

Visual Arts in Rural Communities

An invitation to become a Friend of VARC



The Way of the Swallows, Linda Gordon. Photo: Barry Imeson.

www.varc.org.uk

VARC needs You

VARC is a community based charity that needs all the help and support that it can get to remain a sustainable charity with a long term future.

VARC needs Friends in both the local and wider community but also from those less directly concerned but who support our aims in providing community based contemporary arts projects and with particular attention to groups with special needs such as autism.

As a Friend of VARC you will receive regular email progress reports on all our activities as well as invitations to events, exhibitions open days etc.

You will also have the satisfaction of knowing that YOU are helping VARC not just to survive but to develop.

Your views and ideas will always be welcome.

Suggested minimum donation £15 per year.

VARC'S Aims

VARC is based in rural Northumberland at Highgreen, Tarsset. VARC's aim is to bring contemporary art to both rural and urban communities, in particular to groups who can have difficulty in accessing contemporary art.

VARC also gives artists the chance to live and develop their work in the stunningly beautiful and remote rural landscape of Tarsset.

VARC offers benefits to communities and visiting groups by engagement with art and artists through contact and creative activity.

VARC'S Future

VARC has already achieved much since it started in 2000 and has brought creative experiences to many people, not least to the artists who have benefitted from the local landscape and the local community.

VARC is fully committed to delivering its core project. VARC will also continue to develop and manage other arts projects, or participate in arts projects as and when it can. In the future VARC hopes to develop projects with a particular attention to special needs or marginalised groups.

VARC'S Core Project: Annual Residency

In 2000 VARC started its first year long artist residency. The artist receives a modest grant and is provided with a studio, accommodation etc. In return the artist engages with rural and urban groups with specific needs through art projects, and with the local community, local schools via open days and/or arts projects. The artist also undertakes to create a body of work which is shown at the end of their year at Highgreen and when possible elsewhere.

The Autism Project

In 2009 VARC set up an arts project in alternate years to benefit two special needs schools with students on the autistic Spectrum, Thomas Bewick in Newcastle and Thornhill Park in Sunderland.

The idea of this project is for students to create art with the help of a professional artist and that part of the project should take place at Highgreen. Students work and walk, have workshops, picnic etc in this wonderful landscape so as to be inspired by nature and/or to create using elements found in the landscape.

VARC Projects

Over the years VARC has established itself as a meaningful charity in the local community. VARC has welcomed many local school groups as well as local residents with talks, workshops open days and of course the annual exhibition.

VARC has also supported numerous arts projects including Ruperts Wood Project in Redesdale and other projects in Bellingham, Byrness, Corsenside and Elsdon.

Additionally VARC has supported projects proposed by artists living and working in Northumberland, Cumbria, Tyne and Wear and the Scottish Borders, with themes as varied as art inspired by swimming the 7.5 mile length of Lake Ullswater or working from the Dark Skies and Stars of the Northumberland nightscape.

VARC has initiated a number of special projects including Gathering, artwork produced through a 15 month collaboration between artists and the hill farming community in Tarset; and participated in other projects such as Walk On, a region wide event creating art by and through walking.

VARC News

Sign up to receive the eNewsletter and keep up to date with what is happening with VARC at www.varc.org.uk.

Partners

Over the years VARC has forged links and worked in partnership with many individuals and organisations. We would like to thank them for their past and ongoing relationship with VARC and look forward to working with them and new partners in the future.

Contact Us

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