SUPERSLOWWAY

Annual Report 2016 2016 has been an extraordinary year for Super Slow Way.

WE HAVE SUPPORTED AND DEVELOPED 30 PROJECTS WITH OVER 200 ARTISTS 20 ARTS ORGANISATIONS AND OVER 40,000 ATTENDANCES

Bringing great art to the banks of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Connecting people with artists, each other and their waterway

SUPER SLOW WAY: SPARKING A CREATIVE REVOLUTION IN PENNINE LANCASHIRE.

over image: Shapes of Water, Sounds of Hope. hoto by Graham Kay

This image: Kinara. Photo by Matthew Savage

superslowway.org.uk

INTRODUCTION

IN 2016 SUPER SLOW WAY WENT FROM BEING AN IDEA, LOADED WITH POSSIBILITY AND PROMISE, TO AN EXPLOSION OF ACTIVITY. WE SUPPORTED AND DEVELOPED 30 PROJECTS, IN WHICH WE CONNECTED OVER 200 ARTISTS WITH COMMUNITIES IN THE FORM OF COMMISSIONS AND ARTIST RESIDENCIES, MASS PARTICIPATION PROJECTS AND THREE MAJOR FESTIVALS. IT WAS A VERY BUSY YEAR INDEED.

Throughout the year we celebrated the Bicentenary of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal – the UK's longest waterway and the artery that powered the heart of the Industrial Revolution: the mill towns of Pennine Lancashire. Our bold programme has nurtured the beginnings of a creative revolution along its banks, as the post-industrial landscape is transformed and repurposed for social and civic activity. We have watched people come together through art and seen communities begin to think about their self-representation and self-determination, whether through mass participation projects such as **Shapes of Water, Sounds of Hope** in Brierfield and the thunderous triumph of **Super Slow Way: A Rhapsody to the Leeds & Liverpool Canal**; or in smaller, gentler, but equally profound, projects such as Stephen Turner's **Exbury Egg** in Burnley, **idle women's** floating arts centre, and **Beyond Labels** with the young men of Hollins Technology College, among many others.

As an action research programme, we are constantly learning. We have gained so much from our artists and community collaborators all of whom we consider part of the Super Slow Way family. We have been continuously surprised by the riches of the collaborative creative process and the results that have emerged, from meaningful relationships and connections to the creation of new, world-class pieces that compete on the international stage. This is no small accomplishment, but is the result of people, together, questioning, challenging and pushing the boundaries of what art is and looking to redefine what it means to them and the difference it can make in their neighbourhoods.

None of this would have been possible without the contributions of our partners Canal & River Trust, the four local authorities connected by the canal: Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Burnley and Pendle Borough Councils, Newground, our creative colleagues in APPL (Arts Partners Pennine Lancashire) and UCLAN (University of Central Lancashire). We are, above all, privileged to work alongside incredibly committed residents and voluntary sector groups that exist here and to be able to draw from the deep well of artistic talent we have in the region and beyond.

A lot happened at home and abroad in 2016, which makes it feel like a significant moment in history. For us, we hope it marks the beginning of a powerful movement in Pennine Lancashire where art can help to shape the future of our communities.



Laurie Peake Director, Super Slow Way

PROJECTS.

R RESIDENCY

- C COMMUNITY COMMISSION
- **S** SIGNATURE COMMISSION
- **E** EVENT

HYNDBURN

D PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Accri

BLACKBURN

R R Carer's Link, William Titley Blackburn with Darwen Carer's Trust, Verd de Gris R The Civic Arts Centre Carnival, Sue Gibson and R The Bureau and Hyndburn Carer's Chorus, **Polly Thomas** Paul Allen R R The Bureau, Yinka Danmole Horse & Bamboo and Awaaz, Shamshad Khan R C Circle of Friends, Jean McEwan Beyond Labels: In Young Men's Shoes, Hollins Technology College R Creative Support Social Inclusion Project, Cath Ford R Mill Hill Community Centre, Anthony Schrag R Nightsafe, Najia Baji R **SLYNCS and Peer Group** R St Silas C of E Primary School, Marina Moreno S Super Slow Way: A Rhapsody to the Leeds & Liverpool Canal E **Blackburn Canal Festival** E Leeds and Liverpool Canal Society with Jennifer Reid

Blackburn

Pendle



Colne

Nelson

ALL FOUR BOROUGHS

R	Hugging the Canal, Jennifer Reid and Simon Woolham
S	idle women, floating arts centre for women and girls
E	Kinara Festival
R	Tell it to the Water
D	The Faculty

