

autumn 1999

Write here, Write now

Details have been announced of Writearound 99, Middlesbrough's eleventh annual bash for readers and writers of all ages, and the longest-running literary festival in the North which runs from 8th-16th October.

There are readings by internationally-acclaimed poets Ken Smith, John Kinsella, Tracy Ryan, Bill Herbert and Bill Scammell. There's a feminist musical about Byron; writing workshops with Kitty Fitzgerald, Graeme Rigby and Mark Robinson; a video-poetry installation exploring the twilight world of inner-city cctv; a new Poet Laureate for Middlesbrough; poster-poems for the Millennium; and workshops, readings and performances in schools, colleges, pubs, night-clubs and libraries across town.

This year's festival includes readings by Teesside poets Ghazala Bashir and Maureen Almond; a monster Urdu poetry musha'ara; an open Poetry Slam; book launches from regional publishers Diamond Twig, Vane Women and Mudfog Books; and an evening of poetry and prose celebrating the cultural identities of the Northern region.

Events for kids include a National Poetry Day/My Favourite Shop project; a football/poetry promotion organised with Boro fanzine Fly Me To The Moon; the publication of an anthology of poems by local kids; the launch of the latest issue of the Evening Gazette's magazine of writing from Teesside schools; and a chance for young readers to meet some of their favourite writers, including Alan Brown, Mark Leyland, *Mr Bear* author Debi Gliori, *Dragon* writer Nick Toczek and Peter Hayden.

Tickets for all events are available in advance from the Information and Booking Office at 51 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough. Tel: 01642 242561. All major credit cards accepted, plus Switch/Connect.

A brochure is available giving full details of all the events in the festival. Ring Cleveland Arts on 01642 264651 to obtain one.

Writearound eleven



'99

Middlesbrough's eleventh annual writing festival for readers and writers of all ages

8-16 October 1999

Poetry, Novels, Theatre, Children's Writing

Middlesbrough's New Poet Laureate

Australian Writers

Urdu and Punjabi Writers

Teesside Writers



Buzzwords

John Kinsella, Tracy Ryan,
Bill Herbert, Kitty Fitzgerald,
Bill Scammell, Ken Smith

Special Poetry Week-end Ticket. For just £15/£12 you can go to as many events during the week-end as you want.

Supported by

Evening Gazette



Inside..... schools projects, poetry places and new commissions!

Cleveland Arts are supported by:



Welcome to clevelandarts news, the first issue of a quarterly newsletter giving information on Cleveland Arts' recent and upcoming projects.

Cleveland Arts is one of the North's leading arts development agencies working across Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton delivering a range of arts projects in education, health, reading and writing, public arts and arts equality. We act as a broker, linking artists with other organisations who wish to develop arts projects. We provide a comprehensive information service about the arts across Teesside including a slide index and artists database. More information can be found on our website www.clevelandarts.org

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Cleveland Arts work with many schools across Teesside to support artists in residence.

education

As part of the **arts are ours** Arts in Education initiative in the North of England Cleveland Arts collaborated with Middlesbrough Borough Council for a project involving pupils from Hall Garth Secondary, Tollesby School, St Francis Primary and Acklam-Whin Primary schools. Staff and children from all four schools worked with poet Pat Borthwick and dancers Martin Wilson and Tess Chayter from Tin Productions and explored new approaches to creative writing and physical movement, developing ideas and performance pieces that brought their words to life. Selections of work from all four schools were showcased at The Hexagon Theatre, Hallgarth School on 28 April 1999 and proved to be so successful that a further performance of the production entitled *WET, WET, WET* was staged at Middlesbrough Theatre in July. A second year of workshops will take place in the Coulby Newham area of Middlesbrough in Spring 2000.



Children performing at the Hexagon Theatre. Photo: Evening Gazette

Creative Director Fee £5000

We are seeking a dynamic person to create a performance event for Redcar & Cleveland LEA's Day in the Millennium Dome, October 2000, involving 80 young people. The successful candidate will have development and organisational responsibilities and experience of working in a community/education context. The position will be subject to a police check.

Closing date: 29 October 1999
Interviews: 16 November 1999

For further details, please contact Cleveland Arts.

