

# MAKING ART A PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE



# PUTTING NORTH KIRKLEES IN THE SPOTLIGHT.

SINCE 2014, WE’VE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNERS AND THE PEOPLE OF NORTH KIRKLEES TO BUILD A CREATIVE SCENE IN AND AROUND FIVE TOWNS IN WEST YORKSHIRE.

Read on for some of the highlights – the ways people have got involved, what they got out of it, and how these great creative events are helping bring communities together to celebrate and transform our places.

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Creative Scene is one of 21 independent Creative People and Places projects across the country, funded by Arts Council England in areas where there are fewer opportunities to get involved with the arts. It is about more people choosing, creating and taking part in brilliant art experiences in the areas where they live, work and socialise. 91% of our audience come from neighbourhoods with low and medium levels of arts engagement.

HELLO! HAVE YOU HAD YOUR ART TODAY?

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO SHARE WITH YOU OUR IMPACT REPORT. IT TELLS THE STORY SO FAR OF THE MAKING OF CREATIVE SCENE, A THRIVING HOT SPOT FOR FANTASTIC ARTS AND CULTURE, IN AND AROUND THE FIVE TOWNS OF NORTH KIRKLEES, RIGHT AT THE HEART OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE REGION.

WHAT MAKES IT SO SPECIAL IS THAT IT’S BEEN CREATED BY AND WITH THE PEOPLE HERE.

In a little over 3 years more than 110,000 people have taken part in over 180 events in the places where they live, work, gather and socialise.

There’s been shows in pubs and chip shops, an artist in a biscuit factory, parkour performances amongst the market stalls, children getting a fix of fantastic family friendly theatre, a poetic performance on the streets viewed from an open-top bus, fiery night time spectaculars in town squares and parks, even a game of digital bingo, projected and played on buildings. We’ve hosted international artists, commissioned new theatre which has gone on to tour around the country, and we’ve supported over 50 local artists – including emerging young artists – with learning opportunities to develop their skills, and get into further education, training and work.

We’ve shown there is no such thing as ‘hard to reach’ when it comes to getting people involved and developing audiences for the arts – artists and companies just need to get a little closer to where people are at.

Creative Scene has secured new funding of £1m from Arts Council England until December 2020. This is a massive vote of confidence in what has been achieved so far. As we go into 2018, we have our sights set firmly on the future, and on creating a lasting legacy for the project.

We know that to sustain the Creative Scene will need continued leadership and support from the people here to secure more investment. We’ll need new ways of working with partners from outside the arts, more locally produced activity, programming and commissioning that feels right for the place, imagination in finding the places that offer opportunities to create and present, and the production skills to make it happen.

We have a 10 year vision, and by 2024, we want this part of West Yorkshire to be known as a place where taking part in great cultural experiences is an every day occurrence. The Creative Scene will be a place where people are used to popping to the pub to see a play, children have the chance to see a show every half term holiday, families flock to festivals to see the best of UK and international artistic talent, artists and producers from the area light up town centres and lead community celebrations.

It’s been a privilege to be part of establishing the Creative Scene so far. Please read on to find out more about some of the many highlights in the first 3+ years of the programme; and do get in touch if you’d like to be part of the Creative Scene over the coming years.

NANCY BARRETT

Director, Creative Scene, May 2018



# THE STORY SO FAR

 **2MILLION**

investment from Arts Council England

 **185,000**

Total population of Batley, Cleckheaton, Dewsbury, Heckmondwike and Mirfield

 **180+**

Events including theatre, circus and Indian dance

 **100+**

Different artists and companies – from across Kirklees, from Yorkshire, from the UK and from Tunisia, Slovenia, India, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Serbia

 **£300,000 +**

Raised in matched funds, earned income and in-kind support

 **110,000+**

Local audience members, participants, performers, artists and more

 **70+**

Local groups involved, from primary schools, women's groups and choirs to dance studios, rugby clubs and tenants groups

 **3000**

Volunteer hours of managing, interviewing, stewarding, creating and welcoming



# NORTH KIRKLEES

## IN THE COUNTY OF WEST YORKSHIRE

### WHERE IT'S ALL HAPPENING

**DEWSBURY**  
 Acorn Studios  
 Blue Fish  
 Brigantia  
 Cloggs Café  
 Cocoa Lounge  
 Connect Housing  
 Crow Nest Park  
 Dewsbury Arts Group  
 Dewsbury Library  
 Dewsbury Market  
 Dewsbury Minster  
 Dewsbury Town Centre

Dewsbury Town Hall  
 Dewsbury Train Station  
 Greenwood Centre  
 Howlands Centre  
 Kirklees College – Batley  
 School of Art  
 Mims Restaurant  
 New Picture House  
 Orchid Rooms  
 Prince of Wales Shopping  
 Centre  
 Savile Town Wharf & Marina  
 Sea Urchin

Sensory World  
 The Leggers Inn  
 The Old Turk  
 Thornhill Sports &  
 Community Centre

