



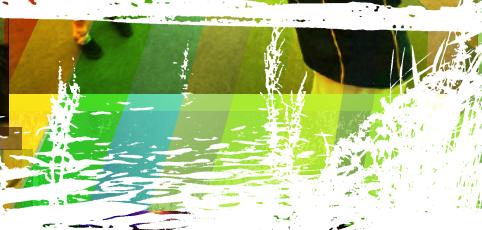
Tees Valley Arts can work with you to plan and set up a programme of creative activities, find a suitable artist, help to frame a budget and secure funding, and then manage the project, both artistically and administratively. If you have an idea you would like to discuss, please contact us:



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: www.teesvalleyarts.org.uk

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# Spring Newsletter 2008



# A note from the Director

**Yesterday was Saturday the 2nd of February 2008. The sun was out and snow was on the ground; a beautiful day, a herald of spring.**

However the more usual sombreness of the winter months seems to have penetrated my very core and I couldn't enjoy my surroundings as I usually would. As David (long suffering other half) and I walked the dog I said to him that I felt like all of my get-up-and-go had got-up-and-gone... he replied in his usual concerned manner: "That's a good one-liner you should use it in your next newsletter"! So here it is.

The circumstance behind my 'Black Dog' as one Winston Churchill called it, is borne of something a little more than the weather I fear. For it has developed as the result of a long and difficult process of trying to work in the 'Third' sector. I do wonder why Ed Miliband's office re-named it in this way... Many colleagues who share my plight of working in it, think it sounds like 'third-world' and perhaps this unfortunate reference to poverty is more resonant than you might first expect.

I don't mean to sound like a disenfranchised cynic. But I guess it's a bit late for get-me-out-of-jail-free-cards...

When I arrived at Tees Valley Arts in 2005 it was to be my first experience of the voluntary and community sector. I had all sorts of plans in my head to make things better; more efficient, more accountable and above all; more sustainable. I had come from a background in the Public Sector, education mostly and immediately before I came to TVA I had sat on the other side of the fence within a fund giving body. Within Aimhigher I had set up fair systems for receiving and appraising funding applications and had worked closely with key delivery bodies to whom we allocated managed funds. I managed an annual budget of £2.2 million pounds. As a consequence of this experience I (and presumably the interview panel) thought I had the knowledge and skills to work through public sector partnerships to develop strong and coordinated programmes of work that would sustain Tees Valley Arts as a key 'provider' of public services. Little did I know how 'closed shop' the whole business is when looking down the other end of the telescope. However I always knew how hard it was for partners to develop funding applications, I spent hours with many of them working with them to produce good projects that I knew the appraisal panel would take notice of. And if they were unsuccessful spent more time still, going over the comments of the panel and providing productive feedback.

All applicants and indeed all partners were constantly thanked: "Without your support, interest and hard work we would not be able to achieve our objectives and have the impact we need to make"... was a passage I often used in partnership correspondence. I have always respected the enormous 'speculative' contribution partners (applicants) made, often unsalaried as many were within the voluntary and community sector.

Now I am feeling it from the other side. And make no mistake I am rarely 'thanked' for my (and my organisations) speculative work... hours and hours of work. At the December '07 ACEVO 'Funding the Future' conference I heard that the hit rate for funding applications is now 1:10 and getting harder. That return on invested hours is not sustainable as anyone with an ounce of business acumen will realise.

And then we heard the minister's message about public sector commissioning - loud and clear! It felt like a stay of execution - we could bring added capacity and innovation to our local authorities and provide a valued service with increased social return on the public's investment...

Not surprising then that some of us got together to see if we could make some kind of sensible joined up service provision for the region - we understood that the public sector might find us fragmented and difficult to work with due to the scale of our different operations. We talked to the people we needed to talk to... we got buy-in for our innovative and proven approaches to persistent social problems. We went through approval mechanisms to ensure our 'quality'. But we got nowhere fast.

