



annual report

Pyramid of Arts



Pyramid of Arts

2011/12



welcome

Message from Julia (Creative Director)

Welcome to our Annual Report 2011-12. It's exciting to realise that, in just over 2 years, we have doubled the number of people who are involved in our projects, we've strengthened our staff team and Trustee board and moved into more spacious premises. Under the guiding hand of our chairperson, John Lehany, the new board members are rapidly becoming a force to be reckoned with.

Sonia Kitchen, a long standing member of Pyramid of Arts, talked to me about her experience of becoming a Trustee.

Julia: *How have you found it becoming a Trustee?*

Sonia: It was a bit difficult to understand at first, but when I came to more meetings and everyone, especially Tom Chalk (also a new Trustee), helped me, and then I understood more.

Julia: *What things have you learnt this year?*

Sonia: I've learnt about where the money goes and how it's spent, and what goes on in other groups. I've learnt how meetings work and I chaired one when John was away. I've helped to review our policies and make sure that everyone knows about them.

Julia: *Is there anything special that you think you've really helped with this year?*

Sonia: I met with Tom and Felix (Odeh, Treasurer) and together we've made our finance papers much easier to understand. All our agendas and minutes for meetings are clearer too.

Julia: *If you had one dream for Pyramid's future what is it?*

Sonia: To employ more people with learning disabilities to run our arts hub.



Planning our Future – the Visioning Day

It was a cold wet January morning, but inside the Swarthmore Centre, 88 people turned out to help Pyramid of Arts to discuss plans for the Arts Hub.

Sam and Rachel made a SCARY BOX. Anybody who had concerns about the hub wrote down their thoughts and put them in the scary box. Money was a BIG ISSUE, but not enough to put us off the idea!

adult programme

'Farm Hill'

Skills development, exhibition opportunities and contact with the professional arts community

- **The Eden Group** completed its sculpture project for Meanwood Valley Urban Farm.



Carving the animals



At the foundry



Ready for installation



'The Cast'
*at Dean Clough
Gallery, Halifax*

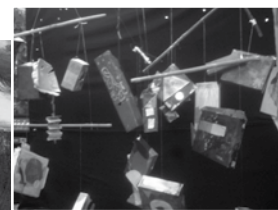
Sponsors of Farm Hill

- Casu Consulto Ltd
- Datalex Services Ltd
- Dean Clough Gallery
- Hargreaves Foundry
- Hawdon Russell Architects
- Howdens Joinery
- Leeds Church Institute
- Thor Homecare Ltd
- Claire Taylor & Ben Hardy
- Judy Tosh
- Steve Ward

• Elders Group

Abstract Painting & Mobiles

It's a long time since formal painting has been on the menu at the Elders. After studying paintings by well-known abstract painters and experimenting with shape and colour to produce a series of initial drawings, sketches and studies, the group produced a set of striking abstract paintings layered with rich colour. These ideas were then further developed in 3D, using found and made shapes and print to construct a mobile, now on display at Beeston United Reformed Church where the group is based.



WILDWEST Photography

When the Elders discovered a shared enthusiasm for watching old Westerns, it was the trigger for an exciting new project. They constructed an old fashioned photo booth, complete with backdrop, props and simple costumes based on themes and scenery from the films. The resulting photos, set into sepia frames, had a two week exhibition at the Swarthmore Centre.

• Ribblehead Group



Storyteller Matthew Bellwood helped us to explore the story of **Baba Yaga** using homemade masks and puppets. We told the story for visitors to the Beeston Gala.



high support programme

Movement / Sound / Visual arts

An introduction to the rich and sensory world of the creative arts



• Movement Group

The Movement Group have had a great year. We have used different props to create a multi-sensory experience during sessions. We especially enjoyed using the maypole. We took part in an i-Move project and the film has been used in an interactive performance at Lawrence Batley Theatre Huddersfield. We also collaborated with the Visual Arts group for an exhibition at the Howard Assembly Rooms.



