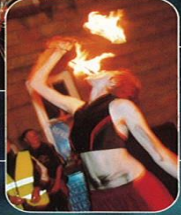
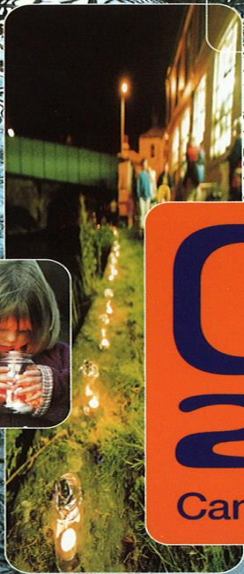
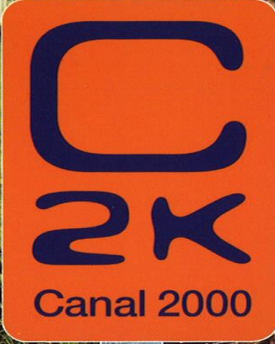


Celebrating East Lancashire's Waterway
through the Arts





C2K Partners

Key partners in C2K with Mid Pennine Arts were British Waterways, the Borough Councils of Pendle, Burnley, Hyndburn and Blackburn with Darwin, Groundwork Blackburn, Groundwork East Lancashire, the East Lancashire Partnership, Lancashire's Hill Country Tourism Consortium, Lancashire County Council and the Prospects Foundation.

Other partners included Earth & Stone Arts, ELATE, ELWY Boat Club, Foulridge Leisure Cruises, Initiative Burnley, the Inland Waterways Association, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, the LCC Youth & Community Service in Burnley, Hyndburn and Pendle, the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Society, REEL, the Weavers' Triangle Trust and Wheelton Boat Club.

C2K Funders

C2K was financially supported by the National Lottery through the Arts Council of England, the Baring Foundation, British Waterways, ERDF through Hyndburn Millennium Festival programme, the Ernest Cook Trust, the Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Granada Foundation, Lancashire County Council, Lancashire's Hill Country Tourism Consortium, Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales, North West Arts Board, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the University of Central Lancashire and Year of the Artist.



Foreword

This report is a record of East Lancashire's millennium project, **Canal 2000**, or **C2K**.

Its purpose is to:

- provide a summary of **C2K**
- provide an evaluation of the project to funders and partners
- assist all involved in learning from the experience
- provide recommendations for future development.

C2K was a unique experience and a singular achievement for Mid Pennine Arts and all our partner organisations. It brought together the communities of East Lancashire in celebration. It assembled an ambitious, imaginative programme of creative arts work in support of wider aims. It did so through a powerful network of public, voluntary and private sector partners, working together to a common purpose.

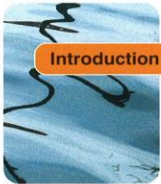
On behalf of our partnership, I would like to thank all those who contributed to the success and the impact of **C2K**. Some but not all are mentioned in this report. We would like to offer particular thanks to our partners at Lancashire's Hill Country Tourism Consortium for their support towards the production of this report.

C2K has inspired our partnership to plan for further such work in the future. We hope that something in this report will inspire you too.

Nick Hunt, Director, Mid Pennine Arts

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Introduction

The idea of a festival celebrating the East Lancashire stretch of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal through the arts originated in discussions held by East Lancashire's independent arts agency, Mid Pennine Arts (MPA), with some two dozen local partner organisations. These included the canalside boroughs of Pendle, Burnley, Hyndburn and Blackburn with Darwen, British Waterways, Groundwork East Lancashire and a range of groups with environmental, artistic and business interests.

The aim of the discussions was to devise a millennium celebration which would bring together the communities of East Lancashire in a manner distinctive to the area. What emerged was a shared interest and belief in the Canal as a unique asset of East Lancashire, with a crucial role to play in the future of the area's communities; a vision of the Canal restored to full and vibrant life for the benefit of local people and visitors.

This vision, combined with an awareness of the power of the arts and creative activity to make a positive contribution to community regeneration, became the inspiration for **Canal 2000 (C2K)**: an extended arts festival with the Canal as its central theme, embracing an eclectic mix of events, exhibitions, participatory activities involving local people from the canalside communities, and artist residencies in schools across the area.

Aims

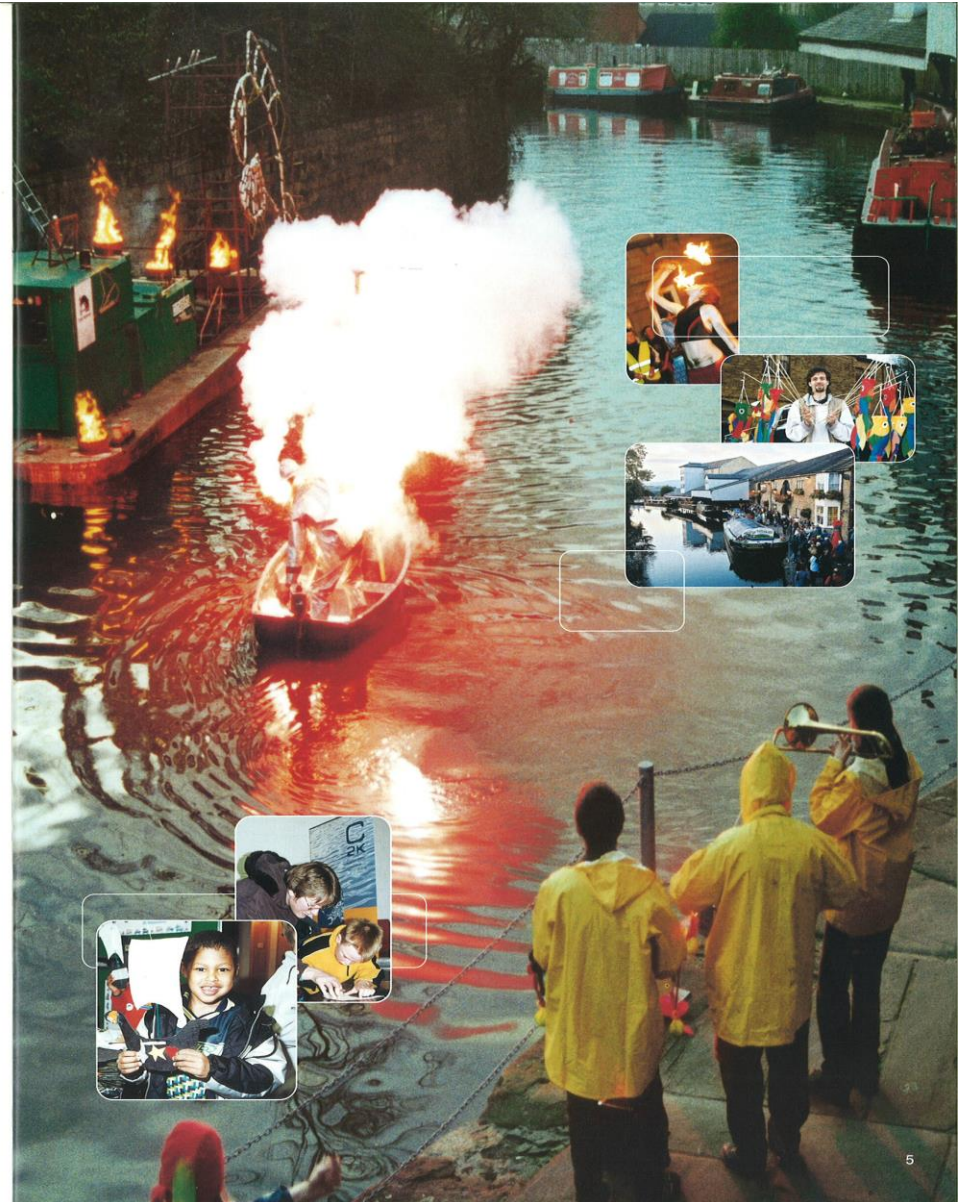
It was agreed that the aims of **C2K** would be to:

