

## Final Report – Worlds of Light

### **1. Name of Project**

Worlds of Light

### **2. Funding allocation**

£3,830

### **3. Short introduction to the project**

This project resulted in the performance of a play by young people, exploring the heritage of Barnard Castle. The play examined historic figures whose lives and work helped to shape the built environment and had a lasting impact on the town and the 'Heart of Teesdale' as it is today. The project is a revival of a play originally commissioned in 2006 called 'Worlds of Light' – a fictional account of the cholera epidemic in Barnard Castle in 1849 which explored the changing views and politics of the time and shaped new developments in the built environment of Barnard Castle. The play's particular focus was the life and work of the Reverend George Dugard, who is commemorated in a memorial window in St Mary's Parish Church. This project was to provide the opportunity to re-examine the play with an emphasis on how Dugard's work changed the shape of the town. The project will involve rehearsals and two final performances with a group of young people aged 12-15. Dugard was responsible for building the vicarage in Parson's Lonnen and supported the move to introduce running water and a sewerage system to Barnard Castle.

The play follows the (fictionalised) story of the Pratt family (real-life characters, who are buried opposite the cholera memorial in St Mary's graveyard) and explores some of poor living conditions of those working in the carpet mills at the time as well as the formation of the Board of Health – the precursor of today's Town Council. The play was originally improvised and devised by young people. A completely new group worked on the revised version of the play which was performed in St Mary's Parish Church.

### **4. aims and objectives of the project and how they have been met**

- *To review and develop 'Worlds of Light' – a play devised and performed by young people about the history of the cholera outbreak in Barnard Castle*

The play was reviewed and performed on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2013.

- *To research and discover stories about historical figures whose life and work has shaped the built environment of the locality*

The young cast researched the cholera epidemic in Barnard Castle and based some of the characters in the play on real people they had found during the research.

- *To engage at least 20 young people in a creative process and performances*

Over 20 young people were involved in developing the script and performing the play over two dates in March 2013.

- *To attract as wide an audience as possible and raise awareness of heritage to the broader community – in particular children and young people*

Both performance nights were well attended by a wide audience.

## **5. Additional achievements and legacy – community involvement/benefits**

The project also raised the profile of The Turrets and Kando Youth Theatre who are continuing to recruit new members.

## **6. Lessons learnt**

Publicity of such projects is essential to ensure a good level of participation and attendance.



