

April – June 2004  
news



# projects 2004

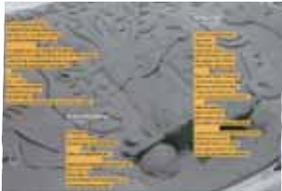


## Path in the Dark, an Anthology by Parents @ SureStart

Abingdon / Breckon Hill / St.John's Gate Middlesbrough 2003/04

*"SureStart gives me hope"*

Path in the Dark is a collection of poems, writing and pictures by parents at SureStart. The writing and images represent their involvement with SureStart and how it has changed their lives. Working with poet, Maureen Almond and ceramic artist, Judy Caplin, parents wrote about their experience of SureStart and designed and made a ceramic wall relief, which has been installed in the Middlesbrough SureStart Centre.



Together their writing and the ceramic wall relief echoes the journey the parents have made. The publication was designed by Circulation, and copies are available from SureStart, Middlesbrough and **tees valley arts**.



## Blackspot

New creative residencies with the Metalworks and Inkspot groups will begin during June alongside some IT workshops that will support the development of a website. Metalworks will be working with artist David Stephenson, building on the skills that led to the launch of their sculpture at Upsall Hall, earlier this year. Ink Spots will work with Kerry Flear to address their marketing needs in a creative way.

## Phoenix Arts

Phoenix Arts is now open for a full day each week. The morning session is open, for participants to pursue their own work, whilst the afternoon session, run in conjunction with the Tees and North East Yorkshire Health Trust, is a closed session, with selected participants, supported by Care Workers. The afternoon group are currently working with artist Gail Henderson, looking at gender issues and working with life models. The Project Co-ordinator, Adrian Moule is promoting the facility to potential partners, recently giving a presentation to the Mental Health Promotional Network, attended by 80 people, and is working on a CD that will be used for promotional purposes. He has also been investigating links with services for refugees and people seeking asylum and organisations involved in working with people with alcohol and drug related problems. The group have visited the artists studios in South Shields to investigate the development of a similar facility in Stockton, and are planning trips to art galleries and a residential weekend. They have also been looking for premises and forging relationships with local artists.



## Projects with Young People

**Hartlepool Teenage Parents Project:** six "taster" sessions have taken place, where two artists, Bob Beagrie and Adrian Moule, worked with 10 parents and their children. The group members are keen to continue to meet, to record and illustrate their ideas, and to develop opportunities for performance, exhibition and publication. *"Can we write a proper book?"*

**Gallery TS1:** This will be an arts apprenticeship scheme for young people, operating throughout the summer holiday period in Middlesbrough. The project broadly aims to motivate and inspire young people through cutting edge creative arts

opportunities, developing skills, revealing talent and building self-confidence through training and 'work type' experience. In a specially created, visible town centre location, participants will attend training sessions each weekday to learn specific / professional / commercial arts and crafts skills that enable them to create saleable arts items for display / sale in an on site shop. Participants will be able to choose from six projects within which they will learn specific crafts and skills. This project is in partnership with Middlesbrough Council, Community Cohesion, the Arts Council, Middlesbrough Youth Service and Connexions.

## In:volve: You Are Here

**tees valley arts** has commissioned work from two artists to promote Refugee Week, Monday 14th to Saturday 19th June 2004. Local visual artist Helen Shannon, and poet / performer / broadcaster Ian McMillan, the legendary Bard of Barnsley and 'beat poet' with Humberside Police have both produced work that responds to the experiences of refugees and people seeking asylum. Helen has created five poster designs which will be displayed on the backs of ten Arriva buses travelling throughout the Tees Valley during June. The images explore a sense of loss of comfort and safety, and of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, through the use of abandoned toys in hostile landscapes. Helen uses colour in the images to heighten a sense of coldness and distance, and to express the shared humanity of all people.

Ian McMillan will be our guest writer in the Tees Valley during the week beginning Monday 14th June – National Refugee Week. He will be meeting people, conducting workshops, writing and performing. He is particularly interested in meeting refugees and people seeking asylum who have an interest in poetry, performance or music, and he will be encouraging people to talk about their experiences and their homelands. The main event will take place on Wednesday 16th June at Arc in Stockton.

There will also be an afternoon session at Arc on the 16th June, 1pm to 3.30pm, a celebration of poetry, performance, music and dance linked with or created through "You Are Here". The event will include a drumming workshop, an exhibition of visual arts work made during the project, and visual artist Helen Shannon will be present to talk about her work.



### Tees Valley Symphony

tees valley arts successfully applied for a Grants for the Arts award that will support the development of a symphonic composition inspired and arranged by a composer, created by young people and guided by professional musicians. It will take place in three schools across the Tees Valley and support Year 10 / 11 children. Musicians will work with young people to produce and present an interpretation of a professionally composed musical theme, demonstrating skills in thematic development and compositional technique. This process will take place over an academic year and result in a series of symphonic pictures which will be presented in a number of End of Year celebrations. The end product should be an eclectic piece of music which could justifiably be called The Tees Valley Symphony. Funding will be sought to implement the second year of the project to explore all aspects of performance and will create a young person's ensemble. High profile performances, a cd and booklet will celebrate the completion of the project.



### Dance Animation

TIN Productions worked with six schools in Hartlepool to create a performance event at Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre. A dance team, an animator, a musician and a set designer inspired children of all ages to come together in a magical display of their dreams, ambitions and skills. Based upon the theme of sport; animation and banners wove through dance to entertain a packed audience.

### Community / Social Enterprise Development

Each In:volve Project Co-ordinator is working to include participants in the development process, to build self-esteem and confidence and to identify skills needed. Each of the groups is progressing at different rates, depending upon the make up of the group, the degree of social exclusion they experience and to some extent on the art form adopted. Five of the projects have established groups already, although only two of them are formally constituted. You Are Here, is addressing the problem of a very mobile and fluctuating community of users. Refugees and people seeking asylum, are likely to move or be moved on, and the setting up of a very flexible and fluid structure that people could move in and out of easily, and without disrupting activities too much is vital. Projects with Young People is still in a very early stage of development, with a number of potentially powerful projects with young people, being supported in the hope that one or two of them will grow wings.



### EIGHT

The EIGHT Project is an Artist in Residence project, taking place in nine schools with nine artists for one academic year. The project is now entering its third and final stage over the summer term. The second of the Platform Events, which take place at the end of each term, was held at Hartlepool Borough Hall on Friday 26th March. Artwork was exhibited demonstrating how participating children have been involved in an engaging learning experience with a high level of skill and expression evident in their work. Musical performances from two groups were both atmospheric and joyful, with children relishing the opportunity to share their new-found musical skills. Teachers, children, parents and artists were given the opportunity to share their experiences, and try each other's art forms through taster workshops as well as view the work and performances. The next platform event will take place at Eston City Learning Centre on Wednesday 14th July.



### Artists in Residence in Science (AIRIS)

Working in partnership with Teesside Chemical Initiative (TCI) Science Education Unit we have delivered exciting and innovative pilot projects during the last academic year. The projects involved a dramatist, an animator and a poet working in Tees Valley schools for one term. Feedback from both the school staff and pupils and from the artists demonstrates that the projects were successful and rewarding for all involved. A teaching manual for science departments to use drama within their development plans is about to be published; the four animation cd's which will be used as a teaching resource will be disseminated nationally, and the cd and book of poetry created at Carmel College Darlington will be launched in the summer term with a radio broadcast.

The next stage of the project will place an artist in a special school for one term to involve, interest and engage pupils in science activities and to extend teacher's teaching and learning strategies. The artist will work alongside the teachers to teach science issues creatively, to raise pupils' awareness and to make science more relevant for them.

Dramatist Bidi Iredale has successfully completed work with PGCE students from Durham University. Following this, funding is being sought to deliver a project built into the PGCE course at Durham University, Sunderland University and Stockton Riverside Campus of Durham University have also expressed an interest in hosting this project.



## Art:works

The "Safe in Schools Project" worked with The Stockton-on-Tees Educational, Leisure & Cultural Services and the RAPT Behaviour and Educational Psychologist Services, to develop this short project. Using group work and creative arts to explore the issue of bullying, it encouraged children to use solution focussed thinking, to develop ways of reducing the incidents of bullying in their school and community. The overall aim was to make the environment a safer place in which to learn and play. One hundred and twenty year five children took part in drama workshops with Julie Ward, creative writing workshops with Helen Rennie and poster making workshops with Chris O'Neill over the two days.

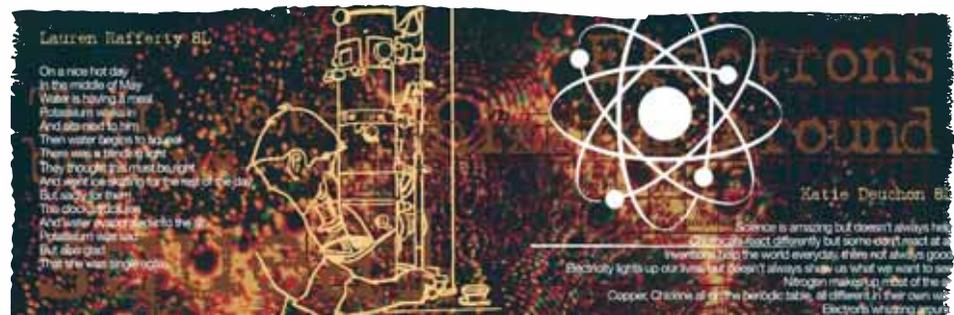


Art:works is currently involved in arranging a week of arts activities at Captain Cook Primary School, Middlesbrough. From Monday 14th to Friday 18th June 2004 children will explore the theme of "clowning around" with circus skills workshops. Illustrator Chris O'Neill is set to deliver poster-making workshops exploring the theme with cartoon style drawings, and actor Leslie Simpson will teach slapstick comedy movements to children during the week.

The Clog Dancing group from Northgate Primary School, Guisborough took part in performances at The Teesside World Party event in November (arranged in collaboration between Teesside Churches and the You Are Here Project – **tees valley arts**). The clog dancers thoroughly enjoyed performing at the event and were inspired by The Bollywood Dancers who also performed. Art:works is currently involved in sourcing a suitable tutor to run ten after school workshops giving the clog dancers an insight into bollywood style dance.

## Bioanimations

The Bioanimations project involves three animation projects in primary schools in Hartlepool. Each individual project will look at a different aspect of the key stage 2 Biology curriculum, focussing on specific knowledge requirements and key words. The films can then be used as a resource for the school when teaching the topic in the future as well as being disseminated to other schools. Animator Chris Kent and writer Helen Rennie have been involved in discussions with the schools and are set to begin work on the project in May.



# strategic development

## Cultural Education Forum Tees Valley

The first meeting of this group was very encouraging, with Local Authority Arts Development Officers, the Creative Partnerships' Director, Local Authority Education Advisers and **tees valley arts'** Programme Managers attending. The meeting identified a need to further explore the role of the forum and it was agreed that the next meeting would look at how the Forum can promote:

- The development of a comprehensive approach to arts / cultural education in the Tees Valley.
- Explore ways of working in partnership that enhance opportunities and shared resources for creative teaching and learning in the Tees Valley.
- Explore the potential to integrate lessons learned from Creative Partnerships into sub-regional strategies.

## Arts Council England, North East & Regularly Funded Organisation Agreement

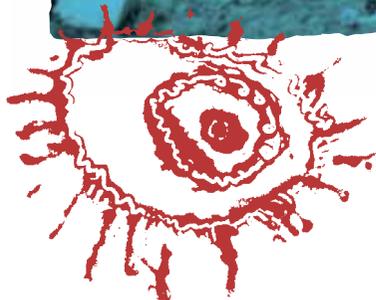
As an RFO of ACENE, **tees valley arts** has had its organisational review and a funding agreement has been signed for 2004/05 and 2005/06. The agreement is subject to us carrying out an agreed creative programme, ensuring that ACENE receives appropriate financial and management information at agreed intervals and reviews the roles and responsibilities of our Board of Directors. Following a skills audit of Board members, we have invited a number of new members onto the Board of Directors and will be initiating a training and development programme later in the year.

## Strategic Development

During April the staff team reviewed the organisational Strategic Plan, and developed a new action plan for 2004/05. Fund-raising and marketing strategies have been adopted and we are currently reviewing monitoring and evaluation policies and procedures. We also have plans to develop an artistic policy and are looking at ways we might work more collaboratively with artists, communities and schools. We will also be adapting our Equal Opportunities Policy to embrace cultural diversity.

Partnership working is a key element in **tees valley arts'** strategic development. The major part of our creative programme is developed in collaboration with other organisations, schools, artists and communities. A key measure of the success of projects is how participants have been involved in the development of the process, facilitated by artists and support workers to shape the process and artwork to fit their group or community. This quarter, to select but a few, **tees valley arts** has been working with Middlesbrough Council, Cultural Services, the Youth Service and Connexions, to develop a cultural apprenticeship project with young people in central Middlesbrough; Hartlepool Libraries and Museums, Sure Start, and Hartlepool Domestic Violence Outreach Project, to set up a series of projects that involve the groups working with artists to explore their stories in word and image.

**tees valley arts** recognises the importance of keeping our partners informed about our activities. It is also vital to be involved in local, sub-regional and regional debates about culture and regeneration. During 2004/05 **tees valley arts** will produce four Newsletters and 12 information cards. The newsletters will provide an overview of **tees valley arts'** activities and will be sent to all Board members, company members and organisational partners, four times a year. The information cards will be about specific projects, issues or themes, and they will be targeted at interest groups.



**tees valley arts** is a cultural education agency which operates throughout the Tees Valley, to lead cultural education across the region through developing partnerships for delivering innovative creative programmes. For more information about these and other projects please contact **tees valley arts**.

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