Leaving the 20th Century

Cleveland Arts is working with five artists (glass, ceramics, blacksmith, digital photography/video and textiles) and 38 schools across the Teesside area through the autumn and spring terms to produce permanent art features to commemorate, celebrate or forget the 20th Century. It is hoped, subject to further fundraising, to appoint a performing arts animateur to work with schools in the spring term, towards a celebratory launch of the art work by Easter 2000. See the next issue of clevelandarts news for further details.



arts are ours at Dyke House School, Hartlepool

As part of the **arts are ours** initiative, musicians Luke Harding and David Allen worked with a group of 12-13 year old boys from Dyke House School during the first week of May in composing and recording their own music.

One outcome from the project was that music recorded would be used in Dyke House's new rock musical for 1999-2000 called *The Journey*. *The Journey* is about a group of aliens who build Dyke House pupils a spaceship/time machine and take them into the future and other galaxies to show them the variety of life and opportunities.

Cleveland Arts co-ordinated the project in collaboration with Hartlepool Borough Council's Education Department.

Dyke House teacher Griff Hosker said at the time "We have a history of writing pop songs at this school and those taking part in the project have been very motivated by it. They have even given up their break times and lunch times to take part."

Summer Art School set sail at Hartlepool



Dyke House pupils. Photo: North of England Newspapers

Music and Visual Art came together in a performance at Hartlepool's Art Gallery in Church Square on Friday 6th August. The event was the culmination of a special Arts Summer School organised jointly by Hartlepool Council and Cleveland Arts.

Nine young people aged 13 and 14 worked with members of Jack Drum Arts to create costumed characters, sound-scapes and banners on a maritime theme. Their resulting performance told the story of a sea captain who escaped drowning only to end up on a desert island where things were not quite what they seemed!

"*Each night I can't wait until the next day because it's really fun and it's what I like doing best,*" says 13 year

old Shaun Gaiety from Dyke House School.

"*I have learnt a lot,*" says 13 year old Rebecca Morrison also of Dyke House, "*like singing, dancing, painting, playing instruments and respect for people.*"

Other participants came from English Martyrs and Brierton Schools with 22 year old graduate Anna Walker involved in a voluntary capacity.

Jack Drum Arts comprise musician and sound-sculptor Paddy Burton, writer and banner-maker Julie Ward and designer and painter Simon Pell.

"*In our own work we operate as a team,*" says artist Julie Ward, "*contributing our skills and ideas for each new performance piece with everybody pulling his or her weight. We are a small company so you get to do lots of different things and that's what we've been pushing with the young people – the collective creative spirit, the sharing of tasks, mutual support and trust. At the end of the day it's a group effort so the costume-makers and song-writers are just as important as the performers.*"



Sinbad, alias Tom Burton. Photo: North of England Newspapers

Paul Hyland - Subterranean Poet in Residence

In 1997 the Poetry Society received a substantial grant from the 'Arts for Everyone' budget of the Arts Council of England Lottery Department to put into effect an innovative scheme to bring poetry to new audiences. This two-year programme of residencies, placements and projects aims to open up new audiences for a wide range of poets to work in partnership with diverse organisations and groups.

Cleveland Arts and Village Arts were successful in establishing a **Poetry Place** in East Cleveland. The well-known poet and travel writer Paul Hyland has visited the area during the summer to investigate the legacies of the mining tradition, the people and their stories.

Paul has worked with groups of writers and artists, schoolchildren and students, as well as with individuals connected to the mining industry. His visits included workshops and research visits, readings and writing surgeries to stimulate writings, artwork and video footage leading to a community exhibition based at Village Arts in Loftus during October - November. As part of the residency there was a research visit for a small group of artists and writers down Boulby Potash Mine during August.



Paul Hyland. Photo: Evening Gazette

Stockton on Tees Reading Festival

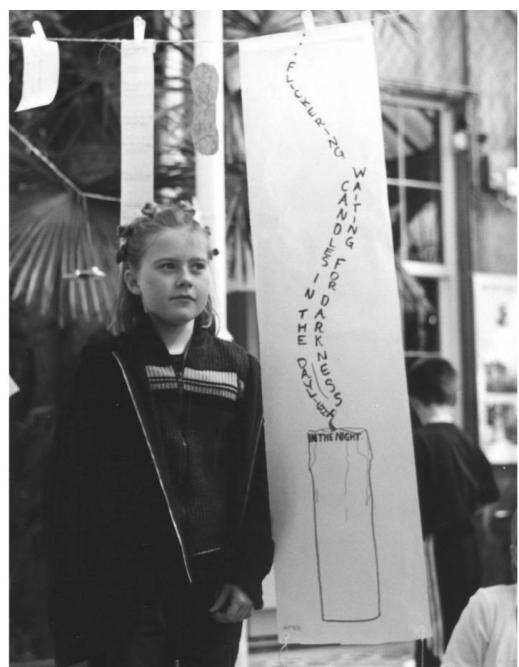
Buzzwords was invited to assist in the co-ordination and delivery of Stockton Borough Council's celebration of the National Year of Reading. This involved working in partnership with Thornaby A Reading Town, Stockton's Learning Towns, Stockton

Opportunities for creative reading and writing for everyone are created through Buzzwords, working with a range of writers and other artists.

Adult Education Department and representatives from Primary and Secondary Education, as well as youth workers and countryside wardens. A week-long festival of 19 events were planned from 22 - 30 May, with Buzzwords playing a major role throughout. A number of the events were experimental, testing out new approaches to workshops and readings.

Events included The Word Explosion Haiku Garden with children creating a garden of beautiful miniature poems at Preston Hall Museum; a script writing for television workshop with Neil Armstrong; storytelling and countryside visits; a reading Corral; *Love's Pictures*, an afternoon of cinema, of reading poems and writing poems, based on Pablo Neruda's poetry and 'Il Postino'; a school band slam won by St Michael's group 'Stitch'; writing workshops on BBC Radio Cleveland's Matthew Davies show; a charity poetry slam and an evening of improvised readings, poetry, monologues and stories accompanied by live music from the Pocket Orchestra.

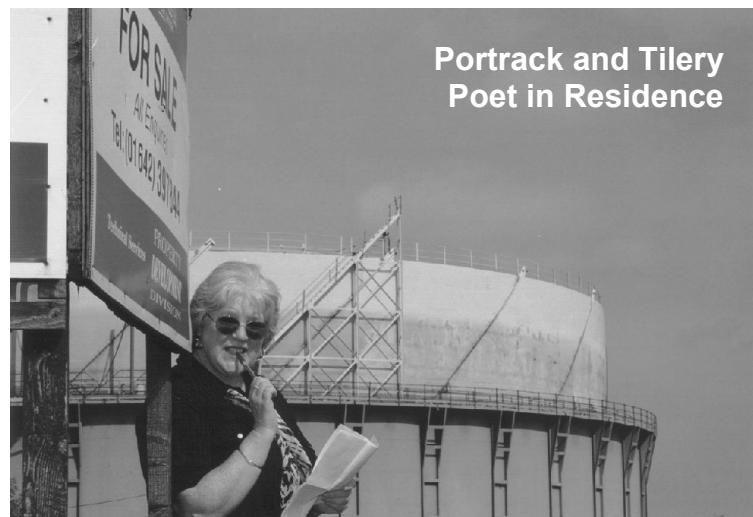
The Festival also saw the launch of Stockton School Kids on The World Wide Web. Five Stockton schools worked with writer Andy Croft on a creative reading and writing project to explore the creative uses of CD ROMs and the Internet. Norton Comprehensive, Norton Primary, Tilery Primary, Fredrick Nattrass Primary and Crooksbarn Primary Schools showcased the wealth of their creative endeavours at The William Newton Centre. You can view their work at <http://www.clevelandarts.org/norton.html>



Word Explosion Haiku Garden at Preston Hall

Yarm writer Maureen Almond has been appointed writer in residence to work with communities in the Portrack and Tilery areas of Stockton.

The residency is managed by Cleveland Arts and based with Stockton on line – a multi-site study centre for adult learners and local community groups. Through workshops, Maureen is encouraging creative expression by the communities of Portrack and Tilery, through the use of Information Technology, particularly through the use of the internet. The residency forms part of a pilot project supported by the European Commission, and is one of nine running in the UK, France and Germany.



Portrack and Tilery
Poet in Residence

Maureen Almond. Photo: Evening Gazette

Beyond Trainspotting

Cleveland Arts in partnership with Hartlepool and Stockton Libraries celebrated the National Year of Reading with a series of innovative library events running throughout June and July. The events, promoting cult literature, were the culmination of development work by groups of young people working with writers and artists to explore contemporary poetry and cult fiction. The creative work combined writing and images to form library exhibitions and installations in Stockton and Hartlepool Central Libraries.

