

# Engage!

**Buxton Festival Community and Education Review 2009**

Supported by Buxton Natural Mineral Water



## Buxton Festival

Every year Buxton Festival co-ordinates a varied community programme, aiming to engage local people with the arts, extending across the whole of the High Peak. The current economic climate has proved a challenge for the Festival's fundraising, but with the support of a range of funders we were able to deliver a series of high-quality education projects at no cost to the participants. This newsletter introduces these projects.



## World Music Workshops

funded by

**Derbyshire Community Foundation**  
For Derbyshire for good

As part of the Festival's world music series, community youth groups were invited to attend workshops to learn more about the music of different cultures. Workshops included African drumming and dance, Indian classical music and the unique and ancient tradition of the Javanese gamelan. The young people who attended these workshops were also invited to attend the corresponding concert for free.

## Recycled Fanfare

This exciting new project, led by renowned musician Duncan Chapman, encouraged students from Buxton Community School to design and build their own instruments from recycled materials. The students then composed and rehearsed a fanfare on their new creations which they performed on the Opera House forecourt during the Festival to announce the start of the opera.





## Buxton Festival Photography Competition

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**Supported by Peak Photo Centre and Jessops**

This year's Photography Competition took the theme of stone: an interesting subject which resulted in a wide variety of interpretations, from images of landscape to the built environment. A selection of the best photographs was displayed at the Devonshire Dome, alongside the winning entries from the poetry competition, throughout July. The competition was judged by a panel led by Festival photographer Mike Hoban and competition sponsor Simon Watkinson from Peak Photo Centre, who selected the winning photograph as *Derbyshire Stone Cottage Below the Roaches* by David Slade.

## Young Reviewers

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Students from St Thomas More School in Buxton attended the dress rehearsal of the Festival opera *Lucrezia Borgia*. They then took part in workshop sessions with High Peak Radio to create both written and spoken reviews, of the opera which appeared in the local paper and on the radio during the Festival. This project proved an excellent way to introduce young people to their first opera and to encourage them to think constructively about their first impressions of the genre.



## Wandering Minstrels—concerts for the elderly

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**Supported by the Hall Bank Trust**

One of the aims of the community programme is to reach those who are unable to take part in the Festival. Our ever-popular Wandering Minstrels concerts fit this bill perfectly—taking members of the Festival company to entertain elderly people in daycare and residential centres across Derbyshire. Thanks to a grant from the Hall Bank Trust we were able to offer four centres in Buxton an opportunity to host a concert. A wide range of songs, from the old classics to well-known arias, entertained and enthralled these special audiences. Here are comments from two of the centres involved:

*'The musicians gave a superb performance which was much appreciated by us all. As the members left to go home yesterday it was lovely to see the pleasure on their faces.'*

*'It was such a lovely change for our Clients and by the look on their faces they thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment as did the staff.'*

## Live Music Now!—concerts for children with special needs

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Children with special needs from across the region were treated to a day of musical fun in the Octagon during this year's Festival. *Scherzo Brass*, a quartet of young musicians, delighted audiences with a diverse programme of interactive and engaging music. The musicians of *Scherzo Brass* are specially trained by Live Music Now! to entertain this special audience by creating highly visual and participatory concerts which are enjoyed by all.



## Thanks to our supporters

The Festival Board and staff are especially proud of our community and education programme and believe it is extremely important to develop this aspect of the Festival in future years. All our projects are offered free to participants: a feat which cannot be achieved without the support of many partners. Thank you for your support this year. It has been very much valued by all who took part!

The following bodies have generously supported our education and community work:



The Bingham Trust  
 The Concertina Charitable Trust  
 The Joyce Fletcher Charitable Trust  
 The Granada Foundation  
 The Steel Charitable Trust  
 The Zochonis Charitable Trust

We are also grateful to the many individual donors to the Buxton Festival Education Fund who support our work with regular donations. To find out how you can support the Festival's community and education programme by donating to our Education Fund please see overleaf or contact Claire Rhodes on 01298 70395 or [claire@buxtonfestival.co.uk](mailto:claire@buxtonfestival.co.uk).

# Buxton Poetry Competition

## In partnership with the University of Derby

2009 saw the second year of the Buxton Poetry Competition, organised in partnership with the University of Derby.

Our judges, Fleur Adcock and Michael Schmidt, whittled the 500 open category entrants down to six short-listed poems to be displayed in the exhibition at the Devonshire Dome in July. Younger poets were also encouraged to take part in workshops held in local schools by Derbyshire poet laureate River Wolton, using the 2009 theme of STONE as their inspiration. In total around 300 budding poets under the age of 19 entered the competition which was judged by Maria Carnegie and Teresa Barnard from the University of Derby:

*"Judging the children's and young people's entries for the 2009 Buxton Poetry Competition was by no means an easy task. The generally high standard of the poetry made it exceptionally difficult to choose individual winners and runners-up in each category. We were left inspired by the creative talents of the entrants and particularly of the local children and young people, whose poems did exceptionally well in the competition"* Teresa Barnard

The competition winners were announced and prizes presented at a special awards event on the opening night of the Festival:

### Open Poetry

First: *Quarry* by Mandy Coe  
 Second: *Dear Mr Asquith* by Nina Boyd  
 Third: *How We Survived the Years of Stone* by CJ Allen  
 Highly Commended: *Moulin du Chaos* by Hilary Menos  
 Highly Commended: *Stone* by Caroline Cook  
 Highly Commended: *The Geologist's Funeral* by Michael McKimm

### Young People's Poetry

First: *Tryfan* by Sian Hughes  
 Second: *Erosion* by Louise Wang  
 Third: *A Stone's Lament* by Ailsa Atkinson  
 Highly Commended: *Stone Man's Reprise* by Violet McDonald  
 Highly Commended: *The Millstone's Tale* by Hannah Rodger

### Children's Poetry

First: *Because I'm A Boy* by Benjamin Ross  
 Second: *The Curious Case of Benjamin Stone* by Lauren Dowling  
 Third: *Stone* by Helena Coggan  
 Highly Commended: *I Went for a Walk* by Declan Kerr  
 Highly Commended: *The Life of a Stone* by Sarah McAllister



**Claire Rhodes,  
 Development Officer**

**Buxton Festival, 3 The Square,  
 Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6AZ**

**Telephone: 01298 70395**

**Fax: 01298 72289**

**Email: [info@buxtonfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@buxtonfestival.co.uk)**

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# Buxton Festival Education Fund

Each year the Festival introduces local people to opera, music and literature through its community and education programme. All activities are free to participants. Please help us to continue to develop our programme of events with a regular contribution or one-off donation. All funds raised will go towards this vital aspect of the Festival's work.

Please remember to complete the Gift Aid Declaration—this will enable us to increase each donation by 28%.

Claire Rhodes  
Development Officer

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