



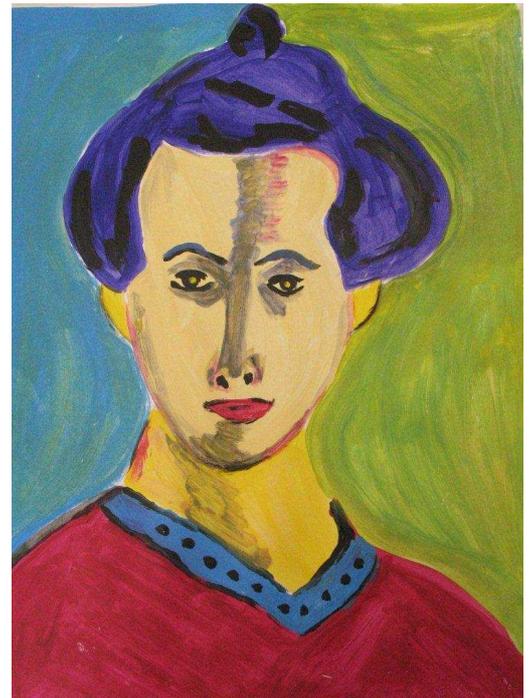
BORDERLAND VOICES

ANNUAL REPORT

1 APRIL 2012 to 31 MARCH 2013



Breath of Fresh Air final evaluation, Ecominds grant



Portrait in the Fauvist style (supported by Lloyds TSB)



Writing group visit the 'bee man' (Voice of the Moorlands - Peak Park SDF)



Haregate lantern parade (supported by Moorlands Housing, Leek Arts Forum & Leek Town Lands)

Charity Number 1114338

BORDERLAND VOICES
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2013.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name	Borderland Voices
Charity registration number	1114338
Principal office	57 Queens Drive Leek Staffordshire ST13 6QF

THE TRUSTEES

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Mrs P. Heathcote
Ms J. Clayton
Mrs B. Bellaby
Mr R. Foster
Ms M. Worth
Mr M. Hofman
Mr P. Brady
Ms N. Reece

Secretary Ms J Clayton

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Borderland Voices is a Charitable Unincorporated Association.

Membership is free and open to users of mental health services and to any other individuals interested in the promotion of mental health. Full membership includes individuals aged eighteen or over living within the area of benefit, who have the right to vote at General Meetings. Associate membership includes individuals aged eighteen or over living outside the area of benefit, who do not have the right to vote at General Meetings.

Associations and organisations including local branches of national organisations which are voluntary or non-profit-distributing are known as Affiliated Groups and have the right to appoint one representative who will have one vote at General Meetings.

Statutory Authorities in whose administrative area Borderland Voices operates have the right to appoint one representative who will have one vote at General Meetings.

The Trustees may refuse an application for membership if, acting reasonably and properly, they consider it to be in the best interests of Borderland Voices to refuse the application. The Trustees inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for the refusal within twenty-one days of the decision. The Trustees consider any written representations the applicant may make about the decision. The Trustees' decision following any written representations is notified to the applicant in writing but shall be final.

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Membership is not transferable to anyone else. The Trustees keep a register of names and addresses of the members which is made available to any member upon request.

Borderland Voices in general meeting can elect the Officers and the other Trustees. The Trustees may appoint any person who is willing to act as a Trustee and they may also appoint Trustees to act as officers. Each of the Trustees shall retire with effect from the conclusion of the annual general meeting next after his or her appointment but shall be eligible for re-election at that annual general meeting.

No-one may be elected a Trustee or an Officer at any annual general meeting unless prior to the meeting Borderland Voices is given a notice that:

- is signed by a member entitled to vote at the meeting
- states the member's intention to propose the appointment of a person as a Trustee or as an officer
- is signed by the person who is to be proposed to show his or her willingness to be appointed

The Trustees may not appoint a person to be an Officer if a person has already been elected or appointed to that office and has not vacated the office.

All relevant documentation from the Charity Commission on the responsibilities of Trustees is made available to new Trustees. Trustees can receive updated training on governance, policies and procedures from CSIP or SMCVS so they are clear about their roles and responsibilities.

Borderland Voices are members of Staffordshire Moorlands Council for Voluntary Service (SMCVS) who help with recruiting and training volunteers. SMCVS also offer advice on policies, procedures, funding and facilitate links with other community and voluntary organisations. We hire their minibus when we visit places of interest.

Borderland Voices (BV) also have close links with the following organisations:-

- Social Services, drop-in centres, mental health teams & Rethink. All refer people to BV.
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council: Leisure, Tourism and Culture
- Haregate: Residents' Association; Community and Environmental Group; Community Centre
- Kniveden Partnership (N Staffs Combined Healthcare NHS Trust)
- Youth and other clubs (e.g. Gateway Club) in and around Haregate
- Home-Start
- W Midlands Arts, Health and Wellbeing
- Leek Arts Forum
- Moorlands Housing
- First, Middle and High Schools in the Leek and Moorlands Area
- Local Children's Centres
- Staffs CC: Community Arts & Local Community Funds; Library Service
- NSUG (North Staffs Users' Group)
- Stone and Water (Buxton-based artists' cooperative)
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (SWT)
- Moorlands Brunch Bunch
- Changes – 12 Steps to Mental Health
- The Foxlowe Arts Centre
- Leek Cooperative Emporium (Leek Community Benefit Society)
- High Peak Community Arts (Project eARTh)

BORDERLAND VOICES

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Over the years, Borderland Voices has established links with a number of mental health advisors, the Adult Community Mental Health and Social Services Team and other partners including Rethink. BV works closely with referring organisations to ensure good communication is maintained. We continue to offer a warm welcome to people who self-refer or simply come along on the strength of word-of-mouth or articles in the local press. Borderland Voices regularly updates its risk policies and provides individual risk assessments for all external activities and workshops.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Borderland Voices' main aim is to promote and improve health and mental wellbeing through creative activities. The main objectives of the group are to:-

- Increase the number of participants benefiting from the service
- Reduce the stigma of mental illness
- Promote and take part in evaluations to establish the benefits of therapeutic activity
- Raise sufficient funding to continue providing an ongoing regular service to users
- Raise funding for discrete projects to expand the opportunities available
- Promote and support the arts through the employment of professional artists
- Present and take part in public events to publicise the benefits of creative involvement
- Spread the work of Borderland Voices to the local community in Leek & the wider rural area

Except for some visits which incur a small charge, all BV activities are free to participants.

The experienced artists and volunteers who facilitate Borderland Voices' workshops are greatly valued. It is through their creative skills, dedication and empathy, responding to each individual and supporting their needs on a particular day that people feel honoured and empowered. We also offer 1-2 open studio sessions monthly so that members can pursue their own work independently.

Some examples of the work done this year by volunteers include:-

- Home-baked cakes and home-made produce to raffle
- Administrative support to Rushton Country Fayre in exchange for a donation to BV funds
- Pastoral support to fellow participants
- Support with workshops
- Typing up creative writing
- Help with grant applications
- Practical help with maintaining the workplace
- Assistance with social and public events including Craft Emporia
- Assistance with transport
- Desk top publishing IMPACT (quarterly anthology of creative writing)
- Assembling words and images for the calendar
- Summer outdoor-painting sessions
- Mounting work for display
- Leading workshops e.g. Animation, Eating well for Mental Wellbeing, Watercolour for Beginners, Experimental Creative Writing
- Bag packing

We also acknowledge the on-going and invaluable in-kind support of Moorlands Housing which provides our accommodation rent free. They also provide small additional amounts of one-off funding for specific projects ('Portraits' and 'Houses and Homes' as part of their contribution to a national campaign against mental health stigma and money for the *Haregate Lantern Parade* from their Scrutiny Panel Fund).

BORDERLAND VOICES

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Borderland Voices continues both to receive referrals and to welcome people who simply read or hear about us. Tuesday writing and expressive arts workshops both regularly see 9-12 participants although because of the severe spring weather we had to postpone some sessions, including a briefing on the impact of benefits reforms, which was worrying many people. The weather caused attendance to drop for a while but the writing group particularly has blossomed this year, with some new faces coming as a result of Joe's evening class (see Nurturing Young Artists). Several people say that they attend specifically when they are unwell and see Borderland Voices as a retreat where they'll be welcomed and feel safe. Some (12-15%) have additional physical health problems and are sometimes unable to attend owing to illness (physical or mental) but return on a regular basis. They say that knowing we exist is an incentive to recovery. Some of our regular participants have become involved in outreach such as the Craft Emporia. Another, who gained a Creative Writing degree, has delivered evening workshops for us. A keen water-colour painter leads outdoor sessions during the summer. Some people do voluntary work elsewhere.

As an organisation, we:

- Successfully attracted support for 2 years from the **Lloyds TSB Foundation, England and Wales**, for our expressive arts programme
- Completed the (extended) **Peak Park Sustainable Development Fund** project '*Park Art – the view from Haregate*'. We successfully bid for a follow-on creative writing project, '*The Voice of the Moorlands*'.
- Similarly completed '*A Breath of Fresh Air*', our extended **Ecominds** project. Although unsuccessful in accessing their restricted pot of money to support '*A Breath of Fresh Air*' for another year, we did get Ecominds 'Supporting Change' funding to help build up Borderland Voices' resilience in these challenging times.
- Provide venue and chairmanship for the **Haregate Environmental and Community Group**.
- Worked with the **Library Service** to use one of the wonderful handling collections from Shugborough.
- Continue to circulate **IMPACT**, our quarterly anthology of home-grown creative writing, to cafés and other venues around Leek where it is well received.
- **Nurture young artists** who are running their first groups.
- Provide valuable work experience for young **volunteers**.
- Repeated last year's experiment with another successful A4 format **2013 calendar** of photos and writing, jointly funded by Ecominds and PDSDF.
- Ran further **Craft Emporia**
- Promote **social interaction** and a broadening of people's horizons through events (Jubilee Bring and Share, Christmas lunch), visits and volunteering opportunities
- Encourage **participant feedback and involvement**

ECOMINDS

'*A Breath of Fresh Air*': The original project focused on promoting mental wellbeing through a two-pronged approach, using the arts as an imperceptible inducement to engage in gentle physical activity. As it drew to a close, additional activities included:

- A joint 'Greenwood Day' at the Dove Valley Centre with High Peak Community Arts (Project eARTh). People sampled a range of skills including pole lathe turning, wood carving and helping to finalise a willow sculpture (archway of webs with willow spider) subsequently installed at the centre.

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- An 'Ancient landscapes' picnic and finale (the very varied artwork was inspired by the Carboniferous reef limestone of the upper Dove Valley and contributed to the international Hyperbolic Crochet Coral Reef.)
- *Inspired by Summer* with mobiles and staybiles emulating the pioneering work of Alexander Calder
- A fantastic final evaluation session with Viv Young. It involved turning the table into a giant sand tray and plotting our Ecominds journey, with comments about each activity on flags, paper butterflies, shells, stones and other personal creations.

Supporting change: This follow-on Ecominds money (31 May 2012 – 1 June 2013) has primarily enabled the coordinator, with the support of the Trustees, to make Borderland Voices more robust. Specifically, it has so far supported:

- Production of a comprehensive 3-year strategy including delivery, communications and funding
- A second successful calendar, sold at another Christmas craft emporium and elsewhere
- Making funding and commissioning bids
- Extensive networking and exploration of possible informal partnerships, including the coordinator participating in a series of (free) Ageing, Drama and Creativity workshops (New Vic Theatre/Keele University)
- Initial discussions between the coordinator, Sheena and our Chair about updating the website
- Providing creative activities for the Personality Disorders Conference in Stoke on Trent

PEAK PARK SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Park Art – the View from Haregate: The final months of this project jointly funded some of the Ecominds activities. Apart from this it supported:

- Art in the Park: two days of outreach and family activity (making flapping birds)

Voice of the Moorlands: This funds the regular Tuesday writing sessions plus some visits (Flash well dressing and flower festival; Olivier, the 'bee man') and paper making with Pam. In addition it enabled us to employ Helen Lloyd, a nationally known writer and broadcaster to explain how to capture reminiscences. Also the money has funded a number of community workshops including:

- Evening Writing workshops at the Foxlowe Arts Centre in Leek
- Outreach session with the Moorlands Brunch Bunch

EXPRESSIVE ARTS SUPPORTED BY LLOYDS TSB

These activities started in fine style in November 2012 with a visit to Hanley Museum to see the Staffordshire Hoard, which then inspired all manner of writing and artwork. We have widened our pool of artists, and other themes to date include:

- Hand made cards and decorative boxes
- Papier mache bowls for Christmas
- Mosaics
- Changing faces (how colour conveys emotion)
- Hearts and flowers (for Valentine's Day)
- Wild Art – inspired by the Fauvists

HAREGATE ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY GROUP

BV participates in this group which brings together local residents, Staffs Wildlife Trust, Moorlands

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Housing, Police and anyone else concerned with the quality of the environment and community life on Haregate. The coordinator now chairs the group and also helps judge the annual Gardening Competition.

NURTURING YOUNG ARTISTS

Having gained his degree in Creative Writing, Joe still comes to BV and offered our participants a short course in Experimental Writing. Being interested in leading community workshops, he took a PTTLS (Preparing to teach in the life-long learning sector) qualification. BV then paid him to lead a short evening series of writing workshops at the Foxlowe Arts Centre in Leek.

