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'Halo' selected for major public art programme

Rossendale's Panopticon 'Halo', now under construction on Top o' Slate above Haslingden, is one of a small number of major pieces of public art to have been selected for investment by the Northern Way.

The Northern Way, a collaboration led by the three Northern Development Agencies working with partners including Arts Council England, is investing £4.4 million in iconic works of art as part of an innovative £13 million cultural programme across the North. It will invest £153,000 towards lighting and other strategic costs associated with the delivery of 'Halo'.

The Welcome to the North programme is a unique initiative that will see a small number of major pieces of art positioned at key gateways across the North and is the most ambitious public art programme ever carried out on such a scale in the UK. The Northern Way is investing in the works of art to enhance the North's image and help change people's perceptions. As well as raising the profile of the North and increasing tourism and economic growth, the Northern Way believes the public art programme will also improve its quality of place.

More news and pictures on page 4...

Mapping the Terrain

Mid Pennine Gallery
7th April - 2nd June 2007

Mapping the Terrain presents a range of art works specially selected from the Arts Council Collection on the theme of changing landscapes. The thesis links in with the unique and ambitious arts and regeneration programmes Panopticons and Land, co-ordinated by Mid Pennine Arts, which aim to change perceptions of East Lancashire by attracting visitors to the area to appreciate its wonderful panoramic landscapes. The exhibition brings together sculpture and works on paper by artists investigating subjects of walking, mapping and taking a journey.



Guide by Richard Wentworth

Artists selected include Bill Woodrow, Richard Long, Rachel Lowe, Mariele Neudecker, Avis Newman, Richard Wentworth, Hamish Fulton and Ian Hamilton Finlay.

Curators: Gillian Whiteley & Claire Tymon

Mapping the Terrain is a Select exhibition from the Arts Council Collection.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

23rd April 07, 7pm

Julie Miles will be talking about her work and her involvement in Artech.

16th May 07, 7pm - 9pm

curators talk by Gillian Whiteley

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Working with Whitefield

Mid Pennine Arts has been working on behalf of Creative Partnerships as a producer for Whitefield Infants School on a range of projects since the Spring Term of 2006. The main body of work has been looking closely at the way in which creative practitioners can assist in the development of the literacy curriculum.

The process so far has included three projects, all of which involved staff and creative practitioners working closely together over the course of a term, developing projects whilst constantly adapting the process depending on the success of particular exercises and techniques. The project: 'Telling Tales' has seen children and teachers working alongside a children's illustrator, a musician, storyteller, singer and a performance poet to produce an amazing array of writing and performances.

Alongside the core literacy project, the staff at the school have been keen to develop the wider

curriculum. So far this has included a series of staff development days which have focused on Ludus Dance Company supporting teachers to develop dance in the curriculum and a visual artist to advise on displaying children's work. In addition seven staff visited three schools in London which are attempting to build the delivery of their curriculum through the arts.

At the end of last term the School looked at the way in which creative practitioners can assist in the development of the science curriculum. Children explored light and electricity through a project called 'The Fairground Circuit'.

Exhibitions

Talking Shop: Blackburn Road

Mid Pennine Gallery
June 16th - 28th July, 2007
Preview evening 15th June, times tbc

Mid Pennine's project series celebrates the independent shops and shopkeepers of East Lancashire, an endangered species at a time of widespread regeneration and renewal.

After fascinating projects in Pendle, Burnley and Oswaldtwistle, Talking Shop now focuses on West Accrington.

MPA has commissioned the collaborative artists duo B&P Projects to create a portrait of shops and shopping in Blackburn Road, Accrington. This retail strip is at the heart of a process of wholesale and dramatic renewal, through the intervention in the surrounding 'Phoenix' area of the Elevate housing renewal programme.

B&P's research processes will document the condition of the high street, and consider the way that shopping is becoming ever more depersonalised. Their work will also serve to initiate dialogue, and enable small businesses in the area to engage positively in the regeneration process.



