

Crafts and Skills in the Community Project – Final Report
Programme C: Access and Learning
Hot/C5

Funding allocated from Heart of Teesdale

£22,600

Have you provided additional funding for this project?

No

Short introduction to the project/ aims and objectives

The programme was to provide a range of projects to encourage the revival and use of traditional and modern crafts: to use natural and local materials, enhance the landscape and complement the environment, heritage and culture of Teesdale. The scheme aimed to include activities such as:

- Taster days and training workshops, as a possible prelude to professional placements and apprenticeships covered elsewhere in the Partnership. These would be geared to specific needs related to the Partnership and landscaping projects e.g. stone work, hedge laying, iron work etc.
- Projects that would develop from community initiatives where there were opportunities to extend the skills base for wider benefit and regeneration.

Output targets

10 Community Workshops

Volunteers/participants trained in general and specific crafts skills

4 volunteers/participants progressing to accredited training or apprenticeships

Outcomes/community benefits targets

Provide opportunities to share landscape based knowledge, skills and particular crafts that need succession to survive, and understand the importance of local products and materials.

Provide opportunity to learn new skills and try new experiences.

Reduce feelings of rural isolation.

Achievements

This project consisted of two components:

1. Taster days, training workshops and events organised by the Culture and Heritage Volunteering Officer.

2. Projects organised and delivered by other organisations, community groups and schools.

1.

Work covered by the Culture and Heritage Volunteering Officer is detailed in Appendices 1 and 2.

Workshops (see appendix 1)

The themes of the workshops were researched to match the local craft traditions and interests expressed by potential participants. The original aim of delivering projects such as stone work, hedge laying and iron work was refocused as these were already covered in other Heart of Teesdale programmes e.g. stone work by the Stone Academy, hedgelaying by the Field Boundary Programme and iron work by the Future for Heritage Crafts. All workshops proved to be extremely popular with the local community. On many occasions there were waiting lists in order to get a place on a course. The workshops received a lot of positive and complementary feedback.

Where it was possible local artists and craftsmen were contracted to deliver the workshops and to share their skills.

Overall, 18 courses/workshops were delivered over 20 days, engaging 191 participants in total.

The overall satisfaction of participants was scored as high as 4.86 (scale: 1-poor and 5 – excellent).

The highest scores of 5 were given to a number of workshops including Woodcarving, Storytelling and Felting. Due to the high popularity of the Woodcarving course and the fact that it could only engage 6 participants at a time the introductory workshop was repeated and then followed by Level II non-accredited training.

The Social Media Course scored the lowest but still achieving 4.1 rating. This was mainly due to the fact that the level of experience amongst the participants varied and that there were too many people attending. This did not allow the tutor to equally and effectively engage with the participants. All comments were taken on board and a monthly Social Media Café was set up at the Witham, to network and to answer Social Media related queries. The tutor offers her services on voluntary basis and will continue beyond the lifetime of the Partnership. The Witham will continue to provide meeting space and internet access free of charge.

Events and workshops for specific groups (see appendix 2)

The Culture and Heritage Volunteering Officer also organised a number of workshops aimed at harder to reach audiences such as Manor House Care Home and Abbeyfield Sheltered Accommodation. These events were supported and delivered by local volunteers.

Additionally, craftsmen and artist were engaged to provide activities at a variety of events including Bowes Show and Cotherstone Sheep Race.

A larger scale event, Deepdale Woodfest, was organised to celebrate the Crafts and Skills programme. This event was opened to the public and attracted about 400 participants. It was part-funded by other budgets including Landscape Discovery and delivered by all members of the Heart of Teesdale Team.

Overall 805 participants and 17 volunteers, who helped at a minimum of 19 sessions, were involved.

2.

Please see appendix 3.

Further funding was allocated to a number of groups and organisations to deliver projects and activities.

Details of each are covered in separate reports.

These projects engaged 337 children and 92 adults in total.

Summary

Overall outputs:

42 workshops/events delivered

5 external projects delivered

1425 of participants trained in generic and specific skills

17 volunteers involved

Overall outcomes:

This programme provided the local community with a broad range of landscape and craft based opportunities. The local craftsmen were invited to share their knowledge and skills with the participants and also to encourage continues use of those skills. The organised workshops reached to a broad section of the community including young and elderly participants, reducing social exclusion and promoting intergenerational interaction. It has generated a large amount of interest in the traditional skills and a greater understanding of their significance as well as the need to pass these from generation to generation.