During a conference workshop and after an encouraging address by Margaret Hodge, I asked Francis Runacres, Director of Investment at the Arts Council England what he thought about the Arts Sector and public commissioning and whether he could provide any guidance as to how we could go about it (in the face of my recent defeat) he said he didn't know what I meant... and that he would get back to me... I'm still waiting.

I would like to hear from arts and wider cultural organisations who have attempted to make in-roads into public service delivery... if you've been successful I'd like to learn how... if you've been unsuccessful and share some of my frustrations perhaps more voices add weight to our cause?

Meanwhile... read on about some of the great work that we manage somehow to continue, and which given the recognition it deserves could reach a lot more people.



Rosi Lister  
Executive Director

# Welcome to Joe... our new Heritage Officer



We are thrilled to announce that Joe Dunne has been appointed as our new Heritage Officer. Joe has an MSc in Managing the Environment from Aberystwyth University and a BA (Hons) in Fine Art from the University of West England, Bristol. Joe has travelled widely and has been involved in the running of conservation and community education projects in Tanzania and New Zealand as well as back here in the UK. Joe's most recent experience was working as an Education Ranger at Conkers Discovery Centre in Derbyshire.

We are looking forward to Joe coming up north, taking up his position (mid March) and getting his feet under the table with all our Tees Valley Heritage & Environmental partners.

David Braithwaite, RSPB Saltholme site manager and interview panel member said "Joe's skills and experience span both the Arts and Heritage sectors; this ability to speak both 'languages' makes him ideal for this unusual position".

## In the offing... Creative Industries: Routeway to Employment

A new initiative may be about to unfold for Tees Valley unemployed people aged between 19 and 25. TVA is one of a portfolio of organisations from the voluntary and community sector who have been included as sub-contractors for the employment organisation Talent @ Work, based at Royal Middlehaven House, Middlesbrough in a million pound bid to the DWP.

If successful, TVA will be asked to provide sector specific (Creative Industries) engagement and training activity for unemployed groups in the Tees Valley.

Similar to our tried and tested Gallery TS1 programme, the Creative Industries Routeway to Employment scheme will bring professional artists, designers, designer-makers and other creative professionals together with young adults who may not consider themselves employable. Trainees will learn through the Arts Award and gain both employability skills and vocational skills that can get them onto a college course or into a job.

Fingers crossed!!

Fingers crossed!

# Professional Development & Training

## The SEA programme:

### Socially Engaged Arts continuous professional development programme

TVA offer a comprehensive CPD programme for artists and creative practitioners who are working already or aspire to work within a social context. By this we mean, we are experts in delivering professional development and training for artists who wish to work in schools, hard to reach or 'at risk' community groups, and/or who wish to become involved professionally with strategic arts development, events management and cultural education.

SEA (Socially Engaged Arts) CPD (Continuous Professional Development) Programme 2008-09 launched in February with a 1 day project development and bid writing training day and continues on March 11th with a day looking at developing your project's budget the full cost recovery way! All training days take place at Tees Valley Arts. For further information and to book a place on the training days please contact Anne Marie Wilson on 01642 264 651 or annemarie.wilson@teesvalleyarts.org.uk. Future courses will be advertised on TVA's website.

## More Professional Taster Courses for the Creative Industries:

TVA has been commissioned by Cleveland College of Art & Design to develop a portfolio of eight higher-level-skills taster sessions for creative industry professionals in the Tees Valley.

The themes of the sessions will be based on the findings of a specially commissioned report - and will look at areas such as leadership, management and generic business skills for the Creative sector. One of the sessions will focus on the needs and opportunities of the Freelancer. This programme of training is a part of the Higher Level Skills Pathfinder Project.

TVA has been commissioned by Arts Council England North East to facilitate a training day for its very newly formed Culturally Diverse Festivals Network - this will take place on March 13th in one of our lovely new training rooms. Areas to be addressed include event and risk

management, monitoring and evaluation, and marketing. Members of this group are diverse and the size and scope of the festivals they represent is diverse also, but the network is an opportunity for us to all improve our knowledge and understanding, and hence improve our delivery, whatever the nature of our events.

TVA is also involved in an application to the One North East Cultural Volunteering programme in partnership with Visit Tees Valley who are the lead partners in this application. Our project would be based on a broadly similar model to Gallery TS1, delivering key skills (towards employability) through creative engagement and volunteering. Activities will be aimed at under 25s, so we will use the Arts Award as a tool of progression.

Keep a look out on our Website (under training & professional development)  
[www.teesvalleyarts.org.uk](http://www.teesvalleyarts.org.uk) for further details and additional training opportunities.

# Programme Notes

New Year - new (nearly) offices, new activities, new partnerships, new fund raising, new Education Officer, new coffee machine...who can say which will bring us the most lasting joy? (And just in case you're wondering, the new Education Officer is just ahead of the pack so far!) I'd also like to welcome the new Projects Officer - Tim Coyte - who has of course been with us for some time, but is now stepping in to a new role, and very well too.

We've just recruited a new Heritage and Environment Officer, and this experience, alongside a host of artist residency recruitments, has led me to consider the art/ science of applying for jobs. We are compiling a list of things not to do - a 22 page CV, a CV including a page of GCSEs (failed), an explanation of why you wouldn't do the project as outlined but in some completely other (and vastly more expensive) way, an application from mainland Europe for a Saturday morning project in Darlington - these are all sadly true.



Which brings me on to a fairly new area of work for TVA - Continuing Professional Development training for artists and other freelancers. We are dipping our toes in the water - I am delivering a session on funding/ project development to the MA in Creative Writing students at Teesside University, and TVA is currently advertising two training events on our website - Socially Engaged Arts programme. Who wouldn't want the benefit of our experience?



Activities continue apace - highlights have included the unfailing success of Gallery TS1 (bravo to Robin Vickers), commissioned by Middlesbrough Council, the funding for which finishes soon, sadly. Approximately 250 young people have passed through Gallery TS1, all of them in some way vulnerable or disengaged, and over 90% have gone on to re-engage or to enrol with mainstream provision. Tony Goode, Arts Award Moderator, recently said -

**'This is the second time that I have visited candidates working from Gallery TS1 and I was again impressed by the quality of care and attention which candidates brought to compiling their folders, as well as the real excellence of the adviser and professional artist support to the young people...there is clear evidence of young people being stretched but enjoying themselves immensely.'**

**An excellent centre with a knowledgeable, committed and professional staff.'**

We are working with the Environment Agency to appoint an artist to liaise creatively with the community in Skinningrove to help design a 'trash-catcher' - actual technical term, which is fun and a really positive partnership development. Another highlight amongst a host of developing/ developed projects is 'South Bank Live' - a photography and creative writing project initiated by photographer Adrian Clarke, whose controversial book 'Gary's Friends' was extensively reviewed and debated in the broadsheet press last year.

Finally, WorldFest 08 - delivered in partnership with African Arts Association and Middlesbrough Council - faces a funding challenge brought about by the events at Northern Rock, as do many other arts initiatives previously funded by the excellent Northern Rock Foundation (as Joanie says, you don't know what you've got till it's gone). However, the festival is being supported by Arts Council England North East and Middlesbrough Council (big thanks), will be contributed to by acts/ activities led by Creative Partnerships and Sage Gateshead, and we are conducting a campaign for business sponsorship with brilliant support from Proportion Marketing (visit [www.worldfest.co.uk](http://www.worldfest.co.uk) to see how you can help). Worldfest 08 will take place over May Whit weekend (May 23-25th), and will be co-promoted with Middlesbrough Music Live (Sunday June 1st), which is another excellent new partnership.

Lots of good news, many challenges!

**Rowena Sommerville**  
Director of Programmes



Jane Gray has recently been appointed Education Officer at Tees Valley Arts. Jane has worked in the arts for over eight years, and comes to Tees Valley Arts from an Arts Development role for young people in Ryedale, North Yorkshire. Her experience has been largely in theatre, including Birmingham Repertory Theatre (Education Department) and prior to this, at The Barbican Theatre and Royal National Theatre in London.

Here Jane outlines

## The Education of the Education Officer

English - A's and B's (top set, thoroughly engrossed in literature and language, partly thanks to Dad, who was an English teacher and partly due to teenage crushes and angst, which began my love of writing poetry - thank you Jonnie)

Drama - A's and B's (built my self-esteem and confidence, utterly lost myself in it and was largely responsible for my subsequent career in the arts)

Music - A's and B's (inherited a love of music, Mum plays the piano beautifully, played the piano and violin and had a brief spell with the North Yorkshire County Youth Orchestra)

Maths - C's (middle-set, basic knowledge but struggled with more complex maths which had an impact on confidence and self-esteem)

Science - C's (middle-set, disengaged, with the notion that Science was for the clever kids, and I definitely wasn't one of them - or so I thought at the time)

As is rather evident, my natural ability and passion led me to arts-based subjects, whilst I steered away from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects, with a belief that I wasn't 'clever enough' to do them, which ultimately resulted in disengaging from those subjects and not achieving as well as I might have done.

The arts are a powerful tool for learning, and teaching, non-arts curriculum subjects, and at Tees Valley Arts, we're passionate about the impact that the arts and culture can have on wider learning. We are currently developing a project in partnership with Durham University, Queen's Campus, Stockton and Stockton Children's Services. Bringing artists, scientists and teachers together, we are developing a programme of study that enables young people to access the Biomedical Sciences in an innovative and creative way, with the aim of raising aspirations and achievements and highlighting the Sciences as a potential career path. The recent £140m strategy outlined by Schools Minister Jim Knight highlights the commitment from Government to increase the number of young people studying science and maths post-16, and to improve results at GCSE as well as increasing the number of teachers and CPD opportunities those teachers have. This project aims to address all of those aims, and if successful, we will look to broaden the project across the Tees Valley to enable as many schools and students as possible to participate and have the opportunity to succeed in science.

I can't help but feel, that had this project been running whilst I was at school, I may have achieved much more in science, and who knows the wondrous discoveries I would have made...which takes me to my final point; that imagination and creativity are intrinsically linked to science, and what incredible opportunities are waiting to be found.

## Opportunities for Schools

### evolve: exploring science through the arts.

Our artists will work with your teachers to develop a programme of innovative and creative sessions for your group. Suitable for all key stages and all abilities. See [www.evolveprogramme.org.uk](http://www.evolveprogramme.org.uk) for further information.

### art:works: tailor made projects for schools

Would you like the opportunity to work with a professional artist in your school? You may want to create artwork to display in school, look at issues in a creative way or study a topic using the arts. We can tailor-make projects to suit your needs, using visual arts, drama, music, voice, creative writing and more!

### Artsmark

Is your school applying for artsmark? If so, we can help. We are able to give professional support to schools applying for artsmark status.

### Arts Award

Remember that TVA is also an Arts Award Adviser Training Centre and can offer in-house as well as nationally coordinated adviser training. See [www.artaward.org.uk](http://www.artaward.org.uk) for more information about the Arts Award and contact us if you would like to be an Arts Award Adviser.

#### Jane Gray

Education Officer



## Green Hearts

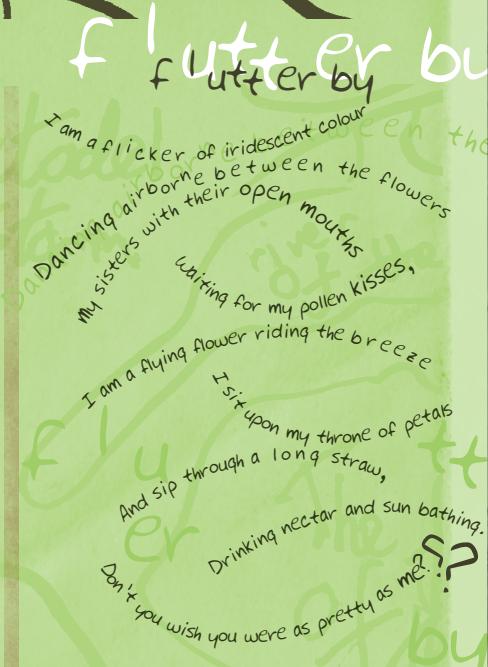
The Green Hearts project is bearing its final fruits. A manual has been created which features step by step instructions for a series of engaging eco-arts activities. Exercises include "How to make a Green Man Mud Mask" and "How to explore acoustic ecology".

The manual has been distributed to Green Hearts schools and will provide a teaching resource for creative learning in green spaces.

Green Hearts aims to increase access to wildlife sites, encouraging the involvement of the local community. Twelve hundred leaflets containing work from pupils from four Tees Valley schools have been distributed through Preston, Lockwood, Park End and Ormesby Primary Schools; children will take the leaflets home to show to their families; this will hopefully encourage families to visit their local green spaces.

Four thousand leaflets have also been distributed to libraries, leisure centres and other public venues across the Tees Valley.

The leaflets contain some wonderful poetry produced by the children as part of Green Hearts.



Tasmine Williams  
Lockwood Primary School

Green Hearts is just the beginning!  
Tees Valley Arts has just recruited a new Heritage Officer; we look forward to more exciting projects for 2008 and onwards.

# Environmental

## Skinningrove Flood Defence Project

Tees Valley Arts are developing an exiting new project in partnership with the Environment Agency.

A sculptor will work closely with the community of Skinningrove and the Environment Agency to create designs for a trash catcher! The trash catcher is part of the Flood Defences for Skinningrove Beck and will incorporate artwork from Skinningrove school children, family groups and pigeon fanciers!

TVA are looking into some interesting ways of disseminating the designs to the community including printing designs on paper at the local chippy!

**Tim Coyte**  
Projects Officer

## The Tees Valley, Higher Apprenticeships in Arts Management

January 28th, 2008 saw the start of the third cohort of the Tees Valley graduate arts management training scheme, delivered in partnership between Tees Valley Arts, Darlington Council, Hartlepool Council, Middlesbrough Council, Redcar and Cleveland Council and Stockton Council arts teams; supported by Arts Council England and the European Social Fund through the Cultural Sector Development Initiative.

Over the next 12 months, Helen McBride, Michael Edwards, Nichola McIntosh and Suzanne Hutton will take placements in the Arts departments of the Local Authorities across the Tees Valley, gaining experience of managing arts projects of all shapes and sizes. The programme is coordinated this year by Caroline Pearce.

Helen, of Middlesbrough and Nichola, of Hartlepool, both have backgrounds in drama and dance; Michael is a creative writer from Stockton and Suzanne is a fine artist from Gateshead. They are all looking forward to meeting people and developing skills and experience which can help them manage their own arts practice, as well as developing projects for other participants and artists.

Excitingly, this year will also focus on developing their skills at managing events and festivals as they take part in a wide range of the flagship events across the sub-region, including TVA's Worldfest, Hartlepool Maritime Festival, Middlesbrough's AV festival and Northern Screenwriters' Conference, Stockton's SIRF, and Take Off festival of theatre for children and young people in Darlington.

Alumni from the previous two years are extremely successful arts project managers in the Tees Valley and beyond. Watch this space for the leaders of the future!



## Creative Partners for Progression

'Creativity - a skill for life?' is a conference to be held at The Sage Gateshead on March 17th 2008.

It is an event focussing on the role and use of creativity to guide people young and old into and through higher education. Speakers will discuss how creativity can be a tool for subjects of all disciplines, from nuclear physics to humanities, to help people determine their future.

The event will also inform educators and career guidance professionals about the extent and range of opportunities available in the arts and creative industries. A web based toolkit

resource will be launched to help keep careers advisors up-to-date.

The Creative Partners for Progression project has been funded by HEFCE and provides a partnership between Creative Partnerships and Aimhigher. Managed by Caroline Pearce and Scott Illingworth, this event brings other partners, including Arts Council England and the National Arts Learning Network, to provide collaboration and clarity for information, advice and guidance of today's young people.



creative partners  
4 progression