

Radstock Art Project

Stage 2: Consolidation and Implementation
Interim Report for Arts Council England, South West



our funders:



BATH & NORTH
EAST SOMERSET
Norton Radstock Town Council
Community Learning Service

our partners:

Bath & North East Somerset Council.
Play Rangers. Victoria Art Gallery. Barnardo's.
Norton Radstock College. Radstock Youth Centre.
Connections Day Services.



nesa
creative change

organised by nesa who provide quality art provision for the community

**Radstock Art Project – Interim Report
Phase 2: Consolidation and Implementation**

Contents

Overview	page 2 –
Social Inclusion and Education Programme	
Hidden Places	page 3 – 6
Norton Radstock Barnardo’s Family Centre sessions	page 7
Disability Arts	page 8
Arts Education	
Open Adult / Children’s Sessions	page 9
Exhibition and talk programme	page 10 – 12
Community ownership / RAP Steering Group	page 13
Professional Development	page 14
Raising public Awareness / Other	page 15

Revised Budget

Appendices

Publicity material:

- Hidden Places press release and initial poster
- Children’s early evening workshops
- Changing Colours exhibition
- Artist Trading Cards, “Anything Goes”, café exhibition poster
- Professional Development flyer
- Volunteer’s flyer

Radstock Art Project – Interim Report Phase 2: Consolidation and Implementation

4th December 2005

In addition to **nesa**'s Grants for the Arts funding bid in 2005, the Radstock Art Project (RAP) was advised by a **nesa** external fundraiser to apply to both the Foyle Foundation and the Esmee Fairbaine Foundation for funding for RAP phase 2. After the RAP development worker had assessed both funding streams and taken advice from the Foyle Foundation, it was decided to only apply to one of the potential funders. One of the reasons for this was that the Esmee Fairbaine Foundation required three years detailed planning and budgets, and due to limitations on RAP and **nesa** staff time this was not possible (in the time allocated).

nesa applied for £18,500 to the Foyle Foundation (July 2005) to assist the Radstock Art Project in achieving all of it's objectives in 2005-2006. Unfortunately **nesa** has been informed in mid-November that this bid has been unsuccessful. This has meant that the RAP team have needed to reassess the objectives for the project in 2005-06, which the Development Worker had initially done at the end of July (drawing up a second budget to assess the feasibility of RAP 2 in the event of the Foyle Foundation funds not being awarded). The RAP Development Worker has again reassessed the current programme and budget, in order to draw up this interim report.

The overall aims and objectives of RAP stage 2 have been maintained through a reduced and in places slightly altered programme of activity and by the RAP team negotiating, or renegotiating, additional funding from new partners (Community Learning Service, Play Rangers, Out of the Blue) or existing user groups/partners (Connections, Radstock Youth Club, Junior Gateway). RAP has also fundraised with Norton Radstock Barnardo's Family Centre for the entire amount needed for continued on-going Barnardo's sessions. We believe that the following steps, which have been taken and/or are being suggested, make RAP 2 feasible and achievable, whilst also delivering a meaningful programme of activity for the local community.

As RAP can no longer provide everything that we had initially hoped for in our original bid, we had the option of reducing sessions for everyone (and running the risk of participants feeling dissatisfied or undervalued due to inadequate durations of activities) or losing some sessions and increasing or maintaining others, to ensure that participants truly get the most out of this project.

Social Inclusion and Education Programme

- **Hidden Places** will still be the key delivery vehicle for RAP's social inclusion and education programme. It will still bring the range of groups that we currently work with closer together and it will encourage new groups and increased partnership working, both for RAP and independently from RAP.

We are actively encouraging groups and individuals to become involved in Hidden Places independently from RAP delivered sessions, as well as presenting the opportunities for active involvement in RAP sessions. This will encourage and foster community ownership of the project and promote community cohesion. We have already received queries from elderly residents who want to produce their own work for the Hidden Places project and exhibition and the local artist group, the Old Bakery Artists (OBA), are producing a large collaborative piece. Initially RAP would have provided a series of workshops for the OBA, however we have had to cut these sessions out of our provision. OBA have been understanding of the situation and will self-fund their work for Hidden Places. Barnardo's Family Centre sessions at RAP and Radstock College art students have also begun to explore the Hidden Places theme. Other groups that we are working with are now providing more funding-in-kind to enable their participation in the project, and so in the budget the total amount has actually increased through funding-in-kind.