- a raise awareness of the Canal and its potential as a leisure amenity for the people of East Lancashire and visitors to the area
- b demonstrate the value of the arts in developing that potential
- c develop new audiences for the arts in the area
- d provide stimulating opportunities for artists
- e contribute to the regeneration of canalside communities through artist-led activity in those communities
- f bring about long-term improvements to the canalside environment through artist-led activity
- g create positive attitudes to the Canal among local people and visitors/potential visitors to the area
- h establish a new partnership network committed to realising the vision behind **C2K**
- j raise the profile and enhance the positive image of East Lancashire.

Measurable targets in support of the aims were set as follows:

- attract 10,000 local people and visitors to 10 special events
- involve 2,000 local adults and children in creative arts activities
- provide 150 days of work for at least 15 artists
- involve at least 10 schools and 10 adult community groups
- add eight features to the canalside environment
- generate 20 media stories about the festival.

It was agreed that MPA would lead the partnership project, fundraising for and promoting a programme of events and participatory activities focused on the Canal and its communities, to run throughout the year 2000. In so doing, MPA would aim to strengthen and develop its own role and potential as a strategic networking organisation for East Lancashire.



Funding

Initial funding of £20,000 was granted by the Arts Council of England through the Millennium Festival Fund, and a part-time project co-ordinator was appointed to manage and oversee the project, working closely with MPA's Director, staff team and partners. A part-time marketing co-ordinator was also appointed to ensure an adequate level of marketing activity.

Further funding amounting to £90,785 was raised in the course of the project. A list of contributors can be found inside the front cover. Where funding was allocated for specific programme elements, this is acknowledged alongside the detailed descriptions in the Programme summary and evaluation. Summary accounts are available from Mid Pennine Arts.

Planning the programme

The C2K programme had to fulfil a range of criteria to satisfy the aims of the project. It had to:

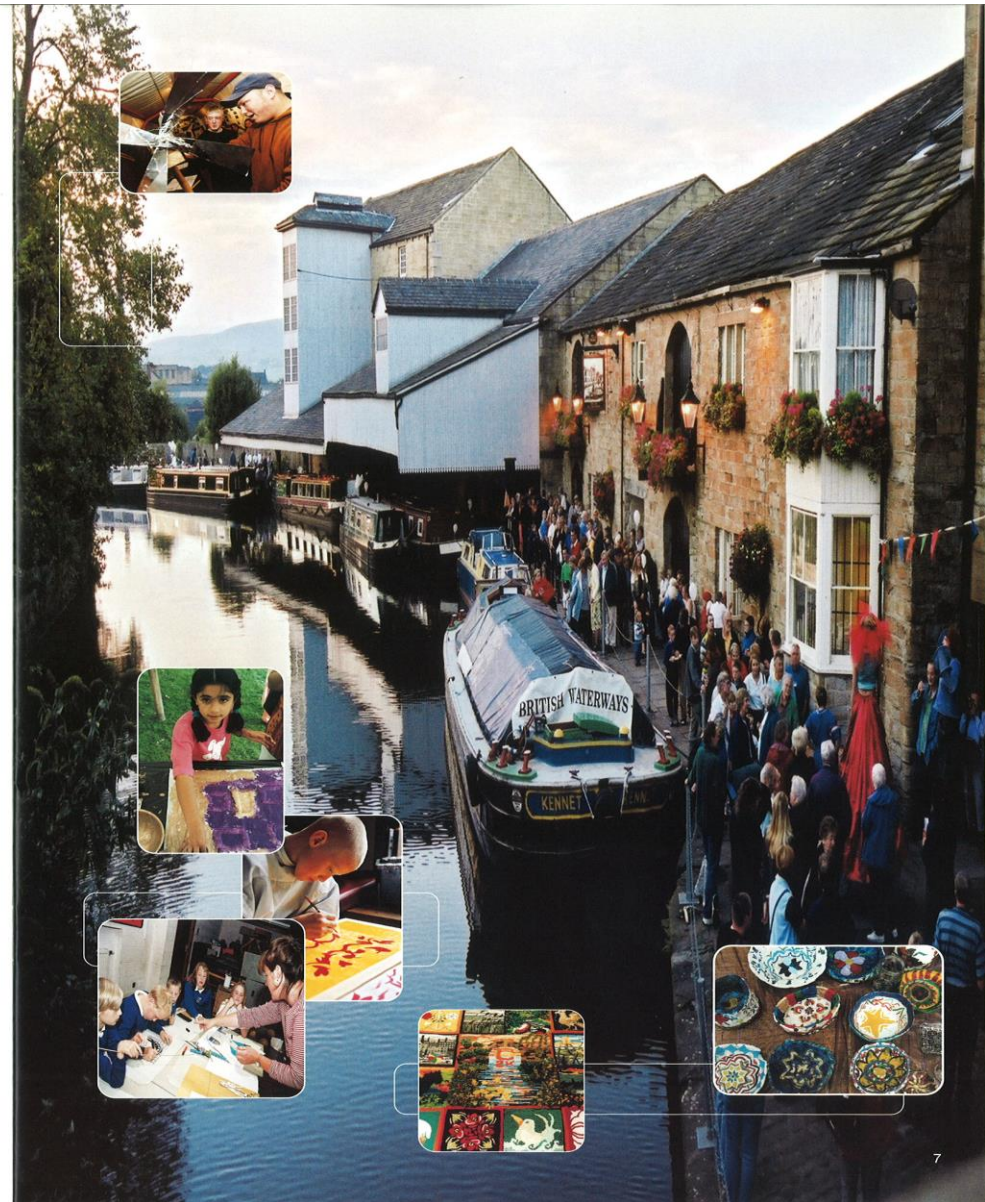
- combine a wide variety of arts and activities through the linking theme of the Canal
- spread the events and activities evenly across the four boroughs adjoining the Canal, with particular emphasis on the canalside wards which suffer from the most severe deprivation
- provide for the widest possible age-range, social spread and ethnic mix
- involve key partner organisations in planning and delivery
- maintain a relationship with MPA's established type and range of events and activities in order to capitalise and build on MPA's existing audiences and supporters
- include events of sufficient quality to attract visitors to the area
- provide opportunities for artists to work with local people and school children, some of which would result in long-term improvements to the canalside environment
- refresh attitudes to the Canal among attenders and participants.

