

Participatory Arts Project

Brief Evaluation

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT



These questions come courtesy of Culture Health & Wellbeing Alliance's report "How creativity and culture is supporting shielding and vulnerable people at home during Covid-19."

bravebolddrama.co.uk

<https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/how-creativity-and-culture-are-supporting-shielding-and-vulnerable-people-home-during-covid-19>

Summary of Project

Between Sept 2019 and Feb 2020 we worked with families with children under 5 at Hartcliffe Children's Centre, young people at Bridge Learning Campus and a group of young people working with Creative Youth Network, the under 12-15s boys' football team run by Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership (HWCP), with a group of young adults with learning disabilities at City of Bristol College, Hengrove campus, a group of adults with mental health challenges working with Avon Wildlife Trust, and with members of Dundry Older People's Forum in Hartcliffe.

The Butterfly Effect was a commission by Keepmoat Homes and managed by Ginkgo Projects. The aim was to inform and engage members of the Hartcliffe community with the new development happening opposite Bridge Learning Campus in Hartcliffe, which includes a new green space that will be accessible to the public.



Funder/s: Keepmoat Homes

Budget: £6,000

Who was it for? Members of the Hartcliffe community.

What outcomes were we aiming for? To engage as broad a range as possible of Hartcliffe community members, to inform them that a new green space will be available to them as part of the new developments in Hartcliffe.

We used the fact that a rare butterfly (Cupido Minimum or 'Small Blue') lives on the Hartcliffe site to capture people's imaginations. We commissioned 12 large willow butterfly sculptures from Bristol artist [Sophie Howard](#), and took these to community groups in Hartcliffe for community members to decorate. These willow sculptures were displayed at an outdoor community event on the site where the green space will be in Hartcliffe in February 2020. The whole project was captured through photograph and film by Bristol filmmaker [Anna Haydock Wilson](#).

We also asked people whilst they were decorating the butterflies to talk about their feelings about green spaces and being outdoors amongst nature. These conversations were captured and presented as a song (*Green Open Space*) which accompanies Anna Haydock's film about the project.

Where did it happen? Hartcliffe Children's Centre, Bridge Learning Campus, Creative Workspace (a now closed community arts centre in Withywood we used to run), Hartcliffe Roundhouse, Hartcliffe Scout Hut, astroturfs near Hareclive Academy, Hartcliffe, South Bristol Skills Academy, City of Bristol College (Hengrove) and @Symes, Hartcliffe.

Were you working in partnership? We commissioned Sophie Howard and Anna Haydock Wilson to work with us, and the project was overseen by Ginkgo Projects who brokered our partnership with Keepmoat Homes.

How many people took part? 42 Hartcliffe families with children under 5, 90 students at Bridge Learning Campus, 8 young people from Hartcliffe working with Creative Youth Network, 8 students at South Bristol Skills Academy, 5 members of the Hartcliffe 12-15s football team, 9 adults working with Avon Wildlife Trust and 4 members of Dundry Older People's Forum. 33 members of the community attended the final outdoor event in Feb 2020.

For how long did it happen? It ran from Sept 2019 - Feb 2020.

What were the main outcomes? 12 free butterfly-decorating workshops in Hartcliffe for community members. 1 final free community outdoor event.

After the community event in Feb 2020, the 12 decorated willow butterflies with an accompanying information sheet were put on display in community spaces in Hartcliffe close to where the new green space will be developed to serve as signposts and reminders to the community.

A new song and film about the project serves as a digital legacy of this project. The lyrics of the song express as much as possible verbatim quotations from the Hartcliffe community about their feelings about being outdoors.

Feedback and quotations from participants:

"He loves the park. We like splashing in puddles. He collects leaves in his little trolley"
(Families at Hartcliffe Children's Centre)

"It's easier to feel present when your outside. My senses get overloaded. But in nature it's gentler."
(Avon Wildlife Mental Health Support Group)

"I hope the new green site will be clean, free, and well signposted so people know they're allowed in there. I hope there's ongoing funding for maintenance. I hope there's seats and that it's accessible for wheelchairs and buggies." (Avon Wildlife Mental Health Support Group)

"I'd like to write a story about this place, going for a walk in the wild. It would end that we lost someone but it was because they'd gone to the chip shop!" (Student, South Bristol Skills Academy)

"Football keeps you fit and your mindset healthy. Keeps us out of trouble." (Hartcliffe Football team)

"I wonder if they'll make a path so I can go in my chair?" (Member of Dundry Older People's Forum)

What were the challenges and successes? Scheduling the workshops, especially those in schools, took a considerable amount of time because school firewalls meant our emails didn't get through and for quite a while we didn't realise this. The plan was that the final song would be recorded by community members singing a line each, but this didn't happen partly because of the first UK lockdown. Sadly no-one from Bridge Learning Campus attended the final event even though it was happening opposite the school again because emails took so long to be picked up that they weren't actioned in time.

We engaged the 12-15s Hartcliffe football team by taking two footballs to a practice session. One was a gift to the team. The other they signed and wrote their thoughts on and returned to us. Their words became lyrics of the song. They liked the idea of signing a football more than they would have wanted to write on the wings of a butterfly. They appreciated the gift of the second football.

The commissioner, Keepmoat Homes, were happy with the attendance at the final community event, and felt that the legacy of the project, having large decorative butterflies around the site in community spaces would serve to remind people of the development of a public green space in Hartcliffe.

Our work on this was handed over to [Stephanie Tudor](#), who was commissioned by Keepmoat to create a permanent art installation in the final green space in Hartcliffe that has been shaped and influenced by our engagement work.

Links to further information: <https://bravebolddrama.co.uk/commissions.html>