

# Well Newcastle Gateshead



**Issue 1: February 2019**

## **Welcome to the first edition of the Well Newcastle Gateshead newsletter!**

We will be giving you monthly updates on Well Newcastle Gateshead, developments in each of our target communities within Newcastle and Gateshead and projects supported by the Arts Fund.

We hope that you find content informative, do let us know your comments and suggestions by emailing [vanessa@bluestoneconsortium.org.uk](mailto:vanessa@bluestoneconsortium.org.uk)

### **About Well Newcastle Gateshead**

Well Newcastle Gateshead is one of the pathfinders of Well North, a Public Health England funded initiative across ten areas in the North of England to improve the health of the poorest people fastest.

The Well Newcastle Gateshead pathfinder is managed by Blue Stone Consortium, a grouping of over forty voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in Gateshead and Newcastle.

The Well Newcastle Gateshead Arts Fund was established in late 2017 to support projects and initiatives that improve the health and wellbeing of our communities by using engagement in arts and cultural activities as a catalyst for positive change.

We want to explore how we can use local assets and encourage sustainable relationships between artists, community, voluntary and health organisations to deliver positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

We are focused on four areas within Newcastle and Gateshead. In Felling and Inner West Newcastle, we are focusing on working with children aged 2-7 and their families with the aim of improving school readiness.

In Byker and Chopwell, we are working to tackle social isolation, mental health and low self-esteem in adults.

More information can be found at:

<https://bluestoneconsortium.org.uk/our-work/well-newcastle-gateshead/>

### **The Well Newcastle Gateshead Arts Fund**

The Well Newcastle Gateshead Arts Fund has supported 10 projects since its establishment, distributing a total of **£90,034** - £36,937 in the inner west of Newcastle, £41,212 in Byker and £11,885 in Chopwell. An amazing result so far!

Funded projects have secured a total of **£184,911** in partnership funding and in-kind contributions, further enabling their work and unlocking more investment in our target areas.

### **Funded Projects**

We would like to introduce you to the projects currently supported by the Arts Fund in each of our four target communities.

Our projects are benefitting over **2,500 people** and are helping to make our communities vibrant, connected and healthy places to live.

### **Inner West Newcastle**



***West End School's Trust/The Twisting Ducks***

The Twisting Ducks Theatre Company support people with learning disabilities and autism to celebrate their creative talents and develop art.

The West End School's Trust commissioned 'The Twisting Ducks' to deliver creative workshops to 120 children aged 3-5 to help increase their emotional resilience.

The workshops use storytelling, play objects, dance and drama to help children explore feelings and behaviours and are delivered by an arts facilitator, two group members and a support worker.

In the Summer of 2019, the company will hold a participatory sensory arts event themed around 'emotional spaces'. Parents and carers will be involved in planning and volunteering at the event, which will be open to the wider community.



*Reviving the Heart of the West End/The Empty Space*

Reviving the West End of Newcastle, in partnership with The Empty Space, will work with up to 20 parents in inner west Newcastle to enable them to deliver arts projects/activities to children in the community.

Parents will receive training in project development and delivery, mentoring through their first projects and seed funding to get their activities off the ground.

The project will reach an estimated 600 people (12 projects led by participants, each reaching 50 people). Some projects will continue beyond the funded programme, increasing the number of beneficiaries.

***Curious Beasts***

North East Wellbeing have been working with primary schools in the inner west of Newcastle since September 2018. They are delivering a project in partnership with 4M Puppets, using interactive puppetry to identify emotional wellbeing issues in 3,240 children aged 3-7 and develop effective interventions for building resilience.

The project aims to de-stigmatise emotional wellbeing difficulties, engage children in creative learning and development through puppetry, and make targeted interventions with children identified as having emotional wellbeing difficulties.

To date, 327 children across 8 schools in the West End of Newcastle have benefitted from puppetry workshops. 141 of these children have been identified as requiring further nurture interventions.



**Byker**



**Northern Stage**

Northern Stage and Commonwealth, a theatre company based in Bradford, are working with community groups in Byker to co-create a play titled "We Have Met the Enemy".

The play will explore themes of war and will involve residents, plus Avondale House, a residential home for veterans, and refugee groups.

Participants will co-create the content for the play and develop creative and leadership skills. The play will be performed in Autumn 2019.

It is anticipated that there will be 500+ participants in the project from the local community.



***St. Michael's Church/Skimstone Arts***

**Skimstone Arts**

St. Michael's Church/Community Café in Byker are collaborating with Skimstone Arts to develop artist collectives of young people.