The resulting programme, based on those aspirations, was ambitious and diverse, containing 28 events, a major installation project culminating in a touring exhibition, four community projects, five education residencies, and a touring exhibition showcasing the best of the work produced in connection with C2K, and including a photographic record of the festival.

In addition to the main programme, plans were also announced for a phased canalside trail and a regional conference to take place after the festival. This signalled the commitment of the C2K partnership to a long-term strategy for the future of the Canal and its communities.

Marketing

The programme was supported by a marketing campaign which targeted local, regional and national audiences through printed publicity material, advertising and editorial in specialist waterways, arts and tourism publications, and a sustained press and broadcast media campaign from Easter to September. Specific targeting of the tourism market was facilitated by C2K partner Lancashire's Hill Country (LHC), through sponsored advertisements in the LHC visitor newspaper, distributed all over the UK, and the LHC tourism map featuring the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, distributed to waterways enthusiasts nationwide and an extensive network of tourist information outlets. Details of C2K events and activities also featured on a new independent website, the Worldwide Water Web, throughout the festival.



Programme summary and evaluation

Each element of the programme was evaluated against project aims a-j (see page 4). The evaluation was conducted by MPA's lead officers and included observation, analysis of ticket sales/head counts where appropriate, and feedback from artists, participants and promoters. A compilation of all the evaluation results in table form and a summary of performance against measurable targets can be found on page 21.

Events

Easter 2000 21-24 April

LAUNCH EVENTS

On consecutive evenings: Nova Scotia Wharf, Blackburn; Enfield Wharf, Clayton-le-Moors; Burnley Wharf; Foulridge Wharf

Four family events including children's workshops on canal boat, displays and stalls, music, 'street' entertainment, and a dazzling firework show by Walk the Plank

A series of spectacular free events signalled the start of the celebrations at Easter. During the weekend, a parade of decorated narrow boats processed along the Canal through the boroughs of Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Burnley and Pendle, stopping at each of four key venues to become the focus of a dramatic and unusual event, led by Walk the Plank, marine theatre contractors.

All the sites were excellent and the quality of the workshops, performances and fireworks provided by Walk the Plank impressive. There was good support from local boat clubs ELWY and Wheelton. Partnerships within the boroughs were strengthened and new ones made.

Participation in workshops, and attendances generally, increased steadily as the weather improved and the word spread, and the final event at Foulridge Wharf on Easter Monday attracted record crowds. Numbers participating in workshops over the weekend totalled 280 and attendances totalled 970. There was clear potential for developing an annual event in one or more of the boroughs.

Aims served a b c d e g h j

"Our favourite gig of 2000"

Walk the Plank

"It was brilliant; are you coming again next year?"

Spectator in Blackburn

"We never get anything like this here. All there is is fighting and nothing to do. This makes the Canal seem special, doesn't it?"

Teenage participant, Blackburn



22 and 23 April

THE BLUES BOAT

Burnley Wharf

Hour-long sailings, run by Foulridge Canal Cruises through the afternoon, to musical accompaniment. Co-promotion with Burnley Borough Council

A total of six trips on the canal boat Marton Emperor on consecutive afternoons featured music from two guitar duos. All were sold out – 240 tickets in total – and patrons commented on how much they enjoyed the music. Their success strengthened MPA's good working relationship with Burnley Council and Foulridge Canal Cruises, and provided a model for future joint events.

Aims served a b c d e g h j

4 June

PENDLE YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE IN 'THE FEMALE NAVIGATOR'

Foulridge Wharf

Outdoor youth theatre production with some scenes performed on canal boat

This lively piece of theatre, commissioned from local author Paul Wilson, fitted well into the wharf setting on a summer's evening and attracted an audience of 50. MPA's partnership with PYPT was reinforced and plans for future collaboration are being discussed.

Aims served a b c d e g h j



30 June

OPERA BRAVA IN 'TOSCA'

Rose Garden, Haworth Art Gallery, Accrington

Open air opera performance. Co-promotion with ELATE

This outdoor opera production, from a company already known to MPA's traditional supporters but with a new product, drew both that core audience and new attenders into the C2K programme. The product and setting were excellent and very well received by an audience of 189. A co-promotion with East Lancashire Arts & Tourism Expansion Project (ELATE) renewed links with both Opera Brava and ELATE.

Aims served c d h j



"The acoustic lent itself to an outdoor performance and the visual element worked very well indeed. The audience was very appreciative."

Broniek Pomorski, Artistic Director, Opera Brava

21 July

HORSE & BAMBOO THEATRE IN 'THE GIRL WHO CUT FLOWERS'

Village Hall, Foulridge

National premiere by regional theatre company



A classic Horse & Bamboo show, to the company's usual high standard, attracted a good audience of 46 in a small rural location. The new canalside venue suited the performance and the audience responded enthusiastically. Ties with Horse & Bamboo and Foulridge were strengthened.

Aims served a b c d e g h j

1 August

ILLYRIA IN 'ROMEO & JULIET'

Barrowford Park

Outdoor Shakespeare production. Co-promotion with ELATE



This outdoor Shakespeare production, again by a company and to a formula well known to MPA supporters, achieved a record attendance of 296, indicating success in attracting new attenders through the C2K programme. A co-promotion with ELATE renewed relationships with both Ilyria and ELATE, and there are plans to use the successful venue again.

Aims served c d h j

6 August

BRIERFIELD FUN DAY FEATURING MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF SAMBA

Town Centre, Brierfield

Outdoor performance from award-winning samba band at local family event

The Fun Day was a new, outdoor, family event in Brierfield Town Centre, replacing a traditional local gala. Over 1,000 adults and children enjoyed the day and an enthusiastic audience of some 300 listened to three high-quality performances by Manchester's award-winning samba band. There is potential for repeating this kind of event and the new partnership with the band promises well for future involvement.

Aims served c d h j

"This was a great day out for Brierfield. It was good to see an event that brought all sectors of the local community together."
Brierfield councillor Naheed Ashraf

19 August

NELSON MELA

Victoria Park, Nelson

Multicultural celebration. In association with members of Pendle Ethnic Minorities Community Forum



The Mela was an entirely new event developed in co-operation with members of the Pendle Ethnic Minorities Community Forum. It succeeded in drawing a crowd of more than 2,000, mainly from the local Asian community, who enjoyed high-quality activities and performances. Workshops in banner-making, jewellery-making and circus skills attracted a total of 300 participants.

Aims served c d e h j

"We had a great day with a good mixture of people from across the whole community, and we now hope it will be an annual event."

Mahboob Ahmed, Chair of the Nelson Mela Committee

20 August

TALIA THEATRUM IN 'THE DUEL' AT SALTERFORTH FUN DAY

Salterforth Playing Fields

Street theatre performance at annual local fun day

A specific request by the Fun Day organisers for a return visit by this company offered the opportunity to incorporate this popular family event into the C2K programme. Two fast, slick and funny performances of the street theatre production played to a combined audience of 400. Existing partnerships with the organisers and the company were strengthened.

Aims served c d h j

28 August

CIRCUS SENSIBLE AT THE ST MONDAY FESTIVAL

Weavers' Triangle Visitor Centre, Burnley

Outdoor circus performances and workshops as part of local festival

Circus Sensible was a fun element at this small annual canalside festival, which attracted about 500 people in the course of the day. Two performances were watched by everyone on the site. Existing links with the organisers and the company were reinforced.

Aims served a b c d g j



15 September

MIKRON THEATRE COMPANY IN
'DON'T START FROM HERE'

Albion Hotel, Clayton-le-Moors

Performance by canal-based touring theatre company Mikron

This was a fast-paced and very amusing show in the tradition of live pub theatre. It was presented by Britain's only professional canal-based touring theatre company, who specialise in bringing live theatre to audiences who are not within easy reach of theatre centres or not generally theatre-goers.

The show combined a high standard of performing skills with relevance to environmental issues. It was much enjoyed by a large audience of 64 in an excellent pub venue. New links were established with the company and the venue, and plans for repeating this type of event are being considered.

Aims served a b c d g h j

23 September

FINALE: TWO THOUSAND CANDLES

Burnley Wharf and out along the Canal in both directions as far as Dugdale Wharf and Barden Mill

Illumination of five miles of the Canal with candles, plus a programme of entertainment for all ages, an illuminated boat procession and a concluding firework spectacular

The Finale was planned as a dramatic climax to the whole of the C2K celebration, and lived up to all expectations. This was thanks to a potent combination of artistic inspiration, meticulous planning and execution, a concentrated marketing campaign, excellent support from partner organisations and local sponsors, and a glorious late-summer evening.

The ambitious central idea around which the event was constructed was the illumination of five miles of the Canal by candlelight, starting at Burnley Wharf and placing lighted candles in glass jars at approximately ten-metre intervals westwards to Dugdale Wharf and eastwards to Barden Mill. MPA was lucky enough to secure as its guest for the evening the leading playwright Alan Bennett, who lit the first candle and disclosed to the assembled crowd that he was a lifelong conservationist and very much in favour of canal regeneration.

Lighting of the candles along the five-mile stretch was then undertaken by a team of stewards assisted by members of the public, and was largely successful, in spite of a capricious wind. It was however recognised that, for the illumination to have been completely successful, more, paid stewards would have been required, as the small team of volunteer stewards was overstretched for the task.

The idea of sponsored canalside walks by members of the public in aid of charity, which was enthusiastically taken up, made further demands on the stewards, who were responsible for signing sponsor forms and issuing certificates to under-18s.

The rest of the evening's programme included children's activities, stilt walkers and fire-eaters at the Wharf, a marching jazz quartet, folk and classical musicians positioned at different points on the Canal, a spectacular procession of 17 illuminated boats from Burnley Wharf to Finsley Gate, and a stunning, specially commissioned firework display to round off the evening. An extremely high standard was achieved overall, and the evening was enjoyed by an estimated 5,000 people in a relaxed and happy atmosphere.

The Finale also included the opening of the video installation, 'The Cut', at the Mid Pennine Gallery. This is evaluated separately on page 19.

Aims served a b c d e g h j

"Absolutely wonderful"

Burnley councillor Peter Kenyon

"I was struck by the pleasure emanating from people"

Participating artist David Wild

"Congratulations on such a successful event. I was amazed at the fantastic atmosphere and the huge numbers of people who turned out. It was a real family occasion and it was nice to see so many people enjoying the canalside setting."

Lisa Durkin, Burnley Town Centre Manager

Community projects

November 1999

C2K BANNERS

Brierfield Youth Centre and Clayton-le-Moors Youth and Community Centre

Artist Chila Kumari Burman worked with local groups to design banners based on images provided by people living alongside the Canal.

C2K was fortunate to engage London-based British Asian artist Chila Kumari Burman to lead this project. Chila conducted 19 sessions over a two-week period with around 100 people at Brierfield Youth Centre and Clayton-le-Moors Youth and Community Centre, designing four high-quality, multicoloured, 12-ft banners promoting C2K.

The designs were based on personal images provided by participants living alongside the Canal, who were delighted with the results. The banners were toured to canalside locations during the festival, reaching a wide audience throughout the area. The project was so successful that Chila was invited back to lead a later education residency (see 'Cover for the Kennet' page 16).

Aims served a b c d e g h j

May and August

WHIRLYGIGS AND WEATHERVANES

Canal boat Kennet at Burnley Wharf

Artist Diana Jones worked with students from Burnley College to produce artefacts made from recycled material. A Year of the Artist project in partnership with British Waterways

Drawing from ideas based on Mexican automata, artist Diana Jones led 16 sessions on the canal boat Kennet, showing 10 participants from Burnley College how to make skilful pieces of work from recycled material such as tin cans, wire and household rubbish.

The students also collaborated on designing, constructing and painting an impressive weathervane for the Kennet. The results were presented at two small public showings to a total of 50 people, and featured in the C2K Touring Exhibition.

Aims served a b c d g h j



June

SHADOW PUPPETS

St Mary's Primary School and Youth and Community Centre, Clayton-le-Moors, and canal boat Kennet at Enfield Wharf, Clayton-le-Moors

A joint community-education residency involving children and adults. A Year of the Artist project in partnership with Hyndburn Borough Council

Puppeteer Sarah Frangleton, video-artist Adrian Hart and musician Mary Keith conducted 20 sessions over a two-week period with a total of 39 participants, including pupils from St Mary's Primary School, Clayton, young adults with special needs from Enfield Day Centre, and members of Hyndburn Age Concern writers' group. Groups worked together in various venues including the Kennet, making puppets, script-writing and composing music for a unique shadow-puppet show, which they performed to an audience of 182 teachers, parents and friends. This was an excellent residency with good support from all groups concerned. Participants were introduced to a wide range of art-forms and developed musical, artistic and communications skills. The resulting show was of a high quality and the feedback from pupils, teachers and artists very positive. MPA would very much like to develop this kind of collaboration, funding permitting.



Aims served a b c d e g h

"We have had nothing like this before in school - it was magnificent."

Headteacher, St Mary's Primary School, Clayton

July and September

RAG RUGS

Canal boat Kennet at Burnley Wharf and adjacent to Stoneyholme and Daneshouse Community Centre, Burnley

Artist and maker Kate Bellwood taught children and adults the art of rag rug-making.

Specialist artist and maker Kate Bellwood led a series of 11 sessions aboard the Kennet with a total of 50 children and adults from canalside communities. She taught participants the art of rag rug-making, with particular reference to canal boats, and helped them to make their own items as well as contributing to a unique rug commemorating C2K.

The commemorative rug was of very high quality and, following C2K, was exhibited in a number of locations, including the International Boat Show. It also featured in the C2K Touring Exhibition. The artist is keen to publicise the work more widely and has discussed with MPA the possibility of touring the rug independently along the entire Leeds & Liverpool Canal.



Aims served a b c d e g h j

"It's great to have a go. I used to do this with my grandma as a kid, but it's nice to see how creative it can be."

Rag Rugs project participant

Education residencies

February

COVER FOR THE KENNET

Fisher More High School, Colne

Artist Chila Kumari Burman worked with school children to design a cover for C2K's 'flagship' canal boat, the Kennet.



Following her work on the C2K banners in November 1999, Chila Kumari Burman returned to East Lancashire in February 2000 to spend a week as artist-in-residence at Fisher More High School in Colne. In the course of 10 sessions involving 120 pupils, Chila worked with the children to design a unique cover for C2K's 'flagship' canal boat Kennet. The cover was then professionally manufactured and installed on the boat, where its quality and originality delighted all those who saw it during the Kennet's numerous outings over the festival period.

The teacher in charge was very pleased that she and her pupils had had the opportunity to see at first hand the working methods of a contemporary artist. There is clear potential for future partnership working with the School.

Aims served a b c d e f g h j

"Excellent and valuable work."
Teacher, Fisher More High School, Colne

May

TRAIL OF WORDS

All Saints Primary School and Mount Pleasant Primary School, Clayton-le-Moors, and canal boat Kennet at Enfield Wharf, Clayton-le-Moors

Poet Ian McMillan worked with pupils to create new poems and stories about the Canal as the basis for a permanent 'trail of words' along the Canal towpath.



Ian McMillan led eight sessions with a total of 71 pupils from two primary schools in Clayton-le-Moors, interviewing people whose lives were linked with the Canal and using the interviews to devise original poems and stories. These were presented at a schools' event hosted by Ian to an appreciative audience of 131; and it is intended that a selection will be cast into plaques fitted to Canal bridges to form a 'trail of words' along the towpath.

Teachers from the schools involved described the project as "a great success", and pupils appreciated Ian's humour, his critical advice and the opportunity to use the canal boat. Ian McMillan was delighted by pupils' response and the supportive attitude of the schools. The performance evening showed children that their work was valued, and engaged parents in the audience by involving them in the composition of a performance poem. Finance permitting, MPA would like to extend this project to involve schools in other boroughs.

Aims served a b c d e f g h

June

CREEPING TOAD

Whitefield Infant School and Lomeshaye Primary School, Nelson, and canal boat Kennet at Carr Road Bridge, Nelson

Ecologist, teacher and environmental artist Gordon MacLellan ('Creeping Toad') led investigations of canal plants and wildlife followed by creative sessions based on pupils' findings.