• Sound Group

There is a vibrant and lively atmosphere during the Sound Group's sessions. We have been learning about different types of music through listening and rhythm exploration, including African Drums, Blues, Jazz, Reggae and Classical Indian. We have been discovering rhythms through playing along to music; creating our own beats; controlling volume, the shape of the beat and the speed. Our public session at the Tenfold picnic last year was so popular, we couldn't fit everyone in the tent!



• Visual Arts Group

This Visual Arts Group (also known as the Messy Marble Mob) have been busy. We completed work on The Cumbamlarok - a bird like creature (a cross between a dragon, a duck and a dinosaur) who appeared at our 2011 AGM and Hyde Park Unity Day. We then took part in a week of art and movement, joining with the Movement Group in making webs and moving in and amongst them. Since September, we've worked on a silhouette puppet show with everyone contributing making puppets, sounds, scenery. This has been made into a film.

creative bridges

Webs of Ambition

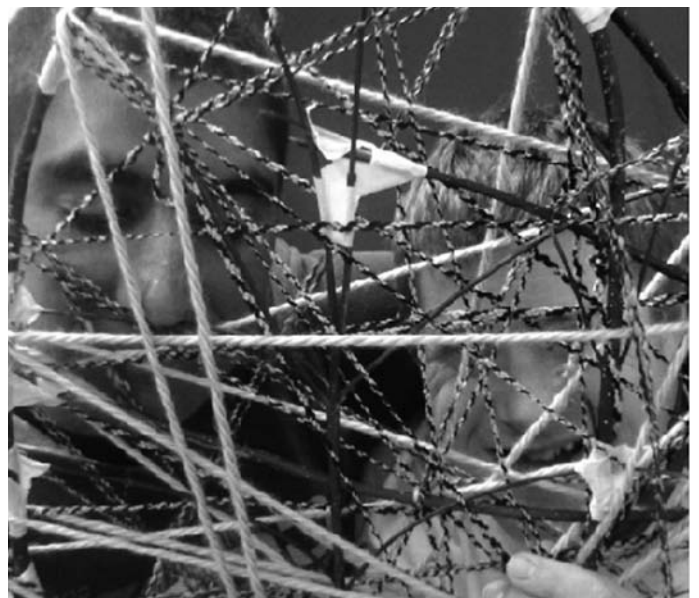
For Light Night all Pyramid groups created 'Webs of Ambition'.

We explored the beauty or otherwise of webs and their tendency to grow and access everywhere, and how people like or loath the spiders who make them. Webs of Ambition reflected the different experiences and treatment of people with learning disabilities in different times, and our hopes for the future.



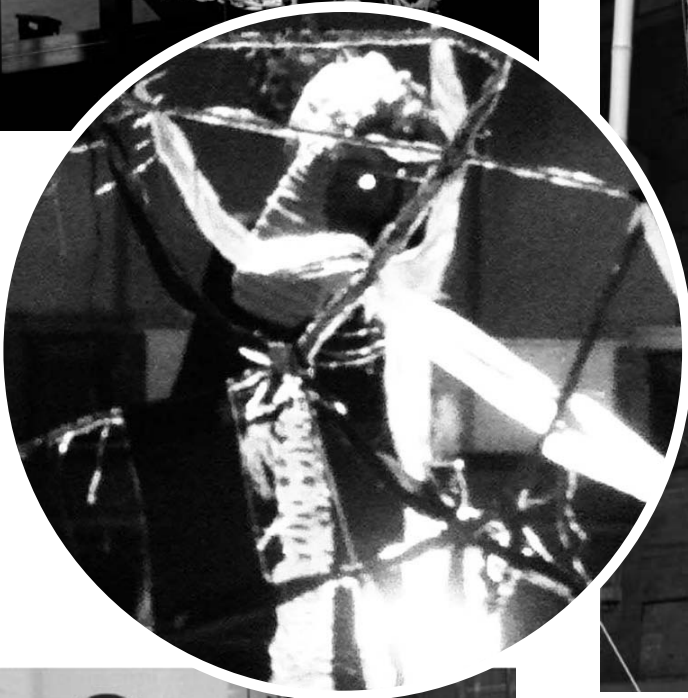
- **Past** – a huge and sombre puppet judge rules in the Old Court Room of the Town Hall, where members of the public were put on trial and faced the possibility of being committed to an institution for life, as happened in the early 20th century.

