to the Befriending Service at Connex in Buxton, as gifts for World Kindness Day for elderly and disabled residents. They also created individual cards to go with each gift.

In September/October, the New Mills group worked with artist Kate Freeborough to create book sculptures



The Nature of Hope:

Both groups worked with writer Leanne Moden on creative writing on the nature of hope. (Buxton in October/ November 22; New Mills in January/February 23). Leanne then collated writing from the participants into two group poems, and together with illustrations by the groups, two sets of A3 poetry posters were created. Participants have each taken home posters, and distributed others to GP surgeries and venues in their own neighbourhoods.



The New Mills groups worked with artist Naomi Kendrick in November/ December 22 on a project using a variety of drawing, painting and collage techniques to draw objects from nature. Each person chose their



favourite artwork to make into a set of 12 cards, each with 2 images. Each pupil in year 5 of New Mills Primary School was given a set of 12 cards to use as they chose. The group received a lovely set of thank you cards from the children, in return.

groups worked with artist Sara Blackburn to create silk painted banner and flags for local organisations – Buxton in January to March for Buxton Festival Fringe, Buxton Pride Picnic and Poole's Cavern and Country Park; and in New Mills in March – May 23



for the Rock Mill Centre and the One World Festival – resulting in an array of brightly painted artwork to celebrate in early June! The banners were much appreciated by the organisations.

In March, the Buxton group started working with artist Tracey Cartledge on making two 750 mm circular mosaics for Townend Community Garden in Chapel en le Frith – on the gardening theme of flowers, fruit and



vegetables. The group started with drawing, moved to collages and designs, then practised with soft mosaics, before starting with glass tesserae for the final pieces. The project continued into July 2023, unveiled in September 2023.

ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

Youth Arts & families:

A broad programme to widen access to the arts from the earliest age, with development for those interested in creative careers.

Film Cuts Club:

Thanks to an extension grant from BBC Children in Need we were able to continue our Saturday club for young people aged 8+ with additional needs, taking referrals from Social Arts Exchange mentoring and our other projects. Our regular filmmakers, Mark & Benn Turton completed the 2022 season with a screening for friends and family to celebrate the first full year back together since Covid. When we launched the new season in September 2022 we began a new format inspired by planning work by our Kickstart placements the previous year – 'The Film Cuts Course'. We started the Saturdays with two half hour 'intro' workshops – ranging from character design or model making to crewing a film shoot to audio recording and folio sound. The rest of the day was left free to develop individual



ideas. This new format helped increase productivity and stretch people to try things they weren't sure they would like. During this year the group have produced a

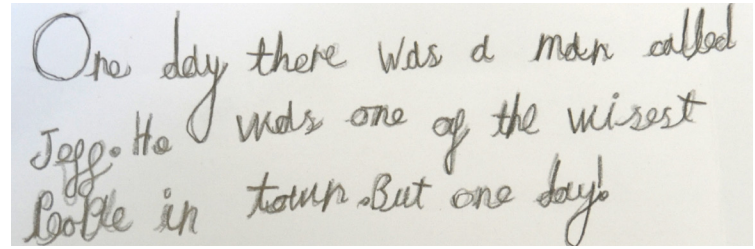
lots of animations and short films (including The Crown Jewels, released for the Coronation and selected for the Buxton Short Film Exhibition in July, available on our website and Youtube channel), sketches and an audio play.



Social Arts Exchange & Music Arts Pod:

Again the extension grant allowed us to continue the programme of one-to-one creative mentoring partnering with schools, with small group music workshops funded by Youth Music. During this period we found increasing demand from young people who hadn't returned to school after the pandemic, or were on very reduced timetables. This pattern has increased across the country, especially affecting those with autism, when there was no effective transition from primary to

secondary. Unfortunately we were not successful in our next Children in Need application and will continue to seek funds for this work.