Talking Shop

B&P's work includes photographic documentation, time-based and sculptural work. Results will be shown locally in West Accrington, and then at the Mid Pennine Gallery.

Talking Shop is supported by Elevate East Lancashire, Lancashire County Developments Ltd and Hyndburn Borough Council.

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Art Bloodied Thought

Mid Pennine Gallery
18th August - 13th October 2007

For both artists and scientists, language plays a crucial role in investigating, understanding and explaining the world. Frequently, especially in the case of science, new languages have been invented to fit the discoveries and inventions of its work. Language by definition is the material of writers and since the breakthroughs of conceptual art, artists and writers have developed the use of textual forms in ways that can be strange and equally inventive. It has been argued that the most intense human creativity is now focused in scientific discovery at the boundaries of human knowledge; in this exhibition, six contemporary artists whose work is informed by engagement in the language and preoccupations of science and mathematics have created new works in dialogue with fields as diverse as quantum mechanics to ornithology.

Artists include Tony Trehu, Hester Reeve, Shaun Pickard, Mark Jalland and Phil Davenport.

Curator: Tony Trehu

The Rebellious Stamp Exhibition

by artist Emma Holliday and poet Julia Darling, Mid Pennine Gallery

Sixteen framed poems and paintings that will transform hospital corridors and waiting rooms! Come and see how

On Monday, 30 April at 5.15 p.m. there will be a talk by Kate McDonnell who will be speaking about the "Get into Reading" project run by Wirral PCT: Using poetry and fiction to help us think about life, health and mental well-being.

Email emma@midpenninearts.org.uk to reserve a place. Exhibition ends 4th May. Free drinks and nibbles.

Why I Live Here



Mid Pennine Arts has been the lead partner in Hyndburn Mela and Community Festival Association's fascinating look into why people of different cultures and backgrounds all choose to live in one area, the geographical area of Hyndburn.

Artist William Titley and photographers Clare Donegan and Mark Tattersall spent a couple of months visiting people at home, at work and at play, asking them why they chose to live in Hyndburn and taking pictures of them and the results were very interesting.

The interviews were published in a book which was presented at an evening event on 27th March at Accrington Town Hall, along with a film of edited highlights from the project.

Later in the year the photographs will be put on display at Haworth Art Gallery in Accrington to coincide with this year's Mela and Community Festival which is on 29th July, exact dates and duration of the exhibition to be confirmed.



Raymond Threlfall, Fishmonger, photographed by Mark Tattersall

Saturday Arts Club runs from 10.30am to 12.30pm throughout each exhibition. The cost is £2.00 per person and children under 7 must be accompanied by an adult. All workshops are subject to change. For specific details of each weeks topic contact Emma at Mid Pennine Arts on 01282 421986.

Shisha, MPA and Pakistan

Mid Pennine is working in partnership with the Shisha agency on an exciting, ambitious project to forge links with Pakistan.

Shisha is based in Manchester but developing a national and international reputation for promoting contemporary artists of Asian heritage. With our partners in the ELAAF network, we have already hosted Shisha exhibitions by Halima Cassell, Zarah Hussain and others.

Now the partnership wants to initiate links with cultural institutions in Pakistan. Starting with residencies there for Halima and Zarah, we aim to create new work for exhibition in both countries. Longer term, we want to establish friendship links and a pattern of ongoing, creative exchanges. Enduring connections that will feed and enrich the cultural life of our own, multicultural communities around East Lancashire.

The partners are planning and fundraising for a programme to start in Spring 2008. Watch this space...

ELAAF - Celebrating Asian arts, promoting cohesion

Exciting times for ELAAF, as plans take shape to build up the capacity of this sub-regional network of Asian arts providers.

ELAAF is the East Lancashire Asian Arts Forum, bringing together a network of people working all over Pennine Lancashire to promote the arts for, with and by our Asian communities.