- **Present** – in the pictures below members enjoy the freedom to make art together, and to enjoy each other's company.



Enabling people with learning disabilities to have quality arts experiences in mainstream venues

- **Future** – hopes and ambitions for jobs and happiness woven into large colourful webs



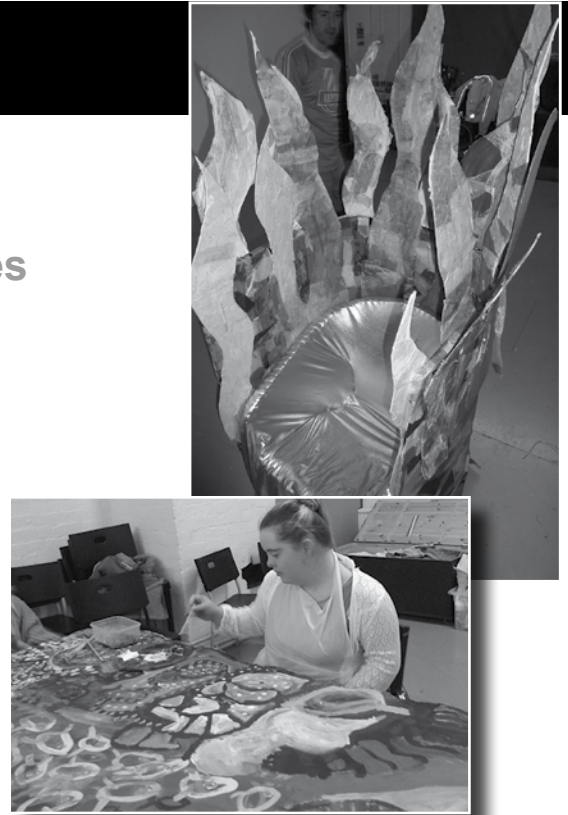
Ribblehead Group outside Leeds Church Institute where their 'dream catcher' themed web was displayed for Light Night 2011

youth programme (14-25)

Arts opportunities for all young people, particularly those with complex learning disabilities and autistic spectrum disabilities

• Young Adults Group

The Young Adults continued filming **'Dance the Jitterbug to Bramley'** on location at Leeds Market, and around Burley. The film is now at the editing stage, and we look forward to presenting it soon. We also made a themed **video diary room** which can be hired out for event and festivals. Backdrops represent 'Underwater', 'The Jungle' and 'Outer Space'.



• Youth Group

'Sound quest', a board game designed by the youth group for four Sound Beams and players of all ages, was featured in the Town Hall as part of this year's Breeze International Youth Festival.



The Youth Group performed its **'Alternative Christmas Carols'** at the Slung Low Christmas Fayre. Arthur the Groovy Piglet (sung to the tune of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer) was a big hit!

Introducing **'Billy the Mood Frog'** Billy is no ordinary frog - he changes colour according to his mood! His first story, told as part of the Wyke Beck Valley Arts Trail, explained how he had been wondering when the drought would end and first heard the expression 'Raining Cats and Dogs' Billy has many more stories to tell in future projects...



• Creative Snapshots

Armley Mills Museum was a new and welcoming venue for a 'Creative Bridges' short project that focussed on photography and papermaking

short projects



• Howard Assembly Rooms Residency

Pyramid members from the youth and high support groups enjoyed a whole week in the awe inspiring surrounds of the Howard Assembly Rooms of the Grand Theatre, where they wove webs, danced, filmed and created magic.

• Leeds Lieder +



"The best yet" is how the artists and audience described their experiences with Pyramid of Arts at Seven Arts, Chapel Allerton during the Leeds Lieder + festival. We are lucky to have Philip Smith and Jonathan Fisher, rising stars in the world of classical singing, whose ongoing commitment means that further groundbreaking projects are assured.