Young Writers' Camp:

We were awarded Holiday Activity & Food funds, so we were able to increase our offer at both Easter and in the Summer, with more days and packed lunches. At Easter, Mark Turton, Lucy Jackson and Gareth Carbery lead the 2022 Young Writers' Camp for age 8+ which took the theme of My Orbit – looking at family and family

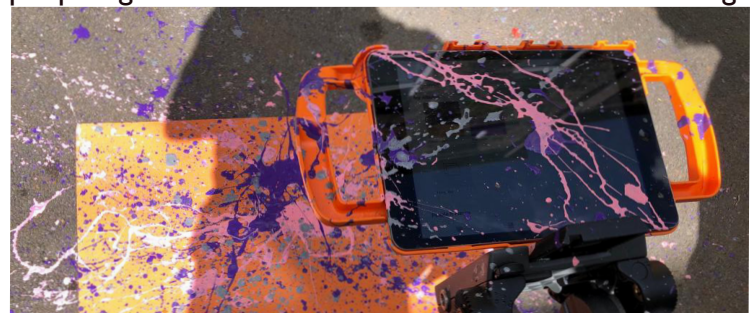


networks. We started with an inspirational trip to Leek Wildlife Park to watch the family interactions of their penguins, otters and wallabies! A further three days created a range of characters and stories which we used in the season of Tall Tales.



Tall Tales:

From May 2022 Lucy Jackson and Gareth Carbery ran 10 weeks of evening sessions from Gamesley Community Centre and Fairfield Adult Education Centre, providing the usual mix of musical instrumental playing, creative writing, song writing and visual arts for young people age 8+. It was noticeable that we were recruiting





ARTISTIC PROGRAMME



from scratch following very low levels of new contacts for the last 2 years during Covid. We also noticed that this younger age group, not only didn't have the benefit of an older cohort returning to the project, but also struggled with group work and attention spans, due to lost education over the last 2 years.

Once again we had additional income from the



Holiday Activity & Food Fund and were able to extend our Summer School to 9 days and return to live performance for the first time since 2019. Andrea Joseph, Lydia Meiying-Northall, Lucy Jackson, Mark Turton, Trixi Bold and Gareth Carbery provided the regular artforms of music, vocals, drama, dance, film and visual arts, and Leo & Hyde returned to offer us VR again. On 15th August 2022 we presented Aunty's Antidote at St Anne's Parish Hall in Buxton – taking us to the world of the Zmiry & Vovke who have to solve the mystery of an illness spreading through their communities. The full film is available on our Youtube channel.

13+ development:

Holiday Activity & Food fund also funded four days of development for the 13+ group on their comedy writing with Lucy Jackson, Benn and Mark Turton. We continue to seek funds to help develop this age-group's goals and took a trip to Touchy, by 20 Stories High in October 22.



Consultation shows a clear demand for youth-led projects, training, volunteer and paid work opportunities.

Arts Award & Young Steering Group:

We achieved our first GOLD Arts Award (level 3) this year, with Georgia Tyler who has attended projects since 2015 and took one of our Kickstart placements last year.

We also submitted 1 Silver, 2 Bronze and 10 Explore level certificates, mainly from the Tall Tales project.



We were also able to return to trips for the Young Steering Group this year, with a visit to Manchester Science Festival in October half term.

Early Years:

Following many Covid interruptions, The High Peak ABC



book project finally came together this year, funded by Arts Council England. Project Manager, Karl Harris started with Art and Music workshops for families with pre-walking babies, led by Andrea Joseph and Lucy Jackson. Lucy then continued with music workshops to produce

the ABC song and Andrea used the first mark-making of the babies as collage papers to create the illustrations for 26 letters of the alphabet.

New Mills Project eARTh group got involved by writing acrostic poems for the High Peak places and names chosen in a session led by artist Karl Harris, with another workshop at Thomas Fields Assisted Living Centre led by Lucy Jackson.

The official book launch came at the end of the financial



year in an event with our ambassador, Helen Mort. Free copies have gone to local schools and libraries and it is now on sale on our website and at local bookshops. Ongoing funding from the National Foundation for Youth Music is supporting further early years music workshops in New Mills East and Gamesley.

Our Impact

Our work in numbers

We measure the impact of our work in lots of ways, often in different ways for each funder or project. Here are some highlights to sum up the scope of our programmes.

