

latest news:
July-September 2005



PAINTING the town with JACOB'S COAT

Phoenix Art Group recently went on a residential trip to Stainsacre Hall near Whitby. Time to relax? – no! We spent the whole time looking at issues between Sculpture and Painting.

Working with Andy Woodcock we made a sculpture that could morph into another sculpture, with a little human intervention. A 3D puzzle, with no set rules, a game we could share with the residents of Whitby. And so on to Whitby town centre, where we displayed our work in various places, cafés, between stone pillars and outside a gallery. We let young people play in it, old people puzzle about it, school children question it, and builders laugh at it, everyone got something from it.

The work will now be touring a couple of festivals.

Phoenix Art Group are a group of artists who have suffered or come into contact with Mental Health Issues; these residencies are a welcome break from the normal pressures surrounding their lives, but as you can see they have to work hard for it.

Adrian Moule
Development Worker



SIGMA Arts and Media project

The Sigma Arts and Media project, which is managed by Moira O'Neill as part of the In:volve project, has had a very busy time over the last few months.

In June a number of its young people were taken on a residential to Helmsley where they were accompanied by Sarah McCluskey from the Headland Development Trust, Clive Hill from the youth service and artists Frazer Johnston and Bob Beagrie. Whilst they were away the young people were involved in several team building activities including bridge building and withy construction work.

At the same time over on the Headland in Hartlepool another group of young people from the project attended costume design workshops, which involved them in the creation of new costumes along the maritime theme, which were subsequently used by the circus skills strand of the project at the Lynnfield Fun Day and The Tall Ships events.

As part of the Tall Ships events, the project ran boat building workshops and also staged a day of circus skills involving the HAPPY project and Newcastle based performers Bell and Bullock. Their Marquee proved to be very popular on both days, with several generations of families becoming involved in constructing their own sailing vessel.

The project hopes to develop the work it has carried out to date, and to use some of its larger boats in the Lantern Parade in Hartlepool later in the year.

During the summer the project is running a song-writing project and is also to be involved in the raft race.



Two, one-day events presented by **tees valley arts** at the Arc, Stockton celebrating art across the Tees Valley.

creativeChange

Thursday 6th October

A day to focus on the community's younger generation plus an evening of selected performances by younger residents of Tees Valley:

For 16 – 25 year olds 1.30 – 5.00pm

Discover your creative talent and how to use it in an afternoon of FREE workshops and careers advice from some of the region's most experienced arts practitioners.

For Teachers 9.30am – 4.00pm

INSET training: workshops designed for the professional development of teachers, examining the links across arts and science. Developed to raise participants' aspirations and to challenge their preconceptions about the scope and diversity of the arts in the curriculum.

creativeChange.com

Friday 14th October, 9.30am – 5.00pm plus free evening events

Designed specifically for professionals across the North East working in the fields of social inclusion. Exploring the role of the arts in regenerating our local community and the impact of arts-based social enterprises. Featuring workshops, seminars, films, exhibitions and a panel discussion with experts from the arts and cultural industries.



Metalworks

The Metalworks team under the supervision of artist blacksmith David Stephenson, funded through the In:volve programme, have recently completed a decorative 'Metalworks' arch with seating for the walled garden at Upsall Hall Rural Centre where their forge is based.

The theme of the Swan family, who were the former owners of the hall, was used to inspire the designs and small pieces that decorate the arch. Items include the Swan family motto "Sit nomen decus", representations of the Hall's farm and gardens, children's toys, shipping interests and the thistle motif which appears in the house and grounds.

Upsall Hall is open to all visitors. For further details log on to www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/upsallhall or telephone (01642) 315481



small world: Big Drums

The group's first ever public performance took place in June at the Redcar & Cleveland Pop Up Festival at Kirkleatham. They had been working towards the event for a number of weeks, honing their skills and presentation techniques, developing their original compositions to performance level. The performance was excellent, the group really enjoyed themselves, and one of the organisers commented that they were "the best performance group of the day... they were well rehearsed and totally professional. The energy from the group was electrifying."