LEEDSLIEDER+



Taking Part

Leeds Canvas – part of the Cultural Olympiad in Yorkshire

Pyramid of Arts won a bid to be one of just three community groups to contribute to the Leeds Canvas Cultural Olympiad project "Overworlds and Underworlds". The Ribbleshead and Eden groups have both been exploring the theme of "Flow", and how the flow of time impacts on us and the things around us. Watch out for a major installation at Thwaite Mills Industrial Museum in Summer 2012.



Our Trustees:

- John Lehany (Chair)
- Felix Odeh (Treasurer)
- Thomas Chalk
- Alex Croft
- Sonia Kitchen
- Gloria Lindh

• Our staff team:

Julia Piggott – Creative Director
Alison Herbert – Finance Administrator
Jane Kenington – Project Coordinator (*High Support*)
John Kennedy – Project Coordinator (*Youth*)
Sarah Kennedy – Administrator
David Maccoby – Admin Assistant
Sukhvinder K Sond – Project Coordinator (*Adult Social Care*)

• Our associates and networks:

Arts and Minds
Electroville
Hargreaves Foundry
Include Network
Meanwood Valley Urban Farm
The Media Trust
Scrap
Space 2
Swarthmore Education Centre
Tenfold
Voluntary Action Leeds
West Yorkshire Playhouse Community Network
YAMSEN

• Our funders:

Leeds City Council
Arts Council England (Yorkshire)
Big Lottery Fund
Lloyds TSB Foundation Trust
Arts@Leeds
Wades Charity
LankellyChase Foundation

Many thanks to Jonny Woodhead and friends who set up the Mosaic Sessions performances at St Aidan's Church; the Glebe Singers: students at Leeds University and the congregation of SS Peter and Paul Church, Yeadon, who donated proceeds from events, and all the amazing friends and family members who have taken part in sponsored activities or made regular donations to us throughout the year.

Our artists & arts workers:

Carl Allport
Kasia Baczkowski
Tom Bailey
Jennifer Beagley
Matthew Bellwood
Christian Braime
Christine Brumpton
Alison Clissold
Jonathan Fisher
Richard Garside
Catherine Graham
Jenny Harris
Alison Herbert
Sandy Holden
Peter Hudspith
Pippa Julings
Judith Kennedy
Natalie Kyrkos
Penny Lewis
Brian Marchant-Sidwell
Anna-Marie Milton
Seb Munday
Cath Murphy
Cassy Oliphant
Rachel Pickering
Andy Pope
Wendy Robinson
Fran Rodgers
Philip Smith
Sukhvinder K Sond
Sven Whiteley-Mclean
Doug Thompson
Bryan Twedde
Anna Webb
Kate Woodfield

Income

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Arts Council England | £20,068 |
| Arts@Leeds (LCC) | £5,580 |
| Joint Commissioning (LCC) | £20,799 |
| Adult Social Care (LCC) | £39,969 |
| Light Night | £550 |
| Big Lottery Fund | £72,491 |
| Wades Charity | £2,000 |
| Lloyds TSB Foundation | £7,292 |
| Leeds Canvas | £5,000 |
| Arts Council England GftA | £8,100 |
| Breeze International Youth Festival | £2,000 |
| Donations | £11,547 |
| Bank interest | £1,968 |
| Other income | £2,860 |

£200,224

Expenditure

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Project delivery and management | £53,619 |
| Additional project activities | £141,902 |
| Governance | £4,322 |

£199,843



Liam and Diane receiving a donation for Pyramid of Arts from SS Peter & Paul Church.

• Training

If you went down to the woods in March, you might have stumbled across old and new Pyramiders taking part in our new creative training day. This addition to our regular training programme was devised as a refresher for experienced group leaders and novice Pyramid volunteers. Fun and energy was the order of the day, and the tasks underlined the serious message about collaboration and sharing that underpins our work.



Pyramiders' kids came too

Getting down to the serious stuff!



Pyramid of Arts

contact



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ENGLAND**



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