The project was a major initiative, funded by The National Year of Reading, The BT Challenge, The Roald Dahl Foundation, Northern Arts and Buzzwords to strengthen the links between reading and other forms activities that interest young adults. The events are aimed at breaking down some of the stereotypes around reading and library use and tap into many strands of youth culture, from DJs, breakdancers and rappers to boxers, kung fu fighters and fans from Planet Football.

"This was a really exciting series of themed events," explained Bob Beagrie from Cleveland Arts, "They included a Month of Sunday openings in Hartlepool and late night sessions in Stockton, with live readings, writing workshops, film showings of cult movies, a cool cafe and a whole load of things you would never expect to find in a library."

The season kicked off on Saturday 19th June at Stockton Central Library with **The Martial Text**, involving a showcase of oriental literature, kung fu demonstrations, Storytelling from the Far East and a showing a *First Strike* starring Jackie Chan.

Hartlepool launched its Month of Sundays on the 20th June with **Gum Shields & Headguards**, a day of boxing words and images, including photographs, paintings, a training ring set up in the library and demonstrations from the Boys Welfare Boxing Club, hard hitting poetry and a writing workshop that focuses on boxing journalism.

Other special events included:

Soft Cities - A Sci Fi Sunday with cyber art, workshop *Science Fiction Sentences* with award winning sci-fi writer Colin Greenland and showing of technoir films *Brazil* and *Dark City*, as well as some short films by local young film makers.

Curriculum Classics - Showing the classic films *To Kill A Mocking Bird* and *Of Mice & Men*.

The Edge of The Spoken Word - Performance poetry and freestyle rap sessions and a workshop by Brendan Cleary (the axeman of modern poetry).

Writing from Planet Football in which local supporters were invited to read, recite and perform their football poems, stories and scripts.

Grim U.K. - a glance at the new realism of contemporary British fiction, with workshops and readings and a showing of *Nil By Mouth*, written and directed by Gary Oldman.

Klub Kulcha - showcasing literature connected to the rave and the dance scene, with a workshop by comic artist ILYA, a DJ workshop by Voodooteck, breakdancing and a showing of *Strangedays*.



Bob Beagrie and
Pascale Konya at the
Martial Text.

commissions

Feed your mind



David Whaite. Photo: Evening Gazette

Your next hamburger and fries may well be served up against the backdrop of an award-winning poster campaign from University of Teesside students David Whaite and Lee Hallam.

The competition, organised by Cleveland Arts and McDonald's, was set up in response to the *You Don't Look Like a Reader* project which was created as part of the National Year of Reading.

David and Lee were second year students on the University of Teesside's BA (Hons) Graphic Design course and both are delighted to have their design chosen. David, 20, from Marsden Close, Ingleby Barwick has his poster on display at the A66 McDonald's restaurant. Lee, 21, is originally from Loughborough and his work will be exhibited in a new McDonald's restaurant in the North East.

Cleveland Arts is one of the largest commissioning agents for art in the public domain throughout the UK. Here are a few examples of recent projects.

up-front: a sculptural project by Lewis Robinson

Working in partnership with Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and The South Bank Community Forum and funded by SRB, Cleveland Arts commissioned the project *up-front*. The sculptural work was launched on the 9th September with huge numbers of the South Bank community attending the opening.

It became clear that what began as a commission to create railings for the former football ground, would become something much more special, largely due to the involvement of the South Bank Community. Cleveland Arts together with the artist Lewis Robinson were involved in a six-month consultation. Cleveland Arts' Public Art Officer, Judith Winter commented:-

Up-front has been a fascinating and positive project to work on. Lewis Robinson was selected from a short-list of five artists and was chosen by members of South Bank Community Forum, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and Cleveland Arts for the quality of his sculptural practice, his genuine interest in the location and the South Bank community. We were so excited by the responses created throughout the consultation we produce a small publication, which is a witness to the process of creating up front. The pages are drawn from photographs and sketches, conversations and recorded recollections gathered over the last six months.

To receive a free copy of the limited edition publication please contact Judith Winter at Cleveland Arts on 01642 264651



Photo: Evening Gazette



Cleveland Arts was recently awarded a Northern Arts Production Grant to create an interactive screen based version of Salt Passages, accompanied by a small publication, with extracts from conversation and critical text exploring the context of the work and implications of new media within the public domain.