In their "Reaching Out" project, they will engage 20 isolated young people aged 16-25 to work together to create their own musical body of work.

The project will culminate in the "Reaching Out Festival", where participants will perform their work at selected venues.

The young artist collectives facilitated by the project will continue to develop and make work beyond the funded period for the benefit of the local community.

Tyneside Women's Health are delivering a pilot programme of taster art activities for women affected by mental issues.

The activities are taking place at the organisation's centre in Byker and on an outreach basis.

They will mainly consist of dance and belly dance, with opportunities for drama, singing, poetry and creative writing. 60 women will benefit from the project.

The project will culminate with a showcase event where women can perform what they have learned and will be used to explore interventions that may be used as enterprise models in the future.

## Company of Others

### *Company of Others*

Company of Others is a dance theatre company led by an artist director/choreographer from Byker.

They will work with women living in Byker to record experiences of endings/closure that have had a significant impact in their lives.

These experiences will be used to craft a production called *Crackle. Dust.*, which will be performed at Byker Community Centre on 4 May 2019 for the women, their friends, family and the local community.

The project will enable the creation of an all-female performance ensemble that will produce and perform further work in the future.

The organisation is looking for 300 women to participate in the project. If you'd like to take part or know someone who would, please contact Nadia Iftkhar, Artistic Director, at **nadia@companyofothers.org.uk** or **07872 996 914**.

## Chopwell



### **Quick Crafters**

Quick Crafters are an arts and crafts group who meet at Chopwell Community Centre.

They will develop a wall hanging in mixed media, with the aid of a professional artist, to be installed at the Centre. The artwork will celebrate the life of the village, its landmarks and history.

The project will also "refresh" the membership of the group and support its continuation by developing new activities that will appeal to a wider community.



### **Canny Chanters/Chopwell Arts**

Canny Chanters/Chopwell Arts will deliver a pilot programme of creative arts "taster sessions" from the local Community Centre, starting in Spring 2019.

Activities will include singing, dancing, painting, photography and film-making. There will also be a "Meet the Artists" showcase of local arts and crafts artists. The project will benefit 500 people.

Creative outputs will be shared via a public performance titled "Canny Chanters Presents: A Showcase of Chopwell Arts". Following delivery of the pilot programme, it is envisaged that a new Chopwell Arts Programme will be developed, designed by the local community.

The organisation is looking for local crafts people, makers, artists and facilitators to assist with the project. If you'd like to participate or know someone who would, please contact Bethany Elen Coyle, Artistic Producer, at **bethanyelencoyle@gmail.com**

### **Future Projects**

Well Newcastle Gateshead's development is very much defined by the community and applications received from organisations for Arts Fund support.

To that end, we are developing relationships with artists/local community organisations and encouraging applications to support projects that meet our funding criteria.

Applications are expected from projects in the Felling area during spring, from organisations wanting to develop creative activities around story telling sessions in 5 nursery groups and working with children to develop community sculptures inspired by nature and displayed in public outdoor areas.

### **Staffing Update**

Vanessa Nogueras joined Blue Stone Consortium/Well Newcastle Gateshead as Project Support Officer in January.

Vanessa supports the Programme Director and Board of Trustees with all administrative duties, including financial administration, and marketing and communications activities.

We welcome her to the organisation, she has already made a positive difference in her first month with us.



### **Lord Andrew Mawson Visit**

Lord Andrew Mawson, the Executive Chair of Well North, visited the Well Newcastle Gateshead pathfinder in December 2018 and we had the opportunity to introduce him to projects and key stakeholders in some of our target communities.



### **Well Newcastle Gateshead Videos**

Blue Stone Consortium now have a YouTube channel, featuring videos of Well Newcastle Gateshead's work in local communities.

Please subscribe to the channel and like our videos, just search for "Blue Stone Consortium" in the YouTube website.

We will be uploading more videos to the channel in coming weeks, so watch this space!

### **Digital Story Telling Resource**

We are in the process of developing an online digital storytelling resource (in the form of an instructional video), to encourage funded projects to record and share their stories in online spaces and with each other.

We will upload videos shared with us on to the Blue Stone Consortium YouTube channel, to highlight projects' journeys.

### **Community Conversations**

We have held 4 Community Conversations in our four communities to date. They have been well attended and have generated great ideas for future projects and collaboration between organisations and artists.

Our next Community Conversation will be held on 5 March 2019 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at Chopwell Methodist Church, please email

**[vanessa@bluestoneconsortium.org.uk](mailto:vanessa@bluestoneconsortium.org.uk)** for more information.

We look forward to seeing you there!