Lesson learnt:

It was not possible to capture if any of the participants have progressed to accredited training as these were not offered as part of the Crafts and Skills Programme. However, a number of participants expressed interest in taking the gained skills to the next level e.g. to accommodate this Level 2 Woodcarving course was organised.

Appendix 1

Crafts and Skills in the Community – workshops summaries and evaluation

Course number	Course Name	Course Date	# of Evaluations (# of Attendees)	Average score for overall satisfaction*	Comments
1	Paper Making	08/09/2012	(6)		Not available
2	Paper Making	09/09/2012	(6)		Not available
3	Hedge Laying	04/10/2013 05/10/2013	(10)		Not available
4	Basket Weaving	05/10/2013	(10)		Not available
5	Personal Memory and Heritage - Talk	19/04/2013	(20)		Not available
6	An introduction to Oral History	20/04/2013	(12)		Not available
7	Felting	29/3/2014	9 (10)	5	'Very hands-on practical – demystified felt making – it's very good really!!' 'Well run and organised, a super workshop for all abilities.' 'Would have been willing to pay.' 'Group size about right. All equipment provided which was great.'
8	Natural Dyes	26/4/2014	10 (10)	4.6	'I thought it would be more about the actual dyes – how to get them, where to find them, how to make them etc.' 'Thank you – a really lovely day!' 'Handouts very good.' 'Will continue skill at home.'
9	Introduction to Woodcarving	10/10/2014	6 (6)	5	'I plan to adapt skills learned for my walking stick hobby' 'I may continue learning woodcarving at the Woodland Skill' 'I may consider other courses; have a go at home and incorporate woodcarving into my work at Hardwick Park!'
10	Social Media	22/11/2014	8 (15)	4.1	'The whole topic was interesting' 'Pleased to be able to attend such useful topic'

					<p>'Picked up a couple of things I didn't know' 'Everything was relevant' 'Some notes to take away would be useful and having such courses in the future' 'Too many people, it would be useful to have more one to one time'</p>
11	Festive Floral Workshop	13/12/2014	15 (15)	4.9	<p>'Will continue to use skills to make lovely things for my home and maybe to give as presents!' 'Thank you for arranging – much appreciated. Both Jules and Honia were wonderful.' 'Had a brilliant day.'</p>
12	Introduction to Woodcarving	07/02/2015	6 (6)	5	<p>'I will remember this course forever and hopefully do another course again.' 'Workmate tables should ideally be taller to ease strain on backs.' 'I will hopefully get to try at home once I buy some tools.'</p>
13	Rag Rug Workshop	28/02/2015	12 (13)	4.9	<p>'Thoroughly enjoyed the day. Thank you.' 'Excellent' 'It was very therapeutic and I hope to continue at home.' 'This course is very good! Thank you for offering this for free – it was something I have never tried before.'</p>
14	2 day Pottery	7/3/2015 21/3/2015	8 (15)	5	<p>'A fantastic course' 'I will try to attend future ceramics courses at the school. I am interested in joining a group.' 'A course suitable for children on a weekly basis would be fab.'</p>
15	Hookie and Proddy Jewellery Making	18/04/2015	9 (10)	4.9	<p>'I hope to carry on with the craft and attempt other jewellery and possibly even a rug! (when retired!)' 'My daughter was able to attend and she absolutely loved it!' 'Thank you for the opportunity to take part in this amazing series of craft skill workshops – I've loved taking part.' 'Having a practice with the two techniques before starting the two pieces.'</p>
16	Story Telling	19/09/2015	5 (5)	5	<p>'Great day! Well run, informative and fun!' 'Excellent use of environment.' 'Would love to be involved with future opportunities.'</p>

					'In leading school education sessions and possibly even events. Also helpful for my creative writing.'
17	2 day Woodcarving Level II	17/10/2015 18/20/2015	6 (6)	5	'I'll continue carving – and possibly see if I can make some money out of it after some more practice!' 'Had a brilliant time and have Alan's details for any further help we may need. Thanks again!!!' 'Hope more courses like this.'
18	Christmas Upcycled Decorations	12/12/2015	13 (16)	5	"Loads of ideas for use in the future." "Excellent day – enjoyed it very much." "Instructor was fun, fabulous, fantastic." "I feel inspired to give both crafts another go at home. A wonderful workshop, thank you."
TOTALS	18 workshops	20 days	191 participants	4.86	

*Participants were given evaluation forms with a number of questions. This table lists the average score received for the question: 'Overall, how satisfied are you with this training?' The following scale was used: 1- very poor to 5 excellent.