In September the group start rehearsing for their performance at the Arc as part of the "creativeChange.com" event, organised by **tees valley arts**. Also the creative writing group have had work published in the first two "Kenaz" magazines and are currently working towards work being published in the third magazine which will be published in November 2005.



art:works



Two Art:works projects took place in July before the summer break.

"The Works" poetry project gave children from ten primary schools across the Tees Valley the opportunity to work with Maureen Almond, a local poet currently promoting her newly published book. Workshops featured readings from a specially adapted A3 version of "The Works" which is a reflection of working-class, industrial life in Teesside after World War II. Children were able to "make their history real" by drawing comparisons between post-World War II Thornaby and their environment today.

Pupils at Gillbrook Technical College with an interest in "Eastern European Grotesque" have developed their own macabre

masterpiece "The Inheritance". Working with animator Andrew Liddell a team of students developed a short animated film that utilises a variety of film and animation techniques to create an eerie and atmospheric production. The team consisted of scriptwriters, actors, set designers and film crew and was supported by the College Drama, English and Art departments.

After the success of the Art:works Project "Faces of the Past and Present" in January, Rossmere Primary School are looking to develop a large scale project with the Education Programme at **tees valley arts**. The project is to contribute to the schools Extended School activities and will focus on aspects of the School Improvement Plan.



lesley featherstone



As some of you will know, Lesley has resigned as Director of **tees valley arts**, and has recently moved to Wells, near Bath.

Lesley started working at **tees valley arts** (then Cleveland Arts) in 1999, on the Articulate Programme and became Director in 2003. Although primarily a visual artist, Lesley was always involved in and committed to community arts projects and socially engaged creativity. We will all miss her clear thinking, her empathy and encouragement, and her regular gifts of chocolate and cookies!

Teesside's loss will be Somerset's gain, as Lesley will be working for a community arts organisation based in Radstock, and her husband will be taking up a new post in Wells Cathedral.

We gave Lesley a leaving present of a voucher for a day's pampering in a Spa, and also, since no house-move is complete without something large, awkward and unwieldy (and we're not talking husbands.....), we gave her an apple tree – our version of coals to Newcastle. We thought that she could enjoy apples from Teesside in the land of Zummerzet Zider. We also gave her a box of photos of us all, and of significant corners of the **tees valley arts** office – thanks to Adrian Moule for that. She will only have to glance at our lovely smiling faces, the fire extinguisher, the light pulls or the damp patch by the sink for it all to come flooding back....

All of us want to say thanks to you, Lesley, for all you have done here, and good luck to you both in your new lives.

All at **tees valley arts**

MIDAS

Mobile Integrated Digital Arts Studio



Four of **tees valley arts'** projects have recently had the opportunity to work with a new Mobile Digital Arts Studio. They've used the studio to develop material that promoted their work to a wider audience and encouraged them to use interactive media to communicate between groups.

The Digital Arts Studio, which includes laptops, visual arts and music software, cameras, recording equipment and printers, was funded by an award from a Ukonline/UFI partnership and included funds to support the groups to develop their digital skills and make greater use of **tees valley arts** as a Ukonline Centre.

The Groups involved were Phoenix Arts, Stockton working with the Animatus project; small world : Big Drums, Middlesbrough; Warrior Women, Hartlepool; and the Erimus House Refugee and Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Middlesbrough.



The MIDAS project used the new mobile digital studio to bring a different learning experience to some of its users and focused on creating new work to be presented online.

Using the theme of 'identity' the participants created work using music, photography, animation, video and creative writing, presented on weblogs and culminating in a joint online production.

The website, **www.midastva.co.uk**, was constructed by Steve Thompson from the University of Teesside Teesblog project as part of the **North East UK Online website**

tees valley arts can work with you to plan and set up a programme of creative activities, find a suitable artist, help to frame a budget and secure funding, and then manage the project, both artistically and administratively. If you have an idea you would like to discuss, please contact us:

c/o **tees valley arts**,
Melrose House, Melrose Street, Middlesbrough TS1 2HZ
T: 01642 264 651 F: 01642 264 955
E: info@teesvalleyarts.org.uk W: teesvalleyarts.org.uk

tees valley arts is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee

