Inside Out: Dance Factor

Ridges & Furrows Update

When in Sleaford

Village Commission

New Dance Studios

Find out more online by visiting artsnk.org
Dance Factor Lincolnshire 2015 involved over seven hundred young people from across the county. Twenty-nine street dance crews were formed with each benefitting from ten weeks of free street dance sessions and the chance to compete in local semi-finals. The semi-final winners took part in a Grand Final event at the Engine shed, Lincoln, in May, with three winning groups going on to perform to an audience of thousands at Lincoln Castle’s Magna Carta Party in June, where they were warm-up acts for Britain’s Got Talent winners Diversity.

We spoke to fifteen-year old Jasmine Gladding who was part of Game Over, the North Hykeham-based dance crew who were this year’s Dance Factor Lincolnshire Champions, to find out about her experiences of the project. Jasmine told us how she taught herself to dance by copying performances on the TV and internet until she gained the confidence to join redXco (artsNK’s Hip Hop Company) at the age of 13. She first took part in Dance Factor in 2014, and enjoyed it so much she didn’t hesitate to sign up for the 2015 competition.

When asked about the effect being involved in Dance Factor had on her she said:

Dance Factor has allowed me to get to know new people and to meet people in the dance industry. It has helped me learn new dance styles and moves to make me become a more experienced dancer and choreographer. I have also gained friendships, experiences, confidence and people skills. Performing as a warm-up act to Diversity was amazing!

We asked Jasmine if the experience would influence what she did in the future.

Dance Factor has allowed me to get to know more people in dance, which will help me in the future. I have previously done a choreography course, but struggled to get people to perform in my dance pieces, so it is great to meet new dancers who I could work with. I would like to do Dance Factor again next year and think it keeps getting better each time!

For more information about this year’s Dance Factor project please visit: dancefactorlincolnshire.weebly.com
Ridges & Furrows

Ridges & Furrows artist residencies organised by the NK Arts Partnership engaged communities in Sleaford, North Hykeham, Waddington and Welbourn this spring/summer. The artists worked closely with local people to research the rich heritage and current day identities of each of the four locations.

In Sleaford, Katie Smith and Kate Genever brought their Moveable Museum (a 1980’s caravan!) to the town, inviting people to share hand-made items which had a special meaning for them. Some of the hand-crafted items were then photographed using a very old method of photography. A selection of the collodian photographs they made and the stories they uncovered can be found on their blog: ridgesandfurrowssleaford.blogspot.co.uk

For her North Hykeham residency Hannah Nicklin met and chatted to local people about the town and what ‘home’ meant to them. Their stories fed into a piece of ‘listening theatre’ – an audio work, designed to be listened to whilst walking in North Hykeham. Hannah and participants from the writing workshops she ran during her residency shared readings of their work at an event on North Hykeham Village Green at the end of June. Hannah’s audio piece can be downloaded from: yourhomefromhere.com

For Jonathan Turner’s residency project We Are Waddington local people of all ages enjoyed posing for three historical tableaux that recreated a Ran Tan Tan – a form of social justice where villagers would gather outside a wrongdoer’s house making lots of noise to shame them! Jonathan also took family portraits of people from across the village and RAF base. A photo trail of Jonathan’s work went on display in eight locations across the village in July. A selection of photographs from the project can be seen at: wearewaddington.wordpress.com

Lyndall Phelps’ residency in the picturesque village of Welbourn focused on the area’s historical links to agriculture. During her time in the village Lyndall worked closely with local residents and schools researching ancestral links to the land. Lyndall’s residency culminated with a successful sharing event in Welbourn Village Hall at the end of July. For more information about her project visit ridgesandfurrowswelbourn.wordpress.com

Driven by the success of these residencies, the NK Partnership is busy planning the next stage of the Ridges & Furrows project with a series of cultural events due to take place in 2016.

www.facebook.com/ridgesandfurrows

Earlier this year we selected artist David Mackie for a new commission to develop a series of artworks sited in pavements and walls around Sleaford. For the When in Sleaford urban art-trail, David will create works that act as way-markers, map out pathways through and around the town and draw attention to existing public artworks and other points of interest.

During June and July David has been busy working with local residents and school pupils to develop ideas and content for the artworks on the trail. The project is being delivered by us in partnership with the William Alvey Church of England Primary School and David has worked closely with children from the school who have really engaged with the project. In addition to workshops at the school the pupils have been on research trips to Sleaford Museum and St Denys’ Church to find inspiration for their design ideas.

Local residents contributed their ideas and designs to the project at three artist-led workshops; An outdoor session at the Nettles in June made use of the beautiful weather to create cyanotypes (prints made using the sun’s light) of natural materials such as leaves and flowers; In July David was joined by textile artist Becky Adams to lead two workshops at The National Centre for Craft and Design at which participants used stitching, collage and drawing to create designs based upon local artefacts.

David will now take away everyone’s ideas and the research he has carried out to produce final concepts for the artworks. The works will hopefully be produced in the autumn and in situ in Sleaford by the end of the year – look out for an update on the project in our autumn newsletter.

"Sleaford has an extraordinarily rich history which is not always visible today. I am really enjoying working with a wide cross section of the community in researching and prioritising a fascinating and unique history." 

David Mackie
We have seen a number of the projects we are working on with North Kesteven district villages come to completion this summer.

Stapleford Family Tree Project
Residents in the village of Stapleford came together on Saturday 18th July for a special event to celebrate the completion of a hand-carved wooden seat created as part of a project in the village led by artsNK. Stephen Phillips MP and Mrs Marion Brighton OBE, leader of North Kesteven District council were in attendance to officially unveil the special seat and chat to local people and the artist about its creation.

The seat was created as part of The Stapleford Family Tree project, which was inspired by village history and residents’ memories. The aptly named Peter Tree carved the seat from a locally felled oak and led workshops in carving and woodturning for people in the village.

Canwick – New artwork for Village Hall
A new artwork for the exterior of Canwick Village Hall commissioned by artsNK working in partnership with village residents is now in situ. The metal sculpture was created by Peter Rogers and Alex Hallowes at Xceptional Designs who consulted local people extensively in creating their designs. The work aims to reflect what residents feel is special about their village.

Bracebridge Heath – Art installation transforms derelict shop
After being approached by Bracebridge Heath’s events group, artsNK commissioned Electric Egg to create a new artwork for the village this summer. Steven Hatton and Neil Baker from Electric Egg worked with a flower arranging group in the village to create a colourful art installation which has transformed the facade of a derelict shop in a busy part of the village. Using photographic collage and illustrations Electric Egg have created a trompe d’oeil frontage for a new florist (which never opens!) called Banksia. artsNK have worked with the village to transform various spaces over the last three years, but this is the most ambitious project to date and the installation has had a fantastic response from local people.
As part of the programme of renovations at NK centre (soon to be OneNK) artsNK’s youth dance companies and youth dance programme participants have benefitted from two brand new dance studios with sprung floors. The studios were officially opened in July by professional gymnast and three times world champion, Beth Tweddle. Young dancers from our Descend contemporary dance group had the opportunity to perform at the opening and speak to Beth, who told them they were lucky to be able to enjoy such facilities.

Our Youth Dance classes have now broken up for the summer but restart in September.

Work is also underway on a downstairs studio space which will be able to accommodate our Aerial Programme. Look out for more information about Aerial classes teaching “dance in the air” for adults and young people in our next newsletter.

For more information about all our dance classes and youth dance companies visit the Take Part section of www.artsnk.org

Contact Us
If you would like to get in touch please contact:
Nick Jones, Visual Arts Manager: 01529 411 190
Elaine Knight, Performing Arts Manager: 01529 411 195

General Enquiries
For general enquiries email: artsnk@litc.org.uk or tel: 01529 410 595