Appendix 2

Crafts and Skills in the Community – events and workshops

Event number	Event	Location	Date	# of attendees	# of volunteers	Comments
1.	Willow weaving activities at HoT Annual Forum	Startforth School	November 2012	50		
2.	Bird and bat boxes building at HoT Annual Forum	Startforth School	November 2012	As above		
3.	Bird box with camera installed + talk	Manor House Care Home, BC	February 2013	15	1	
4.	Bird Box with camera installed + talk	Abbeyfield Sheltered Accommodation, BC	February 2013	12	1	
5.	Talk on WW1 by a volunteer	Manor House Care Home, BC	March 2013	12	1	
6.	4 talks on Bird ID/feeding	Manor House and Abbeyfield , BC	Feb-April 2013	39	1	
7.	Willow weaving	Thorpe Farm	September 2013		7	Willow weaving training for volunteers.
8.	Proggy mat making	Manor House Care Home	October 2013	7	6	Workshop in partnership with volunteers from YMCA
9.	'Moving Up' - transition summer scheme - willow crafts	Teesdale School and Sixth Form Centre, Barnard Castle	July 2014	10		Built willow wigwams for the school's garden.
10.	Herb sowing	Manor House Care Home, BC	February 2014	9	7	Workshop in partnership with volunteers from YMCA
11.	Herb planting	Manor House Care Home, BC	May 2014	9	7	Workshop in partnership with volunteers from YMCA
12.	Sheep race	Cotherstone	August 2014	60	1	Sheep making and willow weaving
13.	Willow weaving	Bowes Show	September 2014	50?	1	Large scale event. Number of participants is an estimate of those who took part in HoT sponsored activity.

14.	Christmas Decorations	Manor House Care Home, BC	December 2014	10	6	Workshop in partnership with volunteers from YMCA
15.	Woollen Dolls	Manor House Care Home, BC	February 2015	6	6	Workshop in partnership with volunteers from YMCA
16.	Bird Feeders	Manor House	February 15	7	6	Workshop in partnership with volunteers from YMCA
17.	Russian Eggs	Manor House	March 2015	8	5	
18.	Russian Eggs	Teesdale School	April 2015	11		
19.	Proggy Matts	The Witham		8		
20.	Mushroom Guards	Charles Dickens Lodge	Dec 2015	8	1	
21.	Bird Boxes Painting	Charles Dickens Lodge	Jan 2015	7	1	
22.	Bird Feeders	Charles Dickens Lodge	Feb 2015	7	1	
23.	Woodfest	Deepdale Woods	May 2015	400	6	Organised to celebrate the end of the Craft & Skills programme. Partially covered by other projects such as Landscape Discovery. Activities included woodland crafts, willow weaving and nature trails.
24.	Sheep Race	Cotherstone	August 2015	60	1	
TOTALS	24			805	66*	

*There were at least 17 individual volunteers assisting the sessions.

Appendix 3

Crafts and Skills in the Community – externally funded projects and activities

Event number	Project/activity	Location	Date	# of children	# of adults	Comments
1.	Craft workshops	Bowes Village	September 2014	20	4	Workshops for children organised by the Bowes Show Committee.
2.	Hockney workshops	Bowes Museum	September 2014	209	84	Exploring the work of David Hockney with exhibitions and printing workshops.
3.	Warm Age Woollies	St Mary's and Green Lane Primary Schools, Barnard Castle	January 2015 - ongoing	60+	4+	Number of teaching sessions: 50 Number of network sessions: 5 Final numbers to be confirmed
4.	Pottery and felt making	St Mary's Pre-School, Barnard Castle		48		
5.	Living Eggs	St Osmund's Primary School, Gainford	March 2016	8		
TOTALS	5			345	92	