

FWinc Project Info - PANDEMIC Reflections



Hello, thank you for taking the time to read about our new community arts project - PANDEMIC Reflections - which starts in March 2022. If you have any questions after reading the below, please get in touch - email hello@funnywonders.org.uk.

Who is the Project For?

The project is open to all aged 11+ in the High Peak.

The project particularly looks to support young people in Buxton and its surrounding villages, aged 11-25, whose mental health has been impacted by the pandemic, whether through, for example, bereavement, trauma, isolation, loneliness, financial stress, loss of support or relationship breakdown, leading to increased anxiety and/or depression.

What is the project aiming to do?

The project aims to provide you with the opportunity to take a step back and reflect on the past two years and to produce a personal record of the pandemic for you to look back on in the future.

We also hope to create a communal record, bringing together everyone's experience, to help improve your mental health and wellbeing and to foster making connections and understanding in our community.

How will we achieve these aims?

We have created a series of creative activity resources designed to help you to explore and express thoughts, feelings and lived experience of the pandemic.

We will deliver a series of workshops, providing a safe space for you to work through these. Places at the workshops will be limited so we will share the resources online for others to take part from home.

Artistic outcomes of the project will be shared (anonymously) online on our website and social media platforms and exhibited at The Green Man Gallery during August.

Who is supporting the project?

The project is supported by small funding grants from the Postcode Places Trust, a grant-giving charity funded entirely by players of People's Postcode Lottery, a Five Ways to Wellbeing grant from High Peak CVS's Health & Wellbeing Partnership and a grant from The Bingham Trust.

Who is running the workshops?

The workshops will be delivered by the Funny Wonders team. All team members receive safeguarding and mental health awareness training and have undergone Enhanced DBS checks.

Funny Wonders is a community arts organisation (Community Interest Company #06814964) based in Buxton, Derbyshire which has been delivering creative, community projects for over twenty years. We are currently delivering two projects - Changing Faces, which aims to support those aged 11-18 who face daily difficulties, and the Buxton Flowerpot Trail, which will be returning for summer 2022.

How Can I Get Involved?

You can take part by attending our weekly workshops on Thursday evenings at The Green Man Gallery or from home at a time which suits you.

Those aged 18+ are also welcome to be 'participant volunteers' - helping out at the first session with 11-15 year olds and then taking part in the second session. To find out more about joining Funny Wonders as a volunteer, please see the project page on our website.

Participation through Puppetry and Multi-media Performance

Funny Wonders Incorporated Community Interest Company #06814964

Address: 3A Queens Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 7EY; Email: hello@funnywonders.org.uk

Website: www.funnywonders.org.uk; Facebook: /Funny.Wonders; Twitter: @FunnyWonders

When are the workshops?

Workshops take place on Thursday evenings during March and April 2022, hopefully beginning on Thursday 24th March.

Each workshop will be split into two sessions with both sessions doing the same activities.

The first session takes place 6pm-7pm and is for 11-15 year olds. Parents, carers or older siblings of those aged 11-15 are welcome to attend alongside for support.

The second session takes place 7.10pm-8.30pm for those aged 16+.

What will happen at the workshops?

At the workshops, there will be time for personal reflection and record-making and to contribute to the communal art works and take part in a variety of creative activities.

Each week, we will work through one or two of the activity resources prepared for the workshops.

Some reflection resources may be provided the week prior so you can take the week to prepare for the next workshop.

A member of the Funny Wonders team will be available to support your wellbeing, in case any of the activities trigger mental or emotional distress, and to provide information about further mental health support if required.

Where do the workshops take place?

Workshops take place on the ground floor of The Green Man Gallery, Hardwick Studios, Hardwick Square South, Buxton, SK17 6PY. 01298 937375.

Accessibility: there is wheelchair access via a small ramp from the main doors at the side of the building.

Covid-19: doors will remain open for ventilation and there is plenty of room for spaced working. Hand sanitiser will be available for use.

Transport: there is limited parking alongside the gallery but we encourage you to use sustainable transport to travel to workshops. Bus stops are nearby at the Market Place and the gallery is five minutes' walk from the train station.

How can I take part at the workshops?

Places are limited so booking is essential. Registration forms available alongside this project information. If you have any questions, please contact us at hello@funnywonders.org.uk.

The workshops are open to all aged 11+ but, if demand is high, priority will be given to those aged 11-25.

How can I take part from home?

Each week, we will release the next activity resource(s) on our website news blog and emailed to registered participants.

They will be available as a word document (.docx), for those who wish to complete the reflection activities electronically, and as a .pdf for those who wish to print them out.

Paper copies will also be available to pick up at The Green Man Gallery if you do not have access to a printer.

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To contribute to the communal record, we ask that you send us a copy of your reflection pages and any art works so we can incorporate your personal record into the communal record. These can be sent anonymously.

Copies can be sent as a scan, digital photograph or photocopy. Scans and photographs can be emailed to hello@funnywonders.org.uk or sent in a message to our Facebook [page](#) and photocopies can be dropped off at The Green Man Gallery. If you do not have access to a scanner or photocopies, one can be borrowed at The Green Man Gallery.

What happens after the workshops?

Personal records and artworks will be collated (anonymously) and analysed to produce visuals records, alongside the communal artworks, and shared online.

After this short series of workshops for the 'PANDEMIC Reflections' project, we hope there will be a longer series of workshops for a follow-up project 'PANDEMIC Perspectives'. These will take place at the same time and place during May and June 2022, subject to further funding. Further information about this project will be announced in due course.

We will exhibit the communal artworks from both projects at The Green Man Gallery during August. The wider community will be able to contribute toward and interact with these artworks. Personal artworks can also be exhibited (anonymously) alongside by those willing to share their creations.

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