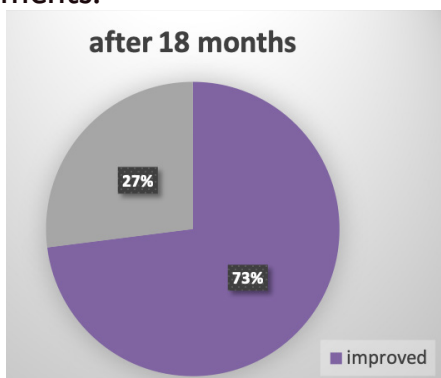
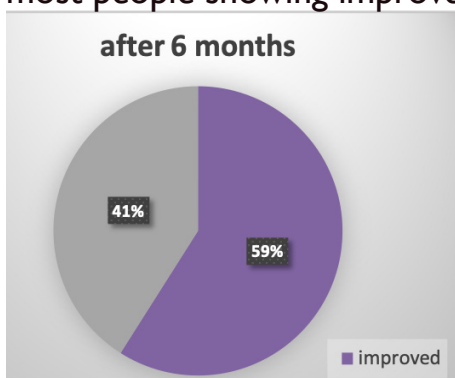
In the year 2022 - 23 we have delivered:



- 1 Participant Session = 1 person attending one half day workshop

Adult programme

Project eARTh tracks changes in participants' wellbeing, connections and confidence & resilience. Our recent 3 year review highlighted the importance of longer-term participation in improved wellbeing. Periodic reviews for each participant rate or score their wellbeing to look for changes, with most people showing improvements:



"High Peak Community Arts has been my lifeline, if it was not for the group, I would not even get dressed any more. I would give in on everything I do"

"I feel safe and relaxed in class. It gives me a sense of wellbeing that I rarely have elsewhere"

"I like making things for the community and it feels really nice to all work on a project and then give it to somebody"

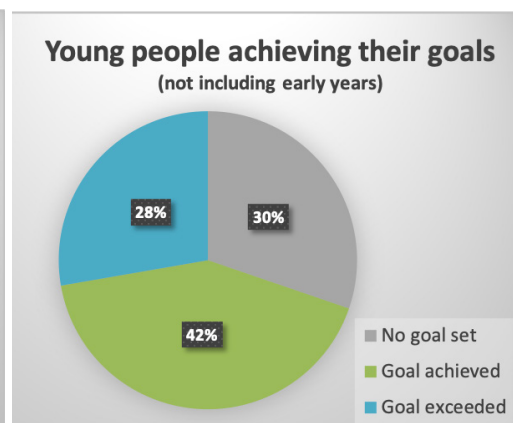
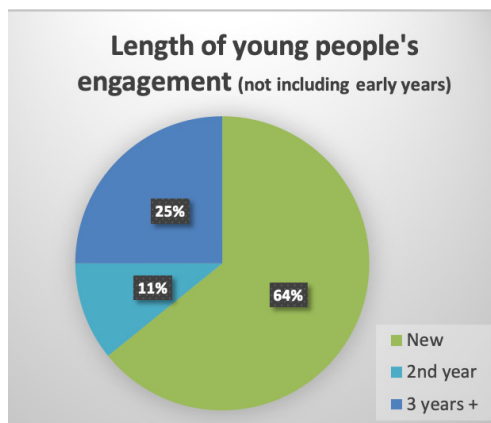
Youth programme

In different projects we rate engagement and teamwork to track changes, but across all our youth programme young people progress to setting their own personal goals.

A longer-term member, on starting to teach others in music:

"There seemed to be more interested this year & I could see their potential. While learning what I'm good at, I can also see what I'm worse at, and then I can see what other people might bring"

"Messing about [with art] sparks your imagination – you might do something you like and then stretch it further"



ACCOUNTS

Copies of the accounts for 2022-2023 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 2022-2023, 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 2022-2023 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 & Food Fund
Derbyshire Music Education Hub
High Peak Local Cultural Education Partnership
The Foyle Foundation
Erewash Voluntary Action
High Peak Borough Council Councillor's Initiative Fund
The Bingham Trust



The Bingham
Trust



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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 2022-2023:

Dawn Bryan – Chair
Pam Garside – Secretary
Lucy Rennie – Treasurer
Ann Lyon
Sarah Males - until October 22
Maia Preston
Jean Rushby
Caroline Storr
Barbara Walmsley
Andrew Worrall

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

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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