CRAFT EMPORIA

After our first event, subsequent ones have been less successful for stall holders – a reflection of people's reduced disposable income – but have nonetheless been warm, friendly and enjoyable days where participants have supported BV as volunteers.

COMMISSIONED WORK

A small sub-group met regularly and worked tirelessly under the supervision of our wonderful volunteer Sheena to create a commissioned knitted wall hanging. Trustee Martin Hofman and his wife Deborah have installed it in one of their award-winning self-catering cottages.

STAFFORDSHIRE ARTS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Several people associated with BV nominated Sheena Barnes for this award and we were thrilled on her behalf when she was declared Arts Volunteer of the Year at a glitzy presentation. We subsequently treated her to a mini celebration at BV.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSIONING BID (STAFFS COUNTY COUNCIL)

Although we did not succeed with this bid (for outreach into the Moorlands) we hope it has at least put us on the radar of the Public Health commissioners.

LETTER FROM CLARENCE HOUSE

Pam was moved to write to Prince Charles, enclosing a piece of writing by Marion, who'd love to go water-colour painting with the Prince. Pam received a gracious reply, though not signed by HRH.

WEST MIDLANDS ARTS FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING – AWARD NOMINATION

Many participants and supporters took the trouble to write 50 words in support of BV and we were long-listed for an award, as last year. Although the recognition of an award would have been icing on the cake, the important thing is that so many people think highly of the services we offer.

EXHIBITIONS AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- Art in the Park, Brough Park, Leek
- West End Fun Day
- Portraits and Houses and Homes display, Moorlands Housing HQ
- Lantern making workshops, Haregate schools and youth clubs

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- ASDA fun day
- ASDA bag pack
- Leek Play Day
- Cooperative Emporium – voluntary arts week display and teas
- Haregate Gala
- Ancient Landscapes exhibition at the Buxton Art Trail (BAT) and Castleton Visitor Centre
- Comprehensive exhibition of small artefacts in the glass display cabinets in Leek Library
- Christmas craft emporia in the Cooperative Emporium
- A ‘bus-o-meter’ for SMCVS, to show pictorially progress towards their funding target for a replacement minibus

IN SUMMARY

During 2012-13 Borderland Voices has achieved:-

- Regular weekly sessions of creative writing and expressive arts
- Open space sessions once or twice a month where participants can explore their own ideas
- Venue & chairing for regular meetings of the Haregate Environmental & Community Group
- Workshops and displays at public events and in other public venues (see above)
- Social activities e.g. Christmas lunch, Jubilee party
- Regular informal feedback sessions
- Links with mental health resources in other local areas (Biddulph and Cheadle)
- Input into evaluations for arts and health
- Cultural work with local schools and groups
- Employment for a diversity of local artists
- Volunteering opportunities for young people
- Support for up-and-coming young artists
- Networking and involvement with a wide range of local organisations, statutory and voluntary
- Publicity via press, radio & IMPACT – this last written by participants
- Visibility generated by a craft event which participants have been involved in
- Internal fund-raising including Craft Emporia, calendar sales and a major private commission
- Reflected glory from Sheena Barnes’ Volunteering Award
- A new source of funding to support expressive arts for two years
- W Midlands Arts for Health and Wellbeing Award long-listing

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our regular activity in this financial year has been funded by Ecominds, the Peak District National Park Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) and Lloyds TSB, England & Wales. Additional fundraising activities such as the Craft Fair, bag packing and commissioned work have continued to increase our unrestricted reserves.

The Trustees hope shortly to appoint a voluntary leader for a *Friends of Borderland Voices* group, which would spearhead further in-house fund-raising.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The coordinator constantly both networks to promote BV’s work and searches out funding to sustain it. We also take every opportunity to work in the community, to encourage people to use our arts resource and to dispel myths about mental health issues.

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Our management and administration are robust but light-touch, so that BV can support participants fully while remaining flexible. As the new NHS landscape settles down the coordinator will pursue contacts with the N Staffs Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Staffs CC Public Health, who also have a mental health remit. If appropriate and compatible with our independence, she may investigate commissioning.

Borderland Voices remains committed to delivering regular weekly writing and arts workshops which are free and independent, thus encouraging the peer-to-peer support which is a feature of our sessions. These workshops support all of the *Five Ways to Wellbeing* identified by the New Economics Foundation: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give. We also deliver arts activities in local community settings; work with as wide a range of groups and artists as possible; combat stigma; and maintain a high quality experience for all concerned. We will continue to pursue the necessary funding for this essential work.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

57 Queens Drive
Leek
ST13 6QF

Mr R. Foster
Chair