The CD ROM will be distributed to individuals and organisations working with or fascinated by interactive media; as well as those interested in the shifting social and economic terrain of post-industrial locations such as Teesside.

Celebrating the domestic

Cleveland Arts were commissioned by Middlesbrough Council to develop a project for Whinney Banks Community Centre as part of the percent for art policy. Michellle Tripp an artist and graduate of Cleveland College of Art & Design was selected to develop her own work in collaboration with users of the centre. Michelle's practice deals with questions of identity and relationships between the public and private.



Michelle Tripp. Photo: Evening Gazette

The Salt Passages

In 1998 Cleveland Arts together with The University of Teesside created the first digital residency for the innovation and Virtual Reality Centre. Geoff Broadway was commissioned to undertake this placement with the support of the University and Northern Arts.

The residency enabled the artist to produce the digital work Salt Passages. This was a temporary installation utilising sonic sensors which responded to the movement of people passing through the entrance/corridor of the Innovation Centre. These movements triggered 'passages' of video projections and sound fields; the content of which was taken from recorded interviews and conversations, video footage and sound sourced from the context of Teesside.

The Salt Passages seemed able to convey the meeting of different voices; indicating the numerous shifts and changes in the cultural, social and economic life of the area. The medium used to create and view the work also act as a potent reminder of the social, economic and cultural implications of new technology.

Geoff Broadway has received critical support and interest for his practice and is currently lecturing in Digital Art at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Before completing the residency we were able to discuss the possibility of creating a more intimate and distributable version of the work on CD-ROM.

cleveland arts is an arts development agency actively commissioning projects for the public domain

*supporting projects by:
improving the commissioning and selection process
taking on board the specific context of each project
encouraging and improving a sense of ownership*



call to professional artists/

cleveland arts is seeking to update and extend our artists index

to be included please contact cleveland arts requesting - *index information*

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site

The installation *anon* includes imagery that relates to

arts equality

Cleveland Arts' Arts Equality work embraces a number of strands, but mainly focuses on the needs of disabled people and people who have mental health problems to gain better access to the arts. *Open Art* is an independent group of disabled people, originally set up by Cleveland Arts, to develop and manage a programme of arts projects including a large-scale Disability Arts Millennium Festival. *SMART Arts* aims to enable disabled people and to initiate, develop, control and own diverse arts based projects, which are solutions to issues of employment, inclusion in consultation and improved health and well-being.

Open Art publishes a monthly newsletter. To join the mailing list please contact us on 01642 264651.

Cleveland Arts works strategically for equal access to the arts for everybody, and towards social inclusion through the arts.

Cleveland Arts arranged a visit by Live Music Now to sheltered accommodation for the elderly in Rochester Court, Thornaby in June. Tenants representative Dorothy Fairhurst explained: *"when it was arranged for a Harpist and Soprano to perform for us I was a little apprehensive as we had never had a concert of a classical nature before. So on the 21st June, with an audience of 29 people we knew we were in for something very special from the moment Catherine Harper and Emma Rasdale arrived. The personalities and talent of these young ladies just won the hearts of everyone present. The choice of music was just right, with little anecdotes slotted in and being encouraged to handle the harp and all join in just completed a perfect evening. One week later and people are still talking about it; one lady who was in tears afterwards said she had never thought that she would see an Opera singer and real live music in the Care-home".*



Cleveland Arts has relocated into new office space in Middlesbrough in Melrose House with the assistance of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton on Tees Borough Councils and Northern Arts. The company celebrated with a launch event on 8th September featuring music and poetry together with the first showing of Geoff Broadway's (Teesside University's Digital Artist in Residence) CD-Rom, "The Salt Passages".

New graphic design team Citrus Creative have given Cleveland Arts a brand new corporate identity and contemporary feel with a logo based on map references.

Cleveland Arts Director, Richard Russell said *"Thanks to the support of our funders we can now welcome our clients, partners and artists to new offices with wonderful views across Teesside. Our new logo re-inforces our commitment to establishing a sense of identity for Teesside through arts projects, including site-specific public art commissions and work with local communities".*

This summer, as part of the Arts Council's New Audiences initiative Cleveland Arts organised the Art Taxi scheme for people visiting arts events across Teesside. The scheme enabled people who are disabled by transport difficulties to register with Cleveland Arts and travel to some of the many festivals and events taking place in Teesside during the summer for only £1 each way.

all change at Cleveland Arts