**BATLEY**  
 Alfreds Way Shopping Centre  
 Bagshaw Museum  
 Batley Bulldogs RLFC  
 Batley Girls High School  
 Batley Library and Art Gallery  
 Batley Town Centre

Batley Town Hall  
 Batley Train Station  
 Blenheim House  
 Central Methodist Church  
 Fox's Biscuits  
 Healey Community Centre  
 Howden Clough Community  
 Centre  
 IMWS  
 iou bus  
 Memorial Gardens  
 PKWA  
 Reunion Café  
 Tesco

The Corner Café  
 The Mill Outlet  
 The Taproom  
 Wilton Park

**CLECKHEATON**  
 Aakash  
 Cleckheaton Library  
 Cleckheaton Shopping Centre  
 Cleckheaton Town Hall  
 Cleckheaton Town Centre  
 Matthew's Coffee House  
 Memorial Park  
 Mill Valley Brewery Tap  
 The Wickham Arms

**MIRFIELD**  
 Battysford Primary School  
 Brooks Deli  
 Mirfield Town Centre  
 Northorpe Hall Barn  
 Selina Cooper in Shepley Bridge  
 Marina  
 The Navigation Tavern

**LIVERSEDGE & GOMERSAL**  
 Gomersal Primary School  
 Red House Museum  
 Roberttown Community Centre

**BIRSTALL & BIRKENSHAW**  
 Birstall Community Centre  
 Birstall Town Centre  
 Oakwell Hall  
 The Cobbles  
 The Venue

**HECKMONDWIKE**  
 Blue Moon Café  
 Firth Park Community Centre  
 Heckmondwike Indoor Market  
 Heckmondwike Town Centre  
 Green Park  
 Westgate 23

LEEDS  
 7 MILES



MANCHESTER  
 32 MILES

SHEFFIELD  
 27 MILES



# WHY MAKE ART A PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE?

**THE CREATIVE PEOPLE AND PLACES PROGRAMME WAS SET UP BY ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND TO ENCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE BE INSPIRED BY THE ARTS IN AREAS WHERE PARTICIPATION AND AUDIENCE NUMBERS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.**

Here at Creative Scene we believe that taking part in the arts is about more than entertainment or a leisure activity; the arts in all their forms are vital for the wellbeing of people – they develop skills, open up opportunities, promote cooperation and connect people. Arts and cultural events make vibrant, attractive town centres and cohesive communities. The stories that artists tell – whether through dance, drama, poetry, music or light – can give us new perspectives, understanding and empathy.

We believe that if people are involved in leading, choosing and creating the cultural experiences they take part in, they become

accessible and relevant to the people that live here, and the arts will help to shape a positive future for our towns and communities.

## About the Creative Scene

The Creative Scene area of North Kirklees is home to 180,000 people, yet these 5 towns – Dewsbury, Batley, Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike, and Mirfield are often over-looked and can struggle for attention and investment.

It's an area with a distinct history born out of the heavy woollen industry that was once the main source of employment.

Here vibrant cultural traditions from around the world create a unique heritage and culture, with handsome former industrial towns, historic villages and newer suburbs. Parts of this area are semi-rural, and some decidedly urban. It has the strong character of Pennine Yorkshire, with warm stone buildings, steep hills, canals and rivers. Part of the Leeds City region, it is connected by motorways (the M62 to the west and the M1 to the South) to Leeds and the larger towns and cities of Huddersfield, Wakefield, Halifax and Bradford which are all within a 15 mile radius.

## CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME:

- ✦ LIMITED ARTS INFRASTRUCTURE  
– THERE ARE NO PROFESSIONAL ARTS VENUES
- ✦ TRAVEL TIMES, COSTS AND ACCESS ISSUES LIMIT THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL FURTHER AFIELD
- ✦ FEW SPACES OR FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO MEET OR CREATE
- ✦ MULTIPLE BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING LOW INCOME AND UNEMPLOYMENT
- ✦ FEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROGRESSING ARTS INVOLVEMENT FROM FIRST ENGAGEMENT TO REGULAR PRACTICE
- ✦ NO ESTABLISHED ARTS NETWORKS, REGULAR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



**"A LITTLE BIT SPECIAL, WONDERFULLY POIGNANT"**

**Lyn Gardner, The Guardian**

on IOU's Rear View, co-commissioned and presented by Creative Scene and Batley Festival.

(along with Festival of Thrift, Greenwich+Docklands International Festival, Leftcoast, Blackpool, Norfolk & Norwich Festival, 2016)



# MEET THE SCENEMAKERS

**CREATIVE SCENE THINKS THAT PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE A SAY IN THE KIND OF ARTS THEY WANT TO SEE AND TAKE PART IN, AND THAT INSPIRATIONAL ART AND STORIES ARE CREATED WHEN ARTISTS WORK TOGETHER WITH COMMUNITIES.**

One of the ways we do this has been to develop a group of community commissioners and advocates. They are an active group of people from all walks of life – from students to homemakers, solicitors, café owners, health workers, retired teachers – with a passion and commitment to what the arts can achieve in their area.

**A huge thank you to all the SceneMakers past and present, who, from the start, have helped set up the Creative Scene in North Kirklees.**

Volunteers, who live or work in the area from a wide range of ages, jobs and backgrounds have put on events in some unusual and unexpected places at the heart of their communities.

They've commissioned new plays and outdoor shows, they've visited events, theatre and festivals around the country to bring great new things to our area.

They've found new venues – pubs, clubs, train stations – in which to present plays, films and exhibitions. And they encourage work colleagues, friends and neighbours to join in.

Here's to more arts adventures!

**“ We are not working on short term effect, we want it to be long term. It needs to give people meaning, to enhance their lives.**

There's me, with muddy boots, on a narrowboat, holding our baby. Why am I here? New experiences give you new perspectives, don't they?”

– SceneMaker



**PHILIP  
ARROWSMITH**



**ASHLEIGH  
BEATTIE**



**SIAN  
DAWSON**



**REBECCA  
FOSTER**



**GAYNA  
GOALBY**



**HARRIET  
LAWSON**



**ZAINAB  
LOONAT**



**DUNCAN  
MACINTYRE**



**ANDREW  
MARSDEN**



**SONJA  
MARTIN**



**MARK  
MILNES**



**AMMAARAH  
RAVAT**



**KIMBERLEY  
THIRKILL**



**SIMON  
THIRKILL**

**Not forgetting:** Joel, Dave, David, Janice, Lynette, Kev, Ian, Sarah, Jenny, Jon, Karen, Ruth & Gary

**Along with** those who have come on board more recently – Karen, Ruth, Julia and Gary

## FOLLOW THEIR JOURNEY

Making a Scene is the story of the SceneMakers compiled by photographer and writer, Len Grant. Find out more about their amazing 3 years as arts adventurers at [www.makingascene.net](http://www.makingascene.net)





# SETTLE DOWN, GRAB A DRINK AND SEE SOMETHING NEW WITH FRIENDS

10 VENUES TO SEE GREAT SHORT PLAYS;  
AT THE MARINA, BY THE CANAL, IN THE HEART  
OF THE TOWN, IN THE RUGBY CLUB OR BESIDE  
THE BREWERY.

FACT FILE:



WHAT DID THEY THINK?

“Our pub quiz cabaret ‘It’s Your Round’ played at The Local – the audience were a wide variety of ages and many more men than we usually play to – they were very lively – needed a bit of managing!

Our shows give permission for people to let their hair down and join in. We open up access to live art to people who wouldn’t normally get the chance to see this kind of theatre.”

– Rebecca Mordan, Artistic Director of Scary Little Girls Feminist Theatre Company

“The single dad at McDonalds on a Saturday... the way they told the story of the squaddie coming back and finding everyone had moved on – that brought a tear to my eye.

The characters were all real, I could see myself in them.”

– Duncan, 48  
Audience member and pub regular

“Bringing this to our pub has created a new buzz on a Wednesday night. It’s good for the beer sales and brings different people in. Tickets sold well and the regulars enjoyed it too.

In this day and age we need to offer other reasons to come in, and increasingly pubs are becoming a community focal point. We are experimenting with other kinds of shows now.”

– Joel Graham, Pub Landlord  
The Leggers Inn, Dewsbury





# OLD AND YOUNG GATHER ROUND, IT'S TIME FOR AN ADVENTURE!

38 SHOWS WITH TALES OF SUPERHEROES,  
WALRUSES, ALIENS, LIGHTHOUSE-KEEPERS,  
YETIS AND MERMAIDS.



FACT FILE:

**5** New pop-up theatre spaces

**5** Community promoters

**5** Touring theatre companies

**2** New commissions

**3** Local residencies creating work inspired by the area

**2,190** Families enjoying theatre on their doorstep

WHAT DID THEY THINK?

“I’m convinced that it is the future of theatre-relocating theatre to where people live, work and relax so that it can meaningfully become a public asset.

Being part of something that is focused around people and communities, rather than buildings and formal programmes, was an incredibly enriching experience. The audiences were engaged and involved in a way I’ve rarely seen.”

– Jack Dean, Performer and Writer with Horace and the Yeti



“We’ve been to two or three of these before. They are full of talking about what they’ve seen, then pretend to act the story out themselves when we get home.”

– Grandma Lyn & Grandad Alan

“It’s good to get the kids out to meet other kids. These shows are always good value for money – we bring 5 kids so that’s important.”

– Sam, mum of 5

“I like my kids to see something a bit different, we had never seen any real acting before.”

– Joyty, mum of 3 – Sami 8, Akaal 6, and Jodh 4

“I’m part of the commissioning process, we’ve nurtured it and helped it along. Lots of new faces came who now know about our charity. Families now expect a show here during the half-terms. So everyone’s a winner.”

Julia, local venue manager & Creative Scene community promoter





# THE RUCK

“WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT YOU COULD CREATE A FULL LENGTH PLAY THAT PACKS OUT A THEATRE FROM THE STORIES OF OUR GIRLS RUGBY TEAM?”

Award winning playwright Kevin Fegan has written more than 50 plays for theatre and radio, worked as a writer for Coronation Street, published ten collections of poetry, and undertaken dozens of residencies, including inside prisons.

How did he turn the story of this group of teenage girls – the first British girls’ team to tour Australia – into a sell out theatre show?

A residency supported by Proper Job Theatre at Batley Bulldogs Rugby Club was the starting point: Kev spotted an intriguing story. The U16’s Girls Rugby team, set up by the dad of one of the girls, had risen to the top of its league in two short years and had just been invited to tour Australia.

Kev spent many months immersing himself in the Bulldog’s extended rugby family – the players, their coach, their families, friends and the fans – becoming something of a regular at the Soothill Social Club.

Creative Scene commissioned Kev to write a full – length play which tackles a wide range of contemporary and timeless issues – from racial discrimination, gender assignment and deep-hidden family secrets to boy – and girl – relationship problems.



“There is no great secret in making great theatre that is also accessible. Simply involve people, seek out their stories, and tell them with care. Value the benefits of this two-way process as genuinely reciprocal: acknowledge and respect the artistic activities that take place in working class communities.”

I was intrigued by the changing identity of this former mill town and the challenges faced by communities dealing with the realities of the influx of large numbers of migrant labour from South East Asia. I spoke to teenage Asian girls at Batley Girls’ High School as well as to members of the girl’s rugby league team.

Drama is different from a documentary and in a play, fact becomes fiction. It was important to me to investigate what it’s like to grow up in Batley. Becoming a teenager is a right of passage and rugby becomes a metaphor for that.

– Kevin Fegan, Writer



## FACT FILE:

A co-production between Creative Scene and the Lawrence Batley Theatre



70

Members attended the show from Batley Bulldogs Breakfast Club and Batley Bulldogs Cheerleaders



2 Sell out nights in Huddersfield



3 Yorkshire theatres in the regional tour



£5,000

Tickets sales income

“A truly original piece of theatre – real, honest and funny.”

Beautifully written with characters whose antics are as colourful off the pitch as on. These are the kind of women I’d want to spend a night at the theatre with.”

– Maxine Peake, Actor

## AUDIENCE REACTION

- We thought it was magic.
- I am a Batley girl though I don’t live there now and the story was brilliant, very modern and superbly acted.
- I am 71 and loved every minute. It was enthralling and full of humour, pathos and relevant of life today.
- It touched on moral issues, racial issues – what the young lasses went through...
- Much better than the telly, mind you ‘owt is better than the telly these days.



# TAKING PART IN THE ARTS

**THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN PART IN CREATIVE ACTIVITIES, OFTEN FOR THE FIRST TIME.**

They've learnt new skills; met new people, taken their interest further, and are now getting involved on a regular basis – even setting up their own projects.

"SWITCHED ME ON TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES"

"CALM AND CLEAR – GETS MY HEAD SORTED"

"CONNECTED – MET PEOPLE FROM DOWN THE ROAD THAT I HAD NEVER MET BEFORE!"

"PROUD TO BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER"

"BRIGHTENS THE DAY UP"

"POWERFUL – IT'S A WAY TO GET MY IDEAS OUT"

"BUZZING!"



MAKING MUSIC



ACTING AND LIGHTING INSTALLATIONS



CRAFTING AND MAKING



DEVISING AND ACTING



PERFORMING PARKOUR



DANCING



"I found it really therapeutic – I got to step away from whatever else was going on. I was speaking to people at completely different stages in life, it's bringing people together and not feeling alone."

"At first I thought I can't do that! because I'm from an estate. It wasn't about where I am from but what I can do. I've done loads since – acted on the main stage at the Lawrence Batley Theatre, a placement at West Yorkshire Playhouse and won an award for volunteering. I applied to do my own youth dance group and I'm going to Leeds College to do a BTEC acting course."

– Kira, 17, first took part in Creative Scene aged 13

"I'm now a member of Dewsbury Arts Group – they have not had a South Asian member before! I've performed at open mic nights, and am now working with my mum to present a new multi-lingual spoken word / Mushaira event."

"I hadn't done anything, I didn't know how to get involved. My confidence grew from being part of Worlds Apart and then in the LBT Youth Theatre – I went for an audition for Hollyoaks. I didn't know what other things you could do in the arts. I have applied to do drama at university, I'm interested in the health side of things, community drama, Theatre in Prisons."

– Sonia, first took part in Creative Scene aged 14

2000+ PEOPLE ALSO GOT INVOLVED IN:

## MAKING MUSIC

Matthew's Coffee Shop Ukulele Band

## DESIGNING & MAKING

Life's a Beach Hut, with Connect Housing tenants

## PERFORMING POETRY

Open Mic Night, It's a Word Thing

## ACTING & LIGHTING INSTALLATIONS

For HeckmondFRIGHT

## DANCING

For the Tour de Yorkshire's Bicycle Ballet

## DEVISING & ACTING

Worlds Apart at Redhouse Museum

## CRAFTING & MAKING

For Holocaust Memorial Day

## PERFORMING PARKOUR

At train stations and markets, with Urban Playground Team



CREATIVITY WITH A CURRENT



# IDLE WOMEN

## SUMMER ON THE WATER IN MIRFIELD

**IDLE WOMEN IS A TOURING ARTS CENTRE WHICH NAVIGATES THE CANALS AND WATERWAYS – THE FIRST EVER FLOATING ARTS CENTRE FOR WOMEN. IN SPRING AND SUMMER 2017, THE CANAL BARGE MOORED UP IN MIRFIELD ON THE AIRE AND CALDER NAVIGATION CANAL, TO HOST A SERIES OF ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE, WORKSHOPS & EVENTS FOR WOMEN.**

Nicky Bashall and Stella Barnes – writers, poets and theatre makers – collaborated to develop a project with the Mothers Apart group at the Women's Centre and the Greenwood Centre in North Kirklees.

Twelve artists were invited to stay on board the narrow boat The Selina Cooper and in exchange, offer something for local women such as a talk or workshop.

Women from all walks of life came by – a group from the local golf club, women who live in a refuge, professionals stopping off after their work in town, mums out for a health walk down the tow path.

A host of activities including stained glass window making, photography and banner-making, even crystal ball gazing provided fun and welcoming activities over six weeks.

Idle Women was co-commissioned in partnership with Super Slow Ways, Creative Scene, 42nd Street, Heart of Glass and The Canal and River Trust.

## WHAT DID THEY THINK?

“Being on the water connected with our area in a different way, the view from the canal is different and at the heart of two communities – Dewsbury & Mirfield – connected but distinctly different.”

“I learned a lot, not just about how to survive on the canal, but how to live peacefully and respectfully of others.”

TO SING, OR NOT TO SING?



# BATLEY DOES OPERA

**YOU COULD HEAR A PIN DROP.**

**THIS WAS DONIZETTI'S ELIXIR OF LOVE, PERFORMED IN A WHISTLE-STOP VERSION BY OPERA NORTH AND A LOCAL CAST OF OVER 100.**

## SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

### COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

A second Batley Does Opera is underway, with Batley Business Association taking the lead in commissioning a brand new production.

### BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

With local businesses to sell tickets and attract new audiences.

### NEW AUDIENCES

75% had never been to an opera before.

### CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

Pre-conceived notions that opera 'wasn't for them' were turned on their head.

“We've had 4 new members join the choir. They were in the audience and inspired to join!”

### CONTINUED PARTICIPATION

Opera North have continued to provide choir sessions at the Methodist church.

### A SPOTLIGHT

On the local groups involved helped signpost other interested people to their activities.





# THE TOGETHERING IN DEWSBURY

**“GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN CREATIVE PEOPLE GET TOGETHER!”**

**25 artists and would be producers took part in Creative Scene’s Make It Happen School with leading outdoor arts experts, Walk the Plank, to learn about creating and staging an outdoor spectacle in the best way possible... by doing one themselves.**

Creative Scene’s pop up studio space ‘Brigantia’ was a hub of creative activity along with the serious business of learning about production planning, health and safety and crowd management.

After an intensive seven days of training they got to grips with light, lanterns, shadow puppetry and fire to attract and entertain crowds of over 500 during a thrilling 45 minute evening performance in Dewsbury Town Centre.



## WHAT DID THEY THINK?

“ I learnt about using art in performance, how to work together as a team and made new contacts for the future.”  
– **Artist & illustrator Julia**, from Mirfield

“ The course is a new experience with a medium I have never worked with. I am able to meet other artists and share ideas. Learning about production will help me in future and has given me confidence.”  
– **Landscape designer Waheeda**, from Dewsbury

“ This is about getting up and doing things... I can use this to help local people take part in activities that will bring all parts of the community together. That’s what Dewsbury needs at the minute. We can use creative events to bring the town back up again.”  
– **Artist Jax**, from Dewsbury

“ Most of all, it is giving me confidence to believe I can do it. I feel like I’m part of something bigger, and I want to be able to make other people feel how it makes me feel...”  
– **Artist Donna**, from Birstall

“ For Dewsbury this is very unusual. I’ve never seen so many people here. It was wonderful. Let’s hope it continues.”  
– **Beauty salon owner Keisha**, from Dewsbury

# INSPIRING ARTISTS MAKING GREAT PLACES

**ARTISTS ARE INSPIRED WHEN THEY COME AND WORK IN THIS PART OF WEST YORKSHIRE – WITH ITS RICH HISTORY AND HERITAGE, VIBRANT CULTURES AND TRADITIONS, THEY CREATE TALES OF CONTEMPORARY LIFE THAT CATCH THE IMAGINATION.**

People still talk about the night The Batley Picture Show filled the Memorial Gardens with a night-time spectacle, a memorable closing performance for the annual Batley Festival. Weaving historical archive and family film footage with personal tales, outdoor arts experts Periplum created a show that had intimate moments of personal drama, presented on a spectacular scale, using live pyrotechnics, music and bi-lingual poetry.

“ We wanted to tell a story that captured the spirit of the town, and the many different people who call this place home; people who are Batley born and bred, those who have come here from across Yorkshire, and those who settled here from further afield – Pakistan, Poland, India and Ireland.

Working with Creative Scene and The Batley Festival gave us insights and encouragement as we developed our ideas and meant a wealth of links and introductions were lined up for us, as well as a fantastic audience from the town who came out to see their story writ large with aerial artistry, film, fire effects and floating illuminated balloons.

– **Claire Raftery & Damian Wright**, Artistic Directors, Periplum ”





COMPLICITÉ CREATIVE LEARNING AND A GROUP OF EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

# LIKE MOTHER LIKE DAUGHTER

IMAGINE IF YOU COULD ASK YOUR MOTHER A QUESTION YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK BUT NEVER HAD THE CHANCE?



12 pairs of real life mothers and daughters of different faiths and backgrounds created and performed an intimate show. No script – just enthralling stories of real people told in their own words, and an invitation to join in with the conversation around candle-lit tables, with soup and bread.

## MAKING THE SHOW

**IT WAS INCREDIBLE, GENEROUS STORY TELLING, PEOPLE SHARING THEIR RELATIONSHIPS. IT WAS A REAL BOND BETWEEN OUR MOTHERS AND GIRLS, BETWEEN DIFFERENT CULTURES.**

## WHAT DID THEY THINK?

“A lady yesterday said to Mum and I: ‘Were you guys involved in Like Mother Like Daughter? I saw one of the shows and I was so moved by it’ and I thought what a fantastic success for someone to come back 18 months later to say that.”

– Participant, FE Teacher, writer, mum and daughter



ANIMATING PARKS AND GARDENS

# PETER PAN IN THE PARK

IN WILTON PARK

AN AMBITIOUS COLLABORATION BETWEEN CREATIVE SCENE, THE PARK & THE MUSEUM. ATTRACTING PEOPLE FROM THE WIDER REGION TO SEE IMMERSIVE THEATRE.



## FACT FILE:

6 Sell-out shows 300+ Audience members

55 Pairs of headphones A FIRST for new West Yorkshire company Wrongsemble

## WHAT DID THEY THINK?

- “Beautiful setting! ...enjoyed the immersive experience and the way the natural and man-made features of the park were worked in seamlessly.”
- “It was a different experience to sitting in a theatre. Really family friendly, enjoyed following the adventure through the park, going on a physical adventure as well as a narrative one.”

# SAVAGE HART

AT OAKWELL HALL



**AN ENCHANTING PERFORMANCE OVER THREE NIGHTS, CREATED FOR OAKWELL HALL'S HISTORIC WALLED GARDEN.**

Combining dance, aerial artistry and circus, more than 300 people saw the show over three enchanting evenings.

## WHAT DID THEY THINK?

- “The location, the setting and the natural light was perfect.”
- “The aerial arts was incredible. I was bewitched by the whole show from start to finish.”
- “Even when it started to rain, you couldn't take your eyes off. I've never felt so drawn in to a performance like that.”
- “Absolutely amazing. I will definitely be keeping my eyes open for more performances by you guys!”



# WALK THE PLANK

## VIBRANT TOWNS + MEMORABLE EVENTS

### THE FESTIVAL KEEPING BATLEY SPELLBOUND

“ We want something for people to get involved in the planning of and look forward to each year. We formed a partnership with Creative Scene and over the last four years it has grown to become a showcase of first class street theatre and performances. People take part in making the event, co-creating and performing in our commissioned shows. ”

– Kimberley Thirkill, Chair, Batley Festival Committee

#### FACT FILE:

- 📅 **4** Annual festivals every September from 2014-2017
- 📍 **85%** of festival-goers live in North Kirklees
- ★ **1,000+** Hours of community creative activities
- 👥 **12,000+** Total audiences

#### UNIQUE EVENTS:

- 2015**  
Walk the Plank's Spellbound
- 2016**  
Periplum's The Batley Picture Show
- 2017**  
IOU's Rear View

“ I was born here and have always lived here but those artists showed me things about my town I never knew. Amazing. ”

– Festival Go-er

### A PEARL OF A FESTIVAL CLECKHEATON

Cleckheaton Folk Festival is entering its 31st year and is the highlight of the summer in the town, attracting thousands of people over a July weekend, with more than 30 music gigs in 20 venues. It brings in national and international artists, as well as offering a platform for local artists to perform and develop their skills.

Over the last three years Creative Scene has supported a programme of arts activity that encourages more local participation.

Creative sessions have been held at the supermarket, in local primary schools and libraries. In 2017 an audience of more than 3,400 people 'Followed the Heron' a specially made character for the parade.



“ It's helping us increase our audience. There will be people who will never have sung a folk song before. Young people would never have dreamt of dancing to the type of music they'll be dancing to. ”

– David Minich, Director, Cleckheaton Folk Festival

### THE ORIGINS OF HECKMONDLIGHT

Long before other illuminations, Heckmondwike's own gas board celebrated the opening of the new market hall in 1868 with gas-fired lights. With the coming of electricity, the town upped its ambition and progressed to electric power, coach loads came to see Green Park garlanded with the now legendary images of boxing cats and preening peacocks.

In their centenary year a huge voluntary effort was made to rekindle their former glory. Now there's a permanent lighting system, and a contemporary creative twist provided through annual commissioning of new light-based art works with Creative Scene – many of which have toured the country.

The thousands who attend the Light Switch on have come to expect something out of the ordinary, and schools and community groups can't wait to get involved in the interactive arts elements.

#### FACT FILE:

- 📅 **3** Annual light events
- 👤 **250+** Children take part in libraries and schools
- £ **£12,000** Lottery funding
- 🎨 **10** Artists commissions
- ★ **NEW** Arts events around the town
- 👥 **3,000** Audience members

Heckmondwike Community Alliance works hard to keep business afloat in the town and to bring the community together.

“ I first got involved because I wanted to bring this fantastic tradition bang up to date. Creative Scene gave me some tips and I got to take part in 'go and see' visits to research light events. I wanted to know how these events are produced, what's gone on in the background. I thought, if we bring these things to Heckmondwike, people will remember it for years. Now I can transfer all that knowledge back to my own community. We've brought new artists here each year, raised the funds to commission a new LED lit light that counts down to the big switch on, hosted a Slovenian artist as part of a Creative Europe project. I've learnt from them – last year I completed my own commission. ”

– Simon Thirkill, Chair, Heckmondwike Community Alliance







THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS PLAYED A PART IN GROWING THE CREATIVE SCENE:

6 million + | Aakash | Acorn Theatre Productions | Ambition Academy | Aye! Agency | Bagshaw Museum | Batley Amateur Thespian Society | Batley Bulldogs RLFC | Batley Community Choir | Batley Festival | Batley Girls High School | Batley Library and Art Gallery | Batley Poets | Batley Smile | Batley Town Hall | Battysford Primary School | Birstall Chamber of Trade | Birstall Community Centre | Birstall Library | Blenheim House | Blue Fish | Blue Moon Café | Bon Prix | Brooks Deli | Canal and River Trust | Carlinghow Theatre Company | Central Methodist Church | Cleckheaton Folk Festival | Cleckheaton Library | Cleckheaton Literature Festival | Cleckheaton Town Hall | Cloggs Café | Cocoa Lounge | Connect Housing | Dewsbury Arts Group | Dewsbury Collegians | Dewsbury Library | Dewsbury Minster | Dewsbury Town Hall | Fox's Biscuits | Friends of Crow Nest Park | Friends of Firth Park | Friends of Mansion House | Friends of Wilton Park | Gomersal Primary School | Greenwood Centre | Groundwork | Gujarati Writers Forum | Healey Community Centre | Heckmondwike Community Alliance | Howden Clough Community Centre | Howlands Centre | Indian Muslim Welfare Society | Katie Philpott School of Dance | Kirklees College | Kirklees Democracy | Kirklees Markets | Matthew's Coffee House | Mecca Bingo | Mill Valley Brewery Tap | Mims Restaurant | Mirfield Arts Festival | Mirfield Library | More in Common | Mosaic | New Picture House | Northorpe Hall | Oakwell Hall | Orchid Rooms | Pakistani Kashmiri Welfare Association | Prince of Wales Shopping Centre | Red House Museum | Reunion Café | Roberttown Community Centre | Sarah Taylor School of Dance | Sea Urchin | Shepley Bridge Marina | Sensory World | Tesco, Batley | The Cobbles | The Corner Café | The Dancing House | The Leggers Inn | The Mill Outlet | The Navigation Tavern | The Old Turk | The Taproom | The Venue | The Wickham Arms | Thornhill Sports & Community Centre | Timestep School of Dance | Transpennine Express | University of Huddersfield | Westgate 23 | West Yorkshire Drama Academy

HERE'S TO YOU...

FRIENDS, PARTNERS, ARTISTS

100 ARTISTS AND COMPANIES HAVE BROUGHT THEIR IDEAS, IMAGINATIONS, CURIOSITY AND CREATIVITY TO THE CREATIVE SCENE, INCLUDING SOME OF THE TOP TALENT FROM RIGHT HERE IN KIRKLEES – SPECIALISTS IN PERFORMANCE POETRY, LIGHT PROJECTION, DIGITAL STORY TELLING, IMMERSIVE THEATRE, LANTERN MAKING AND FIRE DRAWING.

We've hosted leading national companies and supported emerging artists and collectives from the region – street performers and acrobats, engineers, animators, fire sculptors and film makers. We've played at a Digital Funfair and on the Human Jukebox, witnessed a parading yak and the Fastest One Man Band in the World.

- |                                      |                                    |                                |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 154 Collective                       | Frances Taylor                     | Periplum                       |
| 20 Stories High                      | Freedom Studios                    | Peter Macqueen                 |
| Adam Strickson                       | Helen Davies                       | Proper Job                     |
| ADEPT                                | Hidden Track Theatre               | Rebecca Foster                 |
| Alistair I MacDonald                 | Horse + Bamboo                     | Richard Broderick              |
| Andy Plant                           | Human Jukebox                      | Ripstop Theatre                |
| Andy Wicks & Tim Copsey              | Idle women                         | Rose Condo                     |
| Anthony Haddon                       | in situ                            | Rozi Fuller                    |
| Apollon Association                  | Impossible Arts                    | Ruth Bridges & Harriet Lawson  |
| Artizani                             | IOU                                | Scary Little Girls             |
| Avanti Display                       | Irregular Arts                     | Scottee                        |
| Axial Dance                          | Jacqui Wicks                       | Schwa                          |
| Brick Box                            | John Chamberlain                   | Shadow Laboratory              |
| Bryan Tweddle                        | Johnny Woodhams                    | Skiband                        |
| Cardboard Orchestra                  | Jim Bond                           | Sneaky Experience              |
| Cassandra Kilbride                   | Kate Sully                         | Spearfish                      |
| Cathianne Hall                       | Kevin Fegan                        | Spilt Milk Dance               |
| Chol Theatre                         | Let's Go                           | Tamsin Cook                    |
| Citrus Arts                          | Little Mighty                      | Tilen Sepic                    |
| Commonwealth Theatre's Aisha Zia and | Little Star                        | The Baghdaddies                |
| Evie Manning                         | Liz Walker                         | The Institute of Crazy Dancing |
| Complicite                           | Love Science                       | The Lawrence Batley Theatre    |
| Curly Wurly events                   | M6 Theatre                         | The Urban Playground Team      |
| Daniel Bye                           | Maison Foo                         | The Whalley Range All Stars    |
| David Boulton                        | Manasmitra                         | Thingumajig Theatre            |
| Demon Barbers                        | Matthew Bellwood with Rebecca Legg | Tom Wright                     |
| Deveron Arts                         | media preview ltd                  | Travelling Light Circus        |
| Digital Funfair                      | Molly Hawkins                      | Urban Canvas                   |
| Dizzy O'Dare                         | Mr Wilson's Second Liners          | Walk the Plank                 |
| Edgelands                            | Not Too Tame                       | West Yorkshire Print Workshop  |
| Ella Good & Nikki Kent               | Odd Doll                           | Wrongsemble                    |
| External Combustion                  | Olivia Furber                      | Yorkshire Life Aquatic         |
| Fastest One Man Band                 | Opera North                        | Zareena Bano                   |
| Firm of Poets                        | Pa-Boom                            |                                |
| Flame Oz                             | Parkour Circle                     |                                |

CREATIVE SCENE TEAM

Thanks to the very talented Creative Scene team over the past 3+ years who have written bids, developed briefs, been out and met and talked to people in pubs and cafes, on trains and on the streets, calculated costs, risks and timelines, found where people are at and where they want to go, stood outdoors in wind, rain and snow and sometimes sun, to produce events, count audiences, collect feedback – and generally keep the whole show on the road.

NANCY BARRETT  
Director

VICKY HOLLIDAY  
Senior Producer

LISA SLATTERY  
Marketing & Administration Officer

ANNA FRANKS  
Audience Development & Communications Associate

BEN ROTHERA  
On Tour Associate

ANNA PARKER  
Production Assistant

JENNY HILL  
Admin Assistant

ALISON BELLAMY  
Press & Marketing Assistant



The Creative Scene in North Kirklees, West Yorkshire was first imagined by a consortium of The Lawrence Batley Theatre, Kirklees Council, and The Batley Festival Group. Thanks to this partnership which continues to lead and steer the programme, to our research and evaluation colleagues at the University of Huddersfield, and to our critical friend Dr Erinma Ochu.

If you'd like to get involved and start your own arts adventure, please contact [hello@creativescene.org.uk](mailto:hello@creativescene.org.uk)

**Photography by Len Grant, except:**

Cover, Charlotte Graham  
Page 4-5, Charlotte Graham  
Page 8, Roger Moody  
Page 9, It's Your Round, Scary Little Girls  
Page 12, Oskar's Amazing Adventure, Theatre Fideri Fideral  
Page 13, Karen Rangeley  
Page 14-15, Amy Charles Media  
Page 16, Making Music, Vicky Holliday  
Page 16, Devising and Acting, Paul Floyd Blake  
Page 16, Crafting and Making, Paul Floyd Blake  
Page 16, Acting and Lighting Installations, Charlotte Graham  
Page 16, Performing Parkour, Roger Moody  
Page 16, Dancing, Bicycle Ballet  
Page 17, Paul Floyd Blake  
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Page 19, Batley Does Opera, Opera North  
Page 21, Charlotte Graham  
Page 22, Like Mother Like Daughter, Karen Rangeley  
Page 23, Peter Pan in the Park, Amy Charles Media  
Page 25, Stilt Girls, Charlotte Graham  
Page 25, Batley Festival, Roger Moody  
Page 25, HeckmondLIGHT, Charlotte Graham  
Page 24, Cleckheaton Folk Festival, Folk Dance Remixed

## STAY IN TOUCH

[creativescene.org.uk](http://creativescene.org.uk)



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