Burnley

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BURNLEY

R	Action Factory and Canalside Community Centre Alwin Reamillo
R	Gawthorpe Textile Collection, Harriet Lawton

- R Sandygate Square, BREAD
- C Super High Way, Burnley Youth Theatre
- S Burnley Wood Community Centre, The Exbury Egg, Stephen Turner
- E Flamenco Qawwali
- **E** Burnley Canal Festival

PENDLE

- R Nelson Banner Group, Zaneb Khatun
- **R** Victoria Park Pavilion Café, Melville & Co.
- S In-Situ, Suzanne Lacy

Art challenges perceptual habits. That's a fancy way of saying it makes us think of the world differently and that's why it's important because if we just continue to think the same things we would never develop, we would never grow or challenge ourselves. That's what it's for. It's not always nice or easy but it's always important.

ANTHONY SCHRAG



BLACKBURN

The Rhapsody is a wonderful musical celebration of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal and is a truly unique event. There won't be another occasion this year where you can hear this combination and class of choirs, soloists and musicians in one concert. It represents a coming together of different forms that perfectly reflects the communities and stories along the canal over the past 200 years.

IAN BROWNBILL, PRODUCER

THIS IS OUR HOUSE

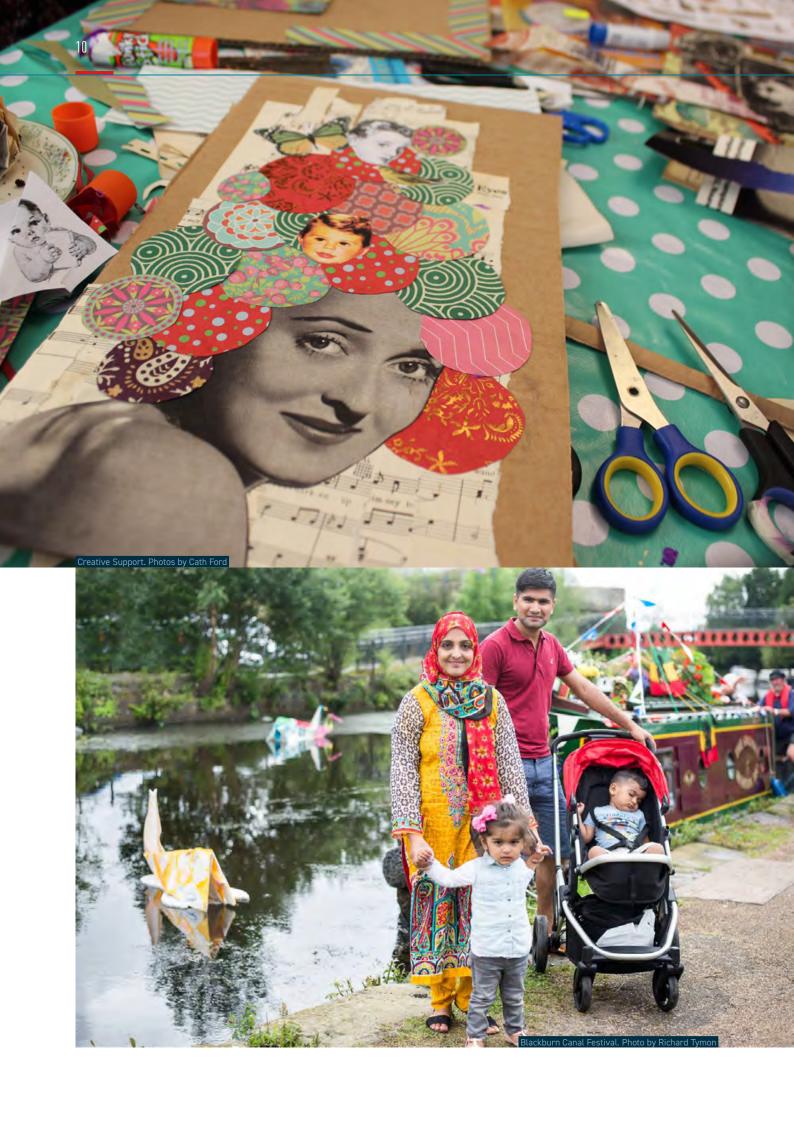
OUR NORTHERN POWERHOUSE OUR NORTHERN WATERWAY OUR SUPER SLOW WAY OUR BROADBAND HIGHWAY AND THIS IS OUR DAY THIS IS THE NORTH'S DAY THIS IS THE NORTH'S WAY THIS IS THE NORTH'S WAY THIS IS OUR HOUSE AND THESE ARE OUR TALES OUR NORTHERN STORIES OUR NORTHERