

SMALL WORLD

CULTURAL ARTS COLLECTIVE



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

SMALL WORLD CULTURAL ARTS COLLECTIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Our Objectives:

To further such charitable purposes for the benefit of young people under the age of 25 in Keighley and District as the trustees see fit from time to time in particular by:

- (a) advancing their education and development by providing and promoting a broad range of sustained, participatory, creative arts activities;
- (b) promoting the arts in particular by the establishment and maintenance of a Community Arts and Music Centre;
- (c) developing their capacity and skills in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society; and
- (d) promoting for their benefit the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving their condition of life.

Small world survives another year to continue to provide activities and support in Keighley. Most recently our year long project with community groups and schools as part of Bradford 2025, Keighley even had a visit from Capital of Culture leader, Shanaz Gulzar, who reminisced about her time bringing her own extended family to Small World back in the mid 2000s as she was a very active member of the team back then working on film, animation and other projects. Our connection was also used in the Eastwood 'Rooms' project where the memories of visits to her house provided the layout for the houses made.

Our other main activity has been provision of studio space for local artists including some former users of our services, the young creatives grew up! The studio project, which utilises empty shops in the centre, supports our core work as well as being our new home and has livened up the centre of town which was suffering, as many town centres are, from too many empty shops as people move to online shopping. The artists involved have done a lot to revitalise the centre of town and we continue to add new spaces for community sessions and even a pop-up charity shop for us to recycle some of our less used resources!

It has been a busy year and continues to be so but very rewarding to see the creativity in Keighley and to see how much local people benefit from being offered an opportunity to develop as creatives.



PROJECTS

YOUNG PEOPLES GROUPS

After several years of running the Friday and Wednesday groups and working with many young people over that time we decided to have a break after the summer to take a break and reassess things. The Friday group had mainly all grown up and moved on and the Wednesday group had become a little challenging, particularly in the large space. We carried on the Saturday club and Tuesday club, both of which ran until January 2026 and they will be the two groups we recommence when things have settled down with the move. It has been a good time to take stock of where we are and where we would like to be but we are also very keen to get the provision up and running again as it forms the very nature of our work and we miss it!



CREATIVE COMMUNITIES

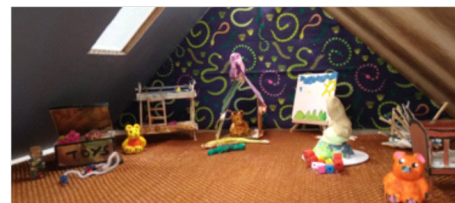
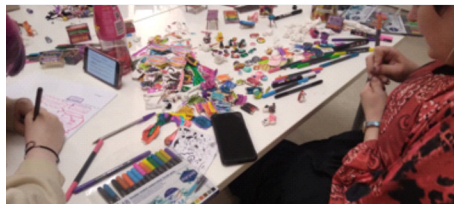
BRADFORD 2025

This project, funded by as part of the Capital of Culture looked as us making links back in the community, working to create artworks which were displayed as part of Bradford 2025 and it was really nice to build up those connections again. Working with local artists we provided sessions with the following groups;

EASTWOOD SCHOOL

Jen & Sam from Small World worked with two classes of year 1 students to explore Rooms and what goes on in them. This was as part of the curriculum work done at the school and as a direct request from the teacher.

We took in a wide variety of materials for the classes and the children chose the décor for the rooms; then using air dry clay, card and wood they made and decorated a range of items to be used in the houses different spaces. Small World then made the houses from recycled cardboard and, using the fabrics and papers and items chosen and made by the children, decorated and furnished them. The final addition was the little people that were made during the sessions in school. The result is the houses displayed and we would like to say a huge thank you to the students for all their hard work in creating such amazing artworks



HOLYCROFT SCHOOL

Banner made with a small group of Holycroft School Parents group led by artist Chrissie Scott and showing various landmarks around the area. Using a variety of painting and textile techniques to show Skipton Castle, the Cow and Calf & Rombold, local mills, Cowling Pinnacle, East Riddlesden Hall, Cliffe Castle, Dalton Mill, Goit Stock, Cullingworth Viaduct, Mechanics Institute and the Salt & Pepper pots.



PARKS OF KEIGHLEY

The main sewing was undertaken by Jane Howie, who brought the banner together and added Cliffe Castle as a skyline. Jane worked with four parents of children who are involved with Small World. They each sewed a panel representing the different parks of Keighley. These were Victoria Park by Sarah; Devonshire Park by Olha; Riddlesden Hall by Lizzie; and Lund Park by Jo. The smaller panels were created by children and some adults in the Little Nomad Gallery and in the Lounge during drop-in sessions.



HIGHFIELD MENS GROUP & HIGHFIELD WOMENS GROUP

Small World has worked with the Highfield Centre many times over the past 25 years and it was great to catch up with them again and as they had no particular ideas we suggested artwork for banners to look at the areas around the town which meant something to them. Artist Morwenna worked with two separate groups at the centre and using a variety of techniques created two wonderful banners



JOIN

Jen Rhodes, had the pleasure of working with "The Join Project" to build this mannequin for Bradford City Of Culture 2025, which we've named "Joy", because that's what this Project has brought.

Joy is inspired by a UK artist called Jason Wilsher-Mills, who works with disability groups in West Yorkshire to design interactive sculptures of colourful characters that relate to the cause of Jason's disabilities, paralysis from the neck down caused by polyneuropathy and chronic fatigue syndrome.

The Join Project is an independent local charity that provides recreational and self-help activities for adults with learning disabilities and has been running for 30 years. Jen then took it to "The Join Project across 12 sessions, where they paper mache'd it, then painted it. They then decorated the clothes with collages, made jewellery for it to wear, made braids for the hair and glittered the shoes and crutches and boots (and of course, themselves. Even the staff couldn't help but wear the glitter) and even painted its nails. They even drew tattoos in the arms and legs. They enjoyed every bit of making this mannequin though the jewellery making seemed to be their favourite.

The mannequin itself has various medical aids that we don't always see because they are hidden, such as a pacemaker, which has been represented with a rectangle box with a heart on it and a bolt, as that is something that can't be seen but is something many people have, including Trish from Join who told us all about it on our first visit to join. It also has glasses, hearing aids, a feeding tube, an electro-larynx (a battery operated voice box), wrist support strap, leg brace and a built up sole on one boot, which the Join group highlighted with glitter.



FOREST SCHOOLS GROUP

This project was a series of six art sessions where local children helped build a large wooden-structure tree and decorate it with papier-mâché, hanging paper leaves, and a crafted woodland scene. Each session also included other forest-school-inspired creative activities, encouraging children to explore nature through art and play.

The sessions were led by Philippa and Arthur from Wild Woods Forest School as part of their ongoing work bringing outdoor learning and creativity together. Children learned woodworking techniques, collaborated on design ideas, and expressed their connection to nature through the tree project and other crafts created during the sessions. Five of the sessions took place at Small World with the 6th being held in the SWANS lounge in the shopping centre ensuring lots of young people were able to take part.



SMALL WORLD STUDIOS

This project which commenced in 2024 and is now managing 11 units which are licensed to local artists and charities. This has been an interesting aside and given many local creatives the opportunity to find an space to develop their artistic practise and, in some cases, showcase their work as well as supporting other local artists to exhibit their work. The shop - now renamed Kraftopia and managed by studio holder Carla continues to provide over 50 artists with a place to market their work.

Amongst the studio holders we have several visual artists, textile artist, graphic designer, Capital of Cycling Charity, an upholsterer and soon a printinmaker. It has also provided Small World with a new home given the centre a community lounge and we are developing a community arts space too so lots going on!



Kraftopia Makers outlet & Chromosome Rocks charity shop



Inner Light - Studio & Gallery



FUTURE PLANS

In early 2026 we found ourselves on the move again, our 9th to date! We would like to thank Jane at Keighley Arts Hub for giving us a home since 2020 and we are now almost moved into Bow St with a view to beginning the two sessions again, once we can sort out the front door situation. One lovely aspect of the studios is seeing people who came to Small World as children and young people now developing their own artistic practice and making use of the studios available. We are in the process of developing a community arts room for groups to use and looking to get a door on our own unit to enable us to bring back the group sessions after school and Saturdays again and maybe a few new activities.....
We will also be revisitng the idea od becomeing a CIO to avoid the need to deal with Companies House

STAFF

Sam Atkins – Coordinator
Oscar Manthorp – Session support (until December 2025)
Jane Howie – Studio Support (until January 2026)

VOLUNTEERS

Fenton Medley
Samuel Ali
Denise Norris - Lounge & general all round support
Dahnish Atif Suleman - Lounge

TRUSTEES

Anita Gregory
Flo Toch
Tansy Whitfield
Beth Jones - until November 2025



FUNDING

Over 2025 we were supported by the Tudor Trust & the Brelms Trust. This funding has now finished which has allowed us to take some time out to focus on the move and the Studios and we will be seeking project funding through 2026



FINANCES

SMALL WORLD CULTURAL ARTS COLLECTIVE

6-8 BOW STREET

KEIGHLEY

BD21 3PE

07834181491

ask@smallworldkeighley.org

Reg Charity; 1109457

Ltd Company; 4984522