Gordon MacLellan conducted 12 sessions with 106 infant and primary school pupils in Nelson. He led investigations of plants and wildlife in and along the Canal and followed these with creative sessions in school and on the Kennet.

Activities were adapted to the needs of individual classes in discussion with teachers, and both teachers and pupils were pleased with the end results of the creative sessions: puppets, banners and 'bog-books' inspired by direct observation of life on the Canal. MPA plans to work with Gordon MacLellan again.

Aims served a b c d e g h

"Very successful and well organised... the children were enthusiastic and their interest was maintained throughout... in 18 years of teaching I have never had such an enjoyable day..."

Teachers at Whitefield Infant and Lomeshaye Primary Schools, Nelson

September

CANAL FOLK ART

Gibfield Special School, Colne, and canal boat Lancashire Enterprise at Barrowford Locks

Artist and canal historian Tony Lewery worked with pupils decorating interior boat panels with the traditional designs associated uniquely with the Leeds & Liverpool Canal.



Tony Lewery conducted 10 sessions involving 30 pupils with learning difficulties from Gibfield Special School in Colne. He gave them a practical understanding of the local boat-painting tradition and directed them in producing their own decorated panels. Some of the panels were of a sufficiently high quality to be installed permanently on the canal boat Lancashire Enterprise, regularly used by the School and the Prince's Trust.

Staff and pupils responded enthusiastically to the residency. Staff were particularly impressed by the excellent pieces of work produced by the pupils, and pupils enjoyed meeting a 'real' artist and working on the canal boat. The artist was also positive about the "excitement and challenge" of working in an unusual situation.

Aims served a b c d e f g h j

September

MAKING FOLK



St Mary Magdalen's Primary School and St John with St Augustine's Primary School, Accrington (workshops);
St Christopher's High School, Accrington (concert)

Professional folk singer Mary Keith worked with pupils to develop new folk songs in the tradition of the boat community.

Mary Keith led 10 sessions with a total of 60 primary school children from Accrington, creating new folk songs about the Canal. Interviews conducted with local people on the canal boat Kennet were used as a basis for original lyrics and music written by the children, and the resulting compositions were performed to an audience of 163 parents and friends in a concert with the Noisy Planet Band.

This excellent residency gave local children a unique opportunity to learn new skills while helping to create a permanent legacy of C2K and enrich the musical heritage of East Lancashire. MPA would like to mount a similar activity in the future.

Aims served a b c d e g h j

"Creative contributions were made by some pupils who have had little success in classroom activities... It challenged all who took part... Mary Keith is a high-quality artist."

Teachers at St Mary Magdalen's and St John with St Augustine's Primary Schools, Accrington

"I loved it. I wish I could do it every day."
Young participant

"Wonderful. We've not been to anything like this before."
Parents at concert



Video installation, 'The Cut'

November 1999 - October 2000

VIDEO INSTALLATION, 'THE CUT'

Viewings

Blackburn Cathedral:	2, 4-5 September
Oswaldtwistle Town Hall:	9-10 September
Pendle Heritage Centre:	12-14 September
Mid Pennine Gallery, Burnley:	23 September - 28 October

A major video work based on a boat journey along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal by TEA.

Funded by the National Lottery through the Arts Council of England, the Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust and the University of Central Lancashire

'The Cut', a six-hour video installation recreating a three-day boat journey along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal by TEA, was conceived as a record of the Canal and the communities through which it passes at the start of the millennium, and was the largest single work to emerge from C2K.

The finished work, presented as two facing, life-size video projections of the Canal banks as seen from the moving boat, provided a visual record of the 35-mile stretch of the Canal between Blackburn and Greenberfield, together with an oral commentary contributed by over 85 individuals living and working along the Canal at the turn of the century. The work was also presented as a publication in which the commentary was transcribed into text relating to the 69 bridges under which the Canal passes.

Audience numbers for the short preview tour to Blackburn Cathedral, Oswaldtwistle Town Hall and Pendle Heritage Centre totalled 126. Numbers for the five-week exhibition at the Mid Pennine Gallery, which opened on Finale night, totalled 627. Comments in the visitors' books were enthusiastic and an analysis of postcodes revealed that visitors had come not only from the local area, but from all over the UK, including Manchester, Yorkshire, the Midlands, Wales and London.

As a unique exhibition piece combining art and powerful social documentary, 'The Cut' played an important part in raising awareness of the need for the regeneration of the Canal, and has the potential to continue communicating that message through further showings. The associated publication, distributed regionally and nationally, reinforces the message and is a lasting legacy of the work.

Aims served a c d e g h j

"This was an exciting opportunity to research and develop a context-specific piece of work involving local people, which extended our investigation into ways of documenting and representing places."

TEA artist Val Murray

**"Wonderful - fascinating commentary - a visual treat";
"A fantastically interesting, absorbing and meditative piece."**
Visitors to 'The Cut'



Exhibitions

31 March - 8 May

CANALS OF LANCASHIRE

Witton Country Park Visitor Centre, Blackburn

Historic and contemporary photographs, illustrations and publicity material relating to the Leeds & Liverpool and Lancaster Canals. Promoted by the Inland Waterways Association

The organisers were delighted with the positive response of the public in contributing material to this exhibition, and with visitor numbers, which totalled 7,000 over a five-week period.

Aims served a g h j

"It really put the canals of Lancashire on the map."
Ruth Symonds, Inland Waterways Association

"A good example of partnership working."
Bronwen Earnshaw, Witton Country Park Visitor Centre, Blackburn

November 2000 - March 2001

C2K TOURING EXHIBITION

Canalside communities

A compilation of the artistic output of C2K together with a photographic record of the event

The rich variety of participatory work undertaken in the C2K community projects and education residencies generated an impressive artistic output. This was combined with a photographic record of the festival to form the C2K Touring Exhibition, which was shown in canalside communities between November 2000 and March 2001 and gave an insight into one of the most complex projects ever undertaken by MPA.

Aims served a b c g j

Performance against targets

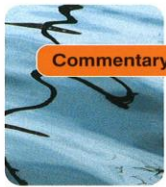
C2K met or surpassed all but one of its measurable targets, as shown below.

Target	Outcome
Attract 10,000 local people and visitors to 10 special events	Over 18,000 people attracted to 28 events (including all showings of 'The Cut' and exhibitions)
Involve 2,000 local adults and children in creative arts activities	2,500 local adults and children involved
Provide 150 days of work for at least 15 artists	216 days' work provided for 86 artists
Involve at least 10 schools and 10 adult community groups	10 schools and 10 community groups involved
Add eight features to the canalside environment	Five features added
Generate 20 media stories about the festival	At least 50 features generated in the press and broadcast media

The table below gives an overview of the project's success in achieving its overall aims as detailed on page 4.

C2K AIMS SERVED	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	j
Events									
Launch Events
Blues Boat
Pendle Young People's Theatre
Opera Brava
Horse & Bamboo
Ilyria
Brierfield Fun Day
Nelson Mela
Talia Theatrum
Circus Sensible
Mikron
Finale
Community projects									
C2K Banners
Whirlygigs and Weathervanes
Shadow Puppets
Rag Rugs
Education residencies									
Cover for the Kennet
Trail of Words
Creeping Toad
Canal Folk Art
Making Folk
Video installation, 'The Cut'
Exhibitions									
Canals of Lancashire
C2K Touring Exhibition

Summary of evaluation results



Commentary on evaluation

The detailed evaluation of individual programme elements and performance against targets demonstrates a high level of success in achieving the project's aims. Greatest successes were in raising the profile and enhancing the positive image of East Lancashire, developing new audiences for the arts in the area, providing stimulating opportunities for artists and establishing a new partnership network committed to the vision behind C2K. Notable success was also achieved in raising awareness of the Canal and its potential as a leisure amenity for local people and visitors, demonstrating the value of the arts in developing that potential, and creating positive attitudes to the Canal among local people and visitors.

More moderate success was achieved in relation to contributing to the regeneration of canalside communities and bringing about long-term improvements to the canalside through artist-led activity. However these aims were by definition long-term, and there was sufficient evidence to show that artistic activity could make a significant contribution to achieving them.

It is interesting and encouraging to note that the programme elements which did succeed in creating a lasting legacy of C2K were all artists' residencies involving local schools. In addition, C2K partners Groundwork East Lancashire ran a related initiative in Brierfield during the festival involving the production of decorative railings and tree planting by the local community. It is also important to record that a commitment remains to the plan for a canalside trail, although this proved impractical to realise in the short-term.

Arguably one of the greatest achievements of C2K as a whole was its success in encouraging organisations and individuals throughout East Lancashire to work together to serve the variety of sectoral interests represented in the project. This success is reflected in the wide range of positive feedback received, and a small selection is reproduced below.

🚣 The boat community

Local boat clubs lent great support and enthusiasm to C2K and were keen for more of the same. "Anything which draws attention to the Canal is good," said one boater. "It's not just fishing, walking and the boats, the companionship of the Canal is something special."

🏡 Heritage partners

The Inland Waterways Association actively supported C2K and representatives felt it had been an excellent initiative. They would like to see more educational work with canalside communities to encourage appropriate use and enjoyment of the Canal.

🌿 Environmental partners

Groundwork East Lancashire (GEL) became involved in C2K as a way of developing project-based work linking environment and art.

"The success of this has helped inform future ways of working towards canalside regeneration." Nick Taylor, GEL



🚣 The tourism sector

Lancashire's Hill Country reported evidence from responses to their promotional activity on behalf of C2K that the events programme had attracted boats and visitors to the Canal from all over the UK and beyond. They are keen to support the development of further, similar activity on and along the Canal.

🏡 Canalside neighbourhoods

Local people responded enthusiastically to 'their' Canal being celebrated:

"At last someone is taking notice of what we've been saying about the Canal... it belongs to the people." Retired boatman

"It's a reminder to us as teachers what a valuable resource the Canal is for us to use." Teacher at a Nelson school

"I was so glad to be involved; the children should know what the Canal has meant to so many people." Member of Hyndburn Age Concern Writers' Group

"I've always lived, played, worked close to the Canal. Really enjoyed - as a family - the celebrations. Let's have more." Visitor to 'The Cut'

🏡 Partners in regeneration

Key partner British Waterways said they were "delighted to have been associated with such an imaginative project, which will be the springboard for many new innovations along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal".

🎨 Artists

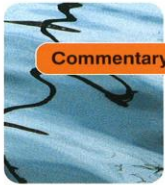
Participating artists were extremely positive about their involvement in C2K:

"The whole idea of Canal 2000 was brilliant. The range of different strands did impress me." Kate Bellwood, artist and rug-maker

"The theme of celebration of the Canal was an excellent one. Having a specific site provided a real focus of inspiration for both artist and children." Gordon MacLellan, environmental artist

"There was a feeling of keeping the aborigine 'songlines' idea alive, where different parts of the Canal were brought to life in song, music and other art forms, just as the aboriginal ancestors in Australia sang their world into existence and kept it alive by continuing to sing the songs. It was exciting to be a small part of a living line of creativity." Mary Keith, musician

"At first the children seemed uninspired by the canal setting; all they could see was litter and pollution. By the end of the project they were able to have a 'second' look, and see the rich industrial heritage which was part of their environment. The Canal became 'real', not something that was ignored as they crossed the Canal bridge on the way to school. And all this was genuinely achieved through shadow puppets, music and poetry in an integrated arts project." Sarah Frangleton, shadow puppet artist



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This collective commitment and enthusiasm was further evident at the Regeneration Summit, a very successful one-day conference organised by MPA in November 2000 as a follow-up to C2K, to consider a long-term strategy for the future of the Canal and its communities. (Details of the resolutions which emerged from the Summit are contained in a separate report available from MPA.)

C2K started as an ambitious notion for a millennium celebration. The huge project it became demanded an immense amount of networking, planning, organising and on-the-ground activity from all partners, but most of all from MPA as co-ordinator. The benefits, however, far outweighed that investment. In co-ordinating C2K, MPA had a rare chance to compile a themed, integrated programme of much high quality work, and an exceptional opportunity to present that work to a significantly wider public for the arts. Through C2K, MPA was also able to test and demonstrate its ability to act as a versatile, multi-disciplinary agency for East Lancashire, with the capacity to work strategically across different sectors and to inspire, motivate and support partner networks both local and regional.

The wider C2K partnership was a formative experience for many. Most significantly, it established an effective model for developing sub-regional and local projects through networks, and for effective partnership working. That experience will be crucial, for MPA and other agencies, in achieving shared goals in East Lancashire in the near future.



Recommendations for the future

The exercise of evaluating C2K has generated a number of specific ideas about how to take forward the process that C2K started. The following recommendations are offered for consideration by all stakeholders.

The canal partnership

- Sustain and develop the canal partnership that emerged through the planning of C2K. An ongoing schedule of quarterly meetings is suggested.
- Adjust the balance of leadership, with British Waterways and/or the East Lancashire Partnership taking a lead role. MPA to feature as a key partner.
- Use this network to give critical mass to future activity: firstly an ongoing events programme and later a collective strategy for regeneration.
- Extend future collaboration to the wider theme of waterways, and thus to the six districts of East Lancashire. Embrace where possible activity alongside the Irwell, Calder and Ribble as well as reservoir sites.
- Utilise the framework offered by the new East Lancashire Regional Park project.
- Promote the canal partnership as a model of good practice in networking across diverse interest groups (eg for wider application in the Regional Park programme).



Public events

- Develop an ongoing programme of themed canalside events, across an outdoor season from Easter to September.
- Market this programme collectively both within and beyond East Lancashire through a strategic marketing plan based on market analysis and audience research.
- Contribute with this branding exercise to building awareness of the sub-region as an attractive destination.
- Incorporate other waterside events as above. Irwell Day, for example, at New Hall Hey in Rawtenstall, has proved an attractive family event and would benefit from wider marketing.
- Base the programme on support and empowerment of local promoting groups, through both existing and new events. The most successful C2K events mobilised a grassroots network of local people, but attracted a wider public.
- Engage local authority departments where there is potential synergy with the objectives of their own programmes. Reservoir settings for the Forest of Burnley programme offer one such opportunity.
- Make further use of the established key sites: most successful were Burnley Wharf, Nova Scotia Wharf and Foulridge Wharf.
- Explore other attractive settings with potential for events: Greenberfield Locks and the Anchor, Salterforth are canalside examples.
- Encourage the involvement of private sector partners. Barden Mill and Pendle Village Mill are potential key contributors.
- Explore options for providing access to events or just an extra dimension via a canal boat shuttle. The Blues Boat, using the Marton Emperor at Burnley Blues Festival, has proved extremely popular.
- Optimise the potential for involving boats and boat people in events. They will be a key element in the success of a canal programme.
- Use fireworks, lanterns and other illuminations where possible. They are highly effective in providing a sense of excitement and a touch of magic.
- Seek sponsorship support from larger canalside enterprises such as Tesco, Morrison's and Sainsbury's.
- Embrace a multicultural clientele (visitors as well as local people) by giving prominence to key ethnic minority-led events. Nelson Mela and Brierfield Fun Day are initial opportunities for further development. There is significant potential for cultural tourism from Asian communities around the North West and West Yorkshire.
- Work to involve those communities also in the wider events programme, through community liaison and specialist marketing.

Community involvement

- Recognise the canal partnership also as an extensive network of community interests: it can be used productively to consult and involve.
- Support Hyndburn's exemplary network of Prospects groups in developing their own activities within a wider programme. This is particularly important in a district lacking in obvious canalside venues.
- Maximise the involvement of the canal boat community by scheduling key events at the beginning and end of the boating season.
- Use community arts activity to draw in the involvement of waterside neighbourhood groups.

Education

- Further explore canalside themes in artist residencies. They offer a rich mix of environmental, elemental and industrial heritage material.
- Target canalside neighbourhood schools within an ongoing programme. They represent some of the most poorly resourced in East Lancashire.
- Carry over the experience of C2K residencies to work conducted on similar themes elsewhere.

Regeneration and the canalside environment

- Pursue the consensus of varied interests that has been established in support of an art trail or a similar themed development.
- Reconstitute a regeneration/environment working group with responsibility shared by key partners.
- Exploit the investment and marketing opportunity presented by the Regional Park programme.
- Plan for a similar project life: an initial minimum five years.
- Base plans firmly on residents' aspirations through a programme of neighbourhood-based community involvement. MPA is equipped to coordinate an effective artist-facilitated programme of consultation.
- Locate plans within a coherent overview of canal regeneration. The planned British Waterways corridor study should provide this framework.



Acknowledgements



Artists

Artists who contributed to C2K included:

Abigail Nelson, Adrian Hart, Alan Bennett, the Boat Band, Catherine Powter, Chila Kumari Burman, Circus Sensible, David Clough, David Wild, Diana Jones, Dixieland Jazz Quartet, Frances Spencer, Gordon MacLellan, Horse & Bamboo, Ian Beesley, Ian McMillan, Illyria, Jukalo the Juggler, Lindsey Harris, Kate Bellwood, the Magic Bow, Manchester School of Samba, Mary Keith, Maz, Mikron Theatre Company, Nigel Hillier, Opera Brava, Pagan Flame, Pendle Young People's Theatre, Sarah Frangleton, Talia Theatrum, TEA (Lynn Pilling, Val Murray, John Biddulph and Peter Hatton), Tony Lewery and Walk the Plank.

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The Albion Hotel Clayton-le-Moors, Asda Stores Burnley, Brierfield & Reedley Gala Committee, Brierfield Youth Club, Burnley & Lancashire Boat Project, Burnley Sea Cadets, Chandlers of Barrowford, Clayton-le-Moors Community Centre, Co-operative Pioneer Store Burnley, Enfield Day Centre, Foulridge Parish Council, Foulridge Tea Rooms, Glass Recycling UK Ltd, Hyndburn Sea Cadets, the Inn at Burnley Wharf, Nelson Mela Committee, Raynet, Salterforth Fun Day Committee, the Top of The Town Residents' Association, and all the schools, adult groups and individuals who participated in work with artists.

The success of C2K was made possible by the contributions of many individuals, to all of whom we offer grateful thanks. We cannot name them all, but they included:

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Canal 2000 was co-ordinated by Mid Pennine Arts

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