- RAP will now commission only one artist in residence for Hidden Places, with a reduced number of groups that the artist will be working with. We considered the possibility of running the project without an artist in residence, but felt that the value of maintaining this post was too important to the overall aims of the Hidden Places project and also to the public perception in Norton Radstock of the value of community art.
- In July 2006 RAP began advertising for two artists in residence positions *subject to funding*. We received some excellent applications for these positions and also for subsidiary workshops. As soon as we discovered that the Foyle Foundation funding had not been received we contacted all of the artists that had expressed an interest, with a revised call to artists. We short-listed and at the end of November conducted interviews for the one artist in residence position. We are currently in the process of contracting an artist for this post. This artist will work with the following groups:
 - Junior Gateway – children with learning and physical challenges.
 - Local Adults.
 - Radstock Youth Club.
 - Play Rangers – young people.*

*Play Rangers have been selected as one of the key groups that the artist in residence will work with after RAP was approached by one of the group leaders with the request for activity for young people. Play Rangers work with 5-17 year olds in various, mainly outdoor, locations. It was commented upon that many of the older children often feel excluded or that there are not enough diverse activities to keep them engaged. The Hidden Places project has been discussed with these young

Radstock Art Project – Interim Report

Phase 2: Consolidation and Implementation

people and they have expressed a keen interest to be involved and to work with a professional artist. The artist will work with the group in their setting, which is in the Writhlington area of Radstock.

Working with Play Rangers will present RAP with the excellent opportunity of engaging with a new group, facilitating out-reach work and fostering creative ability and interest in local young people, who do not normally have an opportunity such as this.

RAP is currently developing the partnership agreement with Play Rangers, including looking at the budget and discussing what financial contribution Play Rangers is able to make to ensure that this work is achievable and meaningful for the participants. To date Play Rangers have agreed to pay for materials and they are currently considering the feasibility of paying a management/evaluation fee and a contribution to participant fees to ensure that their clients can participate. Depending on the outcome of their fee feasibility research the budget may change slightly in the coming months. The budget currently allows for a total contribution from Play Rangers of £450, with overall participant fees being reduced due to:

- Lack of ability from Play Ranger participants to pay a fee, RAP will therefore receive a percentage of the amount that would have been charged to adults.
 - Sessions for adults being funded by Community Learning Service currently have no charge for participants (See below and Arts Education).
- Radstock Youth Club is still keen to work with the artist in residence. We have needed to reduce the number of sessions from five to four, and the Youth Centre will be paying for the materials used.
 - We have offered Connections (adults with learning and physical challenges) nine sessions connected with Hidden Places. The participants will be working with textiles and RAP, Connections and the artist will be meeting in January to discuss how the project should be run to address the participants' needs and wants. It is expected that the group will be assisted to explore their locality.

Connections Day Services will now be paying for the materials used for these sessions. This has enabled RAP to provide a sensible number of workshops, which take into account the pace at which the participants need to work and presents the best opportunity for benefiting the participants.

- **nesa's** Creative Links project will now fund 12 'Hidden Places' sessions for participants with mental health challenges. It is anticipated that these sessions will be accredited and in ceramics, following the participants requests.
- RAP will be meeting with Junior Gateway leaders at the beginning of January to finalise plans for Junior Gateway involvement with Hidden Places. Currently it is suggested that RAP will provide four sessions (instead of the original five that were planned) and will pay for materials too. However, if Junior Gateway is able to meet the costs of materials we will be in a position to increase the number of

Radstock Art Project – Interim Report

Phase 2: Consolidation and Implementation

workshops. This will also depend on whether or not Junior Gateway feel that four sessions are enough for the children involved, as this group has to change activities regularly to maintain the attention and interest of the participants. These sessions will only be one-and-a-half hours long, to accommodate the lower attention span of the children.