With community cohesion an urgent issue in all our towns, the arts has a key role to play in promoting understanding between communities. ELAAF's work in promoting better understanding has never been more important.

In June, ELAAF members will contribute to the celebr8 festival week, celebrating diversity. Over the summer, network members will be involved in organizing multicultural festivals around our towns. Fundraising for further events is in the pipeline. Meanwhile, with help from the Arts Council, we will be developing plans to build and strengthen the network.

If you would like to get involved in ELAAF, contact Nick at MPA: nick@midpenninearts.org.uk

www.elaaf.org.uk



Summer Spectaculars

The melas and festivals have now become an established part of the East Lancashire summer programme. Mid Pennine Arts works with the organisers of these festivals to support them in whatever way they need.

First festival of the year is at Marl Pits in Rossendale on 23rd June. This forms part of the Rossendale Weekend.

Hyndburn Mela and Community Festival is thrilled that they have recently been awarded some funding from Awards For All. This funding is not the total amount needed to put on the festival but it does make the event secure now. It will be held on 29th July at Oakhill Park, Accrington between 12noon and 7pm.

Burnley Festival (formerly Reach) is on 19th August this year at Queen's Park. Pendle are looking at holding another town centre event this year rather than a festival in a park as last year's Nelson Rhythms was so successful.

To keep up to date with all the Melas look on the Mid Pennine Arts website.



Whether it's ageism, racism, sexism or homophobia, in this day and age discrimination should not be tolerated.

Celebr8 (don't discrimin8) 2006 was a huge success, to continue this success, the organisers, the North West Regional Assembly, will be running celebr8 again in 2007 (4th - 11th June) and they want the whole region to be even more

actively engaged. There are lots of ways that organisations and individuals can get involved. You could consider organising your own event, get involved in the musical launch events or just help us spread the word about celebr8. If you would like more information please contact: celebr8@tangerinepr.com or call Lee or Emma on: 0161 817 6600.

Weavers Triangle

Plans are moving ahead for the renewal of Burnley's unique canalside heritage, and MPA will have a key role to play.

The Masterplan for the Weavers Triangle was published in autumn 2006. Now developers Hurstwoods are pushing on with plans for redeveloping some of the most interesting canalside areas, and Burnley Council are hoping soon to launch a THI funding scheme for renovations to the key industrial heritage buildings.

The whole process will be overseen by a new Weavers Triangle Regeneration Board, which MPA will join as an advisor. We are also working to raise funds with our council partners for Weavers Triangle Animation, an extended programme of community involvement activity. Animation is designed to announce, to local people and visitors alike, the rebirth of the Weavers, and bring to the bricks and mortar processes of regeneration the all-important human touch. *Watch this space!*

Dhamak achieves independence

The long running Dhamak project, a partnership between More Music in Morecambe and Mid Pennine Arts, has become an independent company following a period of fundraising, organisational development and consultation. Dhamak will continue to provide music making opportunities for young people across Burnley and East Lancs with the support of More Music in Morecambe and MPA, and with it's new status should grow into an organisation at the centre of arts provision in the district. *For more information and to enquire about sessions call Dave on 01524 831997.*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 7th May	Burnley May Day celebrations at Towneley Park.
Saturday, 23rd June	Rossendale Mela
Sunday, 24th June	watch out for The Grand Theatre of Lemmings at Rossendale Rural Fair, Marl Pits, Rawtenstall
Sunday, 29th July	Hyndburn Mela and Community Festival, Oakhill Park, Accrington
Sunday, 19th August	Salterforth Fun Day
Sunday, 19th August	Burnley Festival, Queens Park
Sunday, 26th August	Todmorden Lions Fun Day

'Halo' under construction



Photo copyright: Booth King Partnership, structural engineer for Halo

Rossendale's Panopticon 'Halo', designed by John Kennedy, is now under construction and the main structure is already on site. The installation of the lighting will follow in early summer.

The selection of 'Halo' by the Northern Way for its Welcome to the North campaign, as reported on page 1, is a great tribute to the quality of the design and its potential as an icon for East Lancashire. This stunning Panopticon will be raised seven metres off the ground on a tripod and will overlook the A56, welcoming visitors to the region.

Nick Hunt, Director of Mid Pennine Arts, commented, "We are delighted that 'Halo' has been recognised as a major piece of public art alongside such exceptional installations as Anthony Gormley's 'Another Place'. We are very excited by the prospect of seeing our fourth Panopticon completed this summer, completing the Panopticon trail - a truly original visitor attraction for East Lancashire."

Moving Forward: The Northern Way



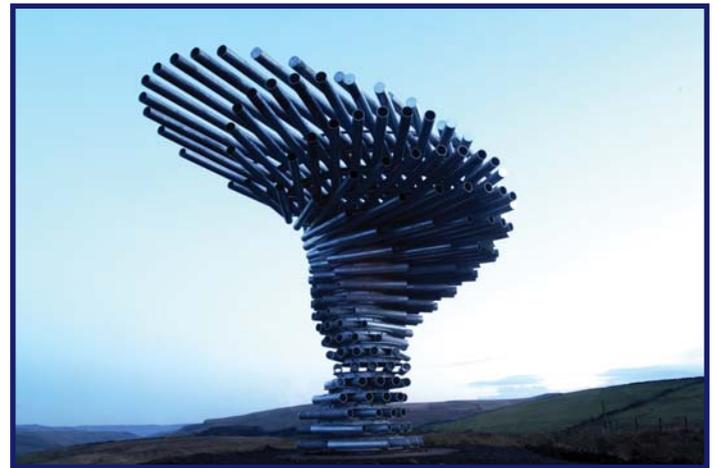
'Singing Ringing Tree' draws the crowds to Burnley

Burnley's Panopticon, 'Singing Ringing Tree', has been attracting a constant stream of visitors to its panoramic site at Crown Point since its launch in December by the Mayor of Burnley, Councillor Mohammad Najib, JP.

The intriguing musical sculpture, designed by architects Tonkin Liu, is constructed from pipes of galvanised steel stacked in layers, and takes the form of a tree bending to the winds. It harnesses the energy of those winds through specially tuned pipes to produce a low, tuneful song.

Burnley's MP, Kitty Ussher, was enthusiastic in her support: "The completion of 'Singing Ringing Tree' is a fantastic accomplishment for Burnley," she said. "Visually the design is stunning and it will act as a major landmark for Burnley, attracting visitors and boosting Burnley's tourist sector and economy. It is a true symbol of Burnley's emergence and regeneration and I would urge all local people to visit it."

And Nick Hunt, Director of Mid Pennine Arts, commented, "We are absolutely delighted to see the completion of this third East Lancashire Panopticon - the culmination of a great deal of work by all our partners, in particular our exceptionally talented colleagues at Tonkin Liu, who had the imagination to dream up this extraordinary singing tree and the remarkable skills required to make it a reality. 'Singing Ringing Tree' is a unique sculptural landmark which will undoubtedly attract many visitors and allow them to enjoy a completely new perspective on Burnley and its beautiful surrounding countryside."



'Singing Ringing Tree' Photo Credit: Andy Ford

VIPs at the launch event included former Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, Sir Simon Towneley, KCVO, JP, on whose land 'Singing Ringing Tree' has been built. A great supporter of the arts and of Burnley, Sir Simon worked together with his son Peregrine to secure additional funding for Burnley's Panopticon as well as offering the land.

Other VIPs in attendance were project champion Anthony Wilson, the broadcaster and entrepreneur; Ian Whittaker, Policy and Partnerships Manager (Lancashire), Northwest Regional Development Agency; Dennis Taylor, Chief Executive, Lancashire Economic Partnership; Steve Rumbelow, Chief Executive, Burnley Borough Council; Cllr Roger Frost, Executive Member for Leisure and Culture, Burnley Borough Council; and designers Mike Tonkin and Anna Liu.

'Singing Ringing Tree' is situated at Crown Point, off the A682 Burnley to Rawtenstall road. On leaving Burnley, turn left off the road opposite The Bull pub.

To find out more visit www.panopticons.uk.net

Julian Beaver



Julian Beaver interacting with his artwork

International pavement artist Julian Beaver spent four days in residence at Higherford Mill, Barrowford to help us mark the finale of the Land project. Whilst there Julian created a wonderful new piece of pavement art.

Julian's work is well known around the world and his style is unique, it produces drawings which are in perspective. From one angle the drawing looks very real but from any other angle the drawings look distorted.

Throughout the weekend of 23rd - 25th March, over 1,200 visitors came to see this drawing and many interacted with it. A film of the drawing being produced is on the Land website and on YouTube, where it attracted almost 2,000 views in it's first week. Higherford Mill is owned and managed by the Heritage Trust for the North West.

Serena de la Hey

Young people welcome 'Singing Ringing Tree'

Planning permission has been granted for a large willow sculpture to be placed along the side of the M65 near the border between Burnley and Pendle.

Through Land, Burnley schoolchildren and students played an important part in the launch of 'Singing Ringing Tree'.

Serena is best known for her figurative and animal sculptural work, which can be seen across the UK and internationally. All her work embodies an intrinsic sense of place, which is reflected in a strong identification with landscape, local materials, traditional working methods and the local way of life. She is perhaps most famous for 'Willow Man', a 40ft figure on the northbound side of the M5 near Bridgewater in Somerset.

Working with Shaggy Dog Storytellers, children from a number of schools took part in storytelling workshops aimed at devising a new tale about the mysterious tree of legend. Their ideas were then blended into a single story, which was read to guests at the launch event as they made their way by coach to the 'Singing Ringing Tree' site at Crown Point.

Although the piece that she is creating for us is about half that size, it will still command a powerful presence as people pass by.

Later, at Towneley Hall, guests were treated to a musical performance from students of Unity College, who had taken part in a Hallé education project, led by Hallé Education Director Steve Pickett, to compose a new piece especially for the occasion.

'Halo' community engagement plans

Mid Pennine is leading a partnership of key organisations in Rossendale to prepare for the launch of 'Halo' in September. They include the Leisure Trust, Groundwork and LCC Museums' Service.

Plans are in hand to create a sculptured 'Shoe Trail' to guide visitors from the Railway Station to Top o' Slate, the 'Halo' site. Local schools will be involved in design workshops led by ceramic artist Julie Miles.

Closer to the official opening we will be offering local communities the opportunity to be involved in launch events.

Panopticons and Land are projects of the East Lancashire Environmental Arts Network (ELEAN) managed by Mid Pennine Arts and supported by the Northwest Regional Development Agency, Lancashire Economic Partnership, Arts Council England North West, The Northern Way, Lancashire County Council, REMADE, Lancashire Small Sites, Elevate East Lancashire, East Lancashire Groundwork Trusts, United Utilities, the local authorities of Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Ribble Valley and Rossendale, Pendle Leisure Trust and Rossendale Leisure Trust. The aim of the ELEAN partners is to work together to demonstrate the positive role of the arts and cultural activity in the social, economic and physical regeneration of East Lancashire.

Triple Step Dance Festival

During the summer half term the Mid Pennine Education Team will be hosting a three day festival of dance.

There will be two days of workshops at the Energize Dance and Fitness Studios, Burnley; Sanderson's Fitness and Dance Studio, Nelson and Bacup Leisure Hall held from 10am till 3.30pm on Wednesday, 30th and Thursday, 31st May. Workshops will include Contemporary Dance, Ballet, Street Dance and South Asian Dance. Cost: £4.00 per day Ages: 8 - 11 and 12 - 16

Also, we are delighted to be hosting a performance from Ludus Dance in Education Company in partnership with Burnley Youth Theatre. Their current show, Trapped, is a modern, urban fairytale of emotional courage. It tells the story of a young girl and her mother caught in a life ruled by routine. One day, the mother fails to return home and the daughter sets off on a journey filled with extreme emotions to look for her. Ludus will also be leading workshops on Trapped on the Wednesday. This performance will be at Burnley Youth Theatre, 2.30pm, Friday 1st June.

Places for all workshops and the performance are limited so please book in advance. For further information or bookings please contact Hannah Kidd or David Smith or look at the education pages on our website.

Funded by Community Foundation of Merseyside.



Young people participating in one of the STart workshops

STart 07

This year's Start 07 exhibition was stunning. We received a large number of submissions and the final selection was, as in the previous year, a difficult process because of the high quality of the work. Mid Pennine Gallery is very proud to host the work of such an array of talented young people.

One of the advantages of closing the gallery to the public on a Monday and Tuesday is that it allows us to bring school groups in. Throughout the STart exhibition, ceramicist Julie Miles and visual artist, Daksha Patel have been working with young pupils creating their own artworks using Panopticons for inspiration. This work will be exhibited in the C-Space during May and June in celebration of Children's Art Day 2007.



Children's Art Day

Mid Pennine Arts will be celebrating Children's Art Day on 8th June 07 in two ways this year. Firstly will be the exhibition of children's art work which grew out of the STart programme of workshops. This will be on show during May and June.

Secondly the Gallery will be continuing its tradition of inviting schools into the gallery to work with a professional artist, Annie Beech, for the day. See the summer Education newsletter for details.

Kicking Leaves Writing Competition

The Kicking Leaves writing competition is now closed and the standard of entries has been exceptionally high. The competition was open to children from all of the East Lancashire boroughs of Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Ribbles Valley, Rossendale and the town of Todmorden. Winners will receive book tokens and certificates to celebrate their achievements and will see their work in print alongside a specially commissioned story by the children's author David Almond.

School Clusters

Mid Pennine is supporting two School clusters to develop the curricular experience of their pupils by bringing 'artists' to work alongside them and their teachers in the classroom. The clusters represent schools across East Lancashire. We have already helped one cluster to raise £5,000 to bring a drama worker, Indian dancers and musicians into their schools.

MPA in schools

The Summer Education programme will also be dedicated to dance with a really exciting array of dance artists. One of the dancers will be offering workshops in the Mid Pennine Gallery responding to the Talking Shop exhibition, whilst another will be working with Key Stage 1 classes using Emilio Reggio technique to explore dance and improvisation. For a full calendar of events please look at the Education pages on the Mid Pennine Arts website or look out for the summer Education newsletter.

Live Music Now

In February, Padiham Town Hall was the venue for the most recent Live Music Now concert. Live Music Now presents concerts specifically for young people from special schools around the district. Consort 1700, a baroque chamber ensemble performed to over 100 pupils at Padiham Town Hall.

Events like this, organised by Mid Pennine Arts, give opportunity for young people from special schools to attend concerts and styles of music that they would not ordinarily experience.

Distinct Voices, Diverse Lives

Are you interested in working in film and TV or have you ever thought that you could write a film? Distinct Voices, Diverse Lives will take place in three different regions throughout the North West. In each region 15 writers and 10 filmmakers will be trained and 5 short films will be produced. The emphasis of the training will be on writing and directing the short film. **The deadline for applications is 30th April 07, to find out more visit www.first-take.org or ring 0151 708 5767.**

New Look Website

Take a look at the new website www.midpenninearts.org.uk. Hopefully, you'll find it clear and easy to navigate. We've tried to put information in straightforward places so that you're not searching all over the site to find out what you want to find out.

Don't forget to keep peeking at www.land.uk.net and www.panopticons.uk.net as well as both these resources have plenty of new information on them.

Arts debate

The Arts Council are currently encouraging everyone in the UK to take part in the Arts Debate.

This consultation is your opportunity to have your say about the future of public investment in the arts in this country. The Arts Council wants to know what really matters to all the communities we serve. What do you value about the arts and the public funding of the arts, and how might the Arts Council better meet your needs? With this knowledge they can make more informed decisions and better account for what they achieve in the future. They are not asking you to comment on a specific proposal, or choose between different options. Rather, they want to understand your broad views on the public value of the arts and how this value might be increased.

To help guide your response they have identified five questions on which we would particularly appreciate your input. These are:

- ★ What do you value about the arts?
- ★ What principles should guide public funding of the arts today?
- ★ What are the responsibilities of a publicly funded arts organisation?
- ★ When should an artist receive public money?
- ★ Should members of the public be involved in arts funding decisions?

To take part in the debate, and we urge you all to do this, please visit the Arts Council's website at <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/artsdebate/>

Play It Again

Play It Again gives everyone a chance to have a go at making music, with 25 free events across the UK. The Play It Again taster events give participants the chance to play or sing with one of the BBC performing groups around the country. They are free, and all adults and children over the age of 8 are welcome to attend.

All abilities are catered for, and if you don't have your own instrument you can choose to sing or play percussion

To find an event near you visit www.bbc.co.uk/music/playitagain/events.

Rossendale's Valley of Stone

The Rossendale Valley of Stone Heritage Landscape Partnership, a Groundwork-led group that aims to celebrate and conserve the rich history of the area, has been awarded over £500,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The benefits of the award go far beyond heritage, as Rossendale Borough Council Chief Executive Carolyn Wilkins points out, "Valley of Stone will engage the local population and visitors alike, stimulating social and economic prosperity. What's more, it will support local initiatives in areas such as life-long learning and social cohesion, whilst also ensuring accessibility for the whole community".

The Valley of Stone Partnership being led by Groundwork includes Lancashire County Council, Rossendale Borough Council, United Utilities, Horse & Bamboo Theatre Company, Mid Pennine Arts, Community Action Rossendale, The Centre for Virtual Environments Salford University and Heritage Recording UK.

everyclick

Mid Pennine Arts is now listed on everyclick.com, a search engine that gives 50% of its revenue to charity. Using everyclick.com as your search engine does not cost you or us any money, but every time you use it you raise money for Mid Pennine Arts.

Just go to <http://www.everyclick.com/uk/mid-pennine-arts/79262/0>, you can then click on the links in the top right hand corner to either set it as your home page or add it to your favourites. **Spread the word!**

Burnley and the Big Art Project

Channel 4's Big Art Project in Burnley is led by a group of 15 young people from across three key neighbourhoods where a programme of much needed housing renewal is underway. The scheme is jointly supported by nominator Chris May of Creative Partnerships, East Lancashire and Burnley Borough Council, working with a steering group of community arts and regeneration focused organisations. The group is working with curator Kerenza Hines and Youth Engagement Officer Paul Hartley. The young people have chosen Greyworld as the art collective to work with them as they develop ideas for a major new art work for Burnley. In a separate commission an artist, will work to engage with people across Burnley. Local neighbourhoods will be invited to help develop a participatory event intended to highlight the new permanent art work.

Greyworld is perhaps best known for 'The Source' created for the new London Stock Exchange - www.greyworld.org Burnley's young people have their own website - www.bigartpro.org.uk - On Wednesday May 9, Burnley Youth Theatre hosts a Big Art Debate with key speakers from community and public arts plus supporters of the Burnley Big Art Project. Contact Carmel O'Toole 07838 368813 cotoole@channel4.co.uk for more information. www.channel4.co.uk/bigart

MPA Membership

Some changes are being made to the membership scheme. We are launching a Friends of Mid Pennine Arts membership for individual, joint and concession members. The standard cost of individual membership remains at £9, joint membership has increased to £15 and the single concession price has increased to £6. There has not been an increase in prices for over fifteen years so we felt these small increases were justified.

By joining the Friends of scheme you automatically qualify for 5% discount off all exhibition purchases where applicable and reduced ticket prices at any Mid Pennine Arts performances and workshops. You will be invited to all exhibition previews and special events, plus you'll get credited on the Mid Pennine Arts website. You'll also be invited to actively engage in the running of the organisation by attending the AGM and standing for election as a trustee.

Group membership for schools and community organisations remains at £25 per year. For this the group in question will get all of the above perks plus, access to advice on arts activities, marketing, fundraising and technical issues; opportunities to advertise your events on the new look website; at cost ticket printing service and access to Funder Finder. Schools are also entitled to a 10% discount on all school activities promoted by Mid Pennine Arts.

For more information contact Janet Clunie and we will send out the brochure explaining all the benefits.

Burnley Heritage Experience Tour

This coach tour takes your group to four of the most important heritage sites of Burnley in Lancashire, which are famous throughout the world. You will visit beautiful stately homes, a major site of Burnley's industrial past and a working steam-driven cotton mill. Group sizes are from 22 minimum to a maximum of 42 persons. If you want to go on this tour you must book in advance and the tour will be arranged at a time and date to suit you.

The tour takes about 2-3 hours with stops to see the sights, including a visit to Singing Ringing Tree, Burnley's Panopticon, and hear the sounds of Burnley's unique heritage. A Blue Badge Guide will tell you the history and stories of this fascinating town tucked into the Pennine Hills and take you back to the time when Cotton was King

There is so much to see in this town nestling in the Pennine Hills from beautiful countryside to industrial museums and from gracious country houses to Victorian canal-side architecture.

The tour starts and ends at Queen Street Mill Museum and refreshments can be available here.

Further details are on their website at www.pendlewithchexperience.com or contact us on 01282 458759 or email us at info@pendlewithchexperience.com

The tour can be combined with a visit to Barden Mill, for a great shopping experience with lots of bargains.

Mid Pennine Arts is grateful for support from Arts Council England, North West, Lancashire County Council, the Borough Councils of Burnley, Pendle, Rossendale and Todmorden Town Council.



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Councillor Jeff Cheetham

We were very sad to hear of the death in March of the Rossendale Councillor Jeff Cheetham, who served as a trustee of MPA over the last three years. Jeff was a great supporter of the arts and of Mid Pennine's work, and will be missed.

For us at MPA, two memories of Jeff in particular stand out.

In 2005, as Mayor of Rossendale, he went beyond the call of duty to travel up to Whitehough in Pendle, to appear as a special guest at our arts residential for young carers from around Lancashire. This was a rare opportunity for some very deserving young people to take a breather from their tough everyday lives and explore their creativity. Jeff was so impressed by the event, and especially by the spirit of the young people, that he decided to use his role as Mayor to acknowledge the demanding, unpaid work they do. Back home, he invited all the Rossendale-based young carers to a special, slap-up tea in the Mayor's Parlour.

Since its launch in 2003, Jeff had also been a strong supporter of the Panopticon initiative, and especially of the Rossendale project, Halo for the site at Top o'Slate. This has been a challenging project which has stirred up some strong opinions, but Jeff was unwavering in his belief in the benefits to Rossendale.

Halo will be unveiled in September this year. It is particularly sad that Jeff will not be there to see it completed and to celebrate with us, but he will be in our thoughts. Nick Hunt

The next issue of the Mid Pennine Arts newsletter will be published at the end of September 2007. – Deadline for inclusion is 1st September 2007

Please note we can not guarantee inclusion.

To receive our free fortnightly email bulletin visit the Mid Pennine Arts website www.midpenninearts.org.uk and follow the link to ebulletin. You'll receive an email bulletin which keeps you up to date with all the many events and activities that Mid Pennine Arts is involved in.