- The planned sessions with PRIDE (a local black and ethnic minority group) have been dropped from the new schedule, due to the financial restrictions and the lack of participation from PRIDE members in RAP activities to date. Lack of promotion of opportunities by PRIDE to members has been identified as a probable reason for lack of involvement. We feel that we need to address this issue with PRIDE before attempting to provide any other opportunities to this client group. We will instead maintain our support for PRIDE through advice and offering 'open' opportunities to members and we hope to be in a position to work more closely with PRIDE in the near future.
- We have assisted Barnardo's Family Centre in a funding bid to pay for continued sessions at RAP, including involvement in Hidden Places. On the 14th December we will be hosting the final workshop from a series of ten that we have provided for Barnardo's Family Centre in our current arts programme. This current group has worked on various themes, including Hidden Places.
- We will be providing four visual arts workshops run by the artist in residence for local adults. These sessions have been reduced by twelve; eight have been dropped due to only commissioning one artist in residence, and the other four were moved to the Play Rangers group as it is felt that this is a particularly needy group at the present time.

We have however held meetings recently with the Community Learning Service (who have replaced Bath and North East Somerset Council's Adult Community and Education department) and have agreed funding of £1600 from Community Learning Service for sessions for adults. Included in this agreement are eleven creative writing sessions for Hidden Places to provide basic skills activities for local people. We hope that local adults who would normally be shy of engaging with visual arts may want to get involved as a result of the creative writing sessions.

We have needed to estimate the effect of the change in funding and provision on the participant income, as we are currently still in discussions with the Community Learning Service regarding participant fees. Currently it is expected that participants will not be charged a fee at all, although RAP would like to charge a nominal administration fee to both generate a small income and to try to ensure that potential participants do attend sessions. Community Learning Service will be paying for the artist and materials for these sessions. Publicity will be jointly managed and an in-kind sum has been included in the revised budget. Participant fees in the budget do not include any fees for the 22 sessions paid for by Community Learning Service.

Radstock Art Project – Interim Report

Phase 2: Consolidation and Implementation

- RAP will still provide eight workshops for students from Norton Radstock College for Hidden Places. The college will provide tutor support and will pay for the materials for these sessions. The number of sessions has not changed from the original bid.

- As Hidden Places is starting slightly later than initially intended, we have also made the following alterations and taken initial steps:
 - Provisions have been made for artist research and report/planning meetings with RAP and involved groups.
 - The first press release has been distributed and a photo-call has been arranged with the artist in residence for Tuesday 13th December. Local schools and organisations will be invited to work with us and to contribute to Hidden Places.
 - Partnership agreements are being drafted.
 - The exhibition of community artwork and the artist in residence's commissioned work has been moved to September 2006. RAP will need to fundraise in January 2006 for RAP stage 3, which will include the funds needed for the Hidden Places exhibition.
 - A CD-Rom or community event to promote the work in progress will be created/launched in May 2006. User groups will be invited to design this promotional tool.
 - The funds for an external evaluator are now reduced slightly. RAP Development Worker will be meeting with a potential external evaluator on December 15th and the brief will be to focus on Hidden Places.
 - RAP has now established a steering group and we will be relying on members to further promote the Hidden Places project and to act as ambassadors for our work.
 - See also: Disability Arts, the Rookery.

Radstock Art Project – Interim Report
Phase 2: Consolidation and Implementation

Regular sessions for Barnardo’s Family Centre

- Norton Radstock Town Council has funded specific sessions for children in RAP 2’s provision and agreed that RAP could use the first ten sessions for children from Barnardo’s Family Centre. Participant fees have also been affected by this, as Barnardo’s were only able to pay for materials. No participant fees were charged.
- RAP has worked with Barnardo’s Family Centre on a funding bid to the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to ensure continued provision, as per our original bid. We expect to receive a decision on this bid by January.
- Feedback for the sessions provided to date has been excellent. One parent has recently commented that her child’s behaviour has improved dramatically since attending these sessions and this has also been commented on at the child’s school.
- Children from these sessions will be invited to participate in ‘open’ sessions for local children, if their support workers advise us that they are ready for integrated activity.

Radstock Art Project – Interim Report Phase 2: Consolidation and Implementation

Disability Arts

Connections

- We had planned on offering 30 creative sessions to Connections in 2005-2006. This has reduced by fifty-percent at the moment due to funding. However, we are still offering nine sessions for Hidden Places (see above) and an additional six sessions, with art-form and subject matters chosen by the group.

Creative Links

- It is currently still anticipated that RAP will support the Creative Links project, by facilitating 12 sessions linked with Hidden Places and a further 8 sessions with art-form and topic chosen by the participants.

My Time My Space

- Funding for sessions for women suffering from post natal depression (My Time My Space) is met through local funders and other **nesa** funding streams. We do not yet know whether all of the funding needed for the 2006 My Time My Space sessions has been awarded and RAP will programme accordingly once this has been confirmed. Currently the art space has been reserved for this group in the anticipation that adequate funding will be secured for the workshops and designated worker. In the meantime ex-participants and potential new participants will be supported to participate in 'open' workshops and other opportunities.

The Rookery

- We have recently been approached by a local artist and support organisation (the Rookery) for adults with Aspergers. This is a local organisation that RAP was looking to make contact with, so we are delighted that the Rookery has booked the art-space for twelve ceramic sessions, starting in December 2005.

Prior to this arrangement it had been agreed at the first RAP steering group meeting that RAP should offer some creative sessions to participants from the Rookery, to build new partnerships and address the needs of this group. With this in mind it was agreed to offer sessions to the Rookery in place of extra sessions to Connections. We have offered nine sessions to the Rookery, with the Rookery paying for materials and venue hire. Sessions will be linked with Hidden Places. We will be meeting with the Rookery in early January to plan the activity further.

Radstock Art Project – Interim Report Phase 2: Consolidation and Implementation

Arts Education

Open Adult Sessions

- We have developed a new partnership with Community Learning Service, funding 22 open adult sessions (11 of these linked directly to Hidden Places). In addition to these sessions there will be an initial Drop-in session for local people to find out more about potential opportunities and to feed into the RAP programme. This is a new source of funding-in-kind not identified in RAP's original bid to the (current) value of £1600.
- We are currently negotiating with Community Learning Service to ascertain if additional support can be obtained from them to contribute to other open adult sessions.
- Originally we planned for 24 hours of open adult provision. With assistance from Community Learning Service we are able to maintain the momentum that RAP has built with regards to accessible workshops for local adults and encouragement for continued education, which we feel is imperative*.

*Feedback from participants indicates that often local adults who have been out of educational activity for a number of years are far more comfortable coming to RAP than to a school or college establishment. Once here they are learning new skills, meeting new people and gaining an increase in their confidence. We have received several comments from participants that our workshops have given them the confidence to participate in further education; one local resident recently knocked on the **nesa** door to thank us for giving her the confidence to enrol at Radstock College through RAP's open adult sessions.

Children's After-School workshops

- With agreement from Norton Radstock Town Council, who are funding the majority of the RAP workshops for children, we provided ten sessions to Barnardo's (see above) and we have started an early-evening club for 7-11 year olds.
- We have also made provision for half-term workshops and are currently talking with Family Learning Support to try to secure funding for parent and child workshops.
- There was a slight initial delay in starting the sessions due to waiting for confirmation of how we could use the funds from Norton Radstock Council.

Radstock Art Project – Interim Report Phase 2: Consolidation and Implementation

Exhibition and talk programme

- We have needed to drop the Assembly talks and possible artist residency from this part of our programme, due to Assembly's funding bid to Arts Council not being successful.
- Due to unforeseen circumstances* occurring which had an impact on the RAP teams time, the Memory Palette exhibition has currently not been re-exhibited.

*The Bath and North East Somerset Council's Youth Worker at Radstock Youth Centre is currently on maternity leave. This has occurred at the same time as vital DDA work has been carried out on the premises and for the first couple of months the RAP workers became the first point of contact for user groups and contractors.

Changing Colours / BANA / Award for excellence

*In addition to the above, a planned café exhibition of artwork produced by women from My Time My Space showed potential to be hosted as a RAP main exhibition. It was felt that this held more relevance to the local community and so this replaced the Bath Area Network for Artists (BANA) exhibition that had been planned. The My Time My Space exhibition, 'Changing Colours', required considerably more planning and work from the RAP team than the originally planned BANA exhibition, including careful programming of associated workshops and care taken in communication with the participants.

From the comments received 'Changing Colours' inspired great personal value for local people (with at least one visitor being moved to tears and many others commenting on the importance of projects such as this) and also demonstrated potential to further inspire the ex-participants and potential participants.

'Changing Colours' took place in October. A workshop in presentation (of artwork) skills was run for participants and three art workshops were organised to coincide with the exhibition. The workshops were all fully booked and presentations were given at the preview by the RAP Development Worker, the local Health Visitor and a participant from My Time My Space. Over a hundred people attended the preview and the exhibition benefited from additional press coverage received as a result of Radstock Art Project being awarded the National Lottery Blue Plaque for Excellence.

The financial cost of mounting this exhibition was greatly reduced from the original cost budgeted for the BANA Open exhibition, even though the man-hours increased for the RAP workers. The cost was reduced due to:

- Keeping the promotional design in-house (posters and invitations were designed by the RAP Development Worker)
- No transportation fees for artwork were incurred
- Savings were made at the preview

These savings have greatly assisted other areas of RAP programming.

Radstock Art Project – Interim Report Phase 2: Consolidation and Implementation

BANA exhibition

Members from BANA were invited to exhibit their work at the same time as 'Changing Colours', as a RAP café exhibition. This proved to be a successful alternative which allowed the RAP exhibition programme to be both flexible and to maintain the essence of its original planning.

Throughout this period essential building work was being carried out at Radstock Youth Centre to ensure that the premises comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). We had been assured that the work would be complete in time for the 'Changing Colours' exhibition, however this was not the case and great efforts had to be made by the RAP team to ensure that the public could access the venue safely. Despite this the exhibitions and workshops proved popular, and we were particularly delighted that clients of Connections Day Services came to the preview of 'Changing Colours'/BANA café show.

Postcard Views

- RAP continues to work with Norton Radstock College and aims to facilitate the photography exhibition around the town, as per the original plan. The majority of funding for this will be provided by the college, and this is still a very viable and potentially exciting exhibition.

Peoples Choice

- Several meetings have taken place between RAP, Victoria Art Gallery and members of Out of the Blue (a independent group set up by and for ex-participants of My Time My Space). This exciting project has now begun, with twelve participants from Out of the Blue curating the 2006 Peoples Choice exhibition at Victoria Art Gallery.

There is the possibility that two or more participants may give presentations as part of this exhibition. The amount of funding required from RAP has reduced dramatically for this project due to:

- Main source of funding and assistance being provided by Victoria Art Gallery.
- A successful funding bid made by Out of the Blue, which has meant that they are able to finance the art workshops for the participants. This has made these sessions possible but has also provided the group with an increased sense of ownership from the outset.

The funding retained in the RAP budget for this project is currently set aside for transport costs. However, if the group decide to use the funds for training (for presentations) the monies will be transferred in such a way. In this instance RAP would assist with finding suitable trainers/courses.

The date of the Peoples Choice exhibition has changed at the Victoria Art Gallery and will now take place from 23rd June until 3rd September 2006. This means that

Radstock Art Project – Interim Report Phase 2: Consolidation and Implementation

the Radstock show will not take place until February 2007, to allow for the Hidden Places to take place in Radstock in September 2006. As the funding is no longer there for the Radstock Peoples Choice show in 2005-2006 this in its own way has solved the funding issue; RAP and/or Out of the Blue will fundraise to show this exhibition in 2007 in the Norton Radstock area.

As plans have been made to involve the members of the Radstock Youth Club, (via visiting the Victoria Art Gallery and running workshops associated with the Peoples Choice show), it is expected that the exhibition at Radstock will take place at the youth centre. It has been mentioned that most of the youth club members have not been to an art gallery before and it is hoped that by involving the young people they will be encouraged to visit galleries and similar organisations, and that they will develop their own sense of ownership and respect for the exhibition when it is brought to the centre. It is planned that work from the youth club will be shown alongside that of Out of the Blue.

Hidden Places

- As full funding was not available to start this project as soon as we had hoped and is not available to exhibit this in 2005-2006, the final exhibition of Hidden Places has been deferred until September 2006. Funding has been set aside to produce a project in progress CD-Rom or small launch event in May 2006. This will also pre-empt the September exhibition. RAP will fundraise for the exhibition in early 2006.

Radstock Art Project – Interim Report Phase 2: Consolidation and Implementation

Community ownership

- A Steering Group for RAP has now been set up and the first meeting has successfully been held. Members have and will advise the RAP team regarding planning, user groups and marketing. Members will also act as advocates for RAP and will assist with distributing marketing material. It is also anticipated that some members will assist the external evaluator that RAP will be commissioning, to help ensure that we are achieving everything that we aim to and in the correct way.

Members of the steering group are:

- Jayne Lewis / Alan Prest – Radstock Youth Club manager
 - Jane Lewis – local artist and **nesa** board member
 - Fflyff McLaren – local councillor
 - Andrew Eddleston – local artist, RAP tutor and participant
 - Keith Wisbey – OBA representative and RAP participant
 - Geraldine Warren – local resident. Also Connections Support worker.
 - Lisa Marie Hodge – RAP artist.
 - Chris Barker – Head of Art, Radstock College.
 - Maria Vinney – local teacher and RAP artist.
 - Deborah Patten – Manager, Connections Day Services
 - Janet Weeks – local Health Visitor
ex-My Time My Space participant, representative Out of the Blue –(shared representation on a rotation basis):
 - Caroline Jeffery
 - Maxine Church
 - Mrs Tracy Whitfield
- In addition, a Connections client and two members of Radstock Youth Club have also been invited to join the RAP Steering Group.

Radstock Art Project – Interim Report Phase 2: Consolidation and Implementation

Professional Development

- The training opportunity for local students from Radstock College to curate the café exhibitions has not yet been taken up by the college. Subject to available time for the college staff and RAP it is hoped that this opportunity will be accessed in early 2006. RAP has in the meantime been approached by students from Bath Spa University for similar mentoring opportunities and we are currently following this up.
- The first of the planned two training seminars for artists and students has been programmed for January 18th. Marketing of this event has begun, in partnership with BANA and through **nesa**'s usual marketing routes.
- **nesa**'s organisational development team will be taking on the second training seminar, looking at a range of artist training and support needs and how **nesa** works with artists. RAP will provide reduced funds (from the original bid) to assist with financing this second event, with any other funds needed being met by other **nesa** budgets.
- We have dropped the BANA and OBA steering group sessions in 2005 – 2006. OBA have confirmed that their group is mainly interested in exhibiting, rather than professional development events, and in talks with BANA it was felt that members did not have adequate time to contribute to establishing a joint OBA/BANA group. RAP will encourage members from each organisation to network more through other RAP events and exhibitions.
- In addition to this RAP will continue to provide volunteering and mentoring opportunities as a creditable means of professional development. RAP has provided work-placement for a local fifteen-year old (6th – 10th December) and is currently making provisions for volunteers on Hidden Places and other workshops. One volunteer was short-listed for a national award through his work for RAP, especially with Barnardo's Family Centre workshops.

Radstock Art Project – Interim Report Phase 2: Consolidation and Implementation

Raising public awareness

- This is continuing to build momentum through promotion of our events and through the Steering Group. A press call has been arranged for 13th December to promote Hidden Places and other aspects of RAP's work, and it is anticipated that the artist in residence will add to the public awareness of RAP/ **nesa**.
- The award of the National Lottery Blue Plaque led to some prominent and very positive press coverage in local papers and there is evidence of increased public awareness through word of mouth.

Other

- RAP hopes to commission an external evaluator, at a slightly reduced fee (and responsibilities) from the original bid. Despite the fee being reduced we believe that this post will add value to the work of RAP and will help to ensure that we continue to analyse the work that we are doing.
- We will be fundraising in January 2006, both for RAP stage 3 but also for the immediate programme to build areas back up which we have needed to trim back at the current time. If such funding is not awarded for RAP 2 we feel confident that the current adjustments to our programme will still ensure a full, committed and valuable delivery for the local community.

Creative Opportunities for Local People



Awarded the National Lottery
Blue Plaque for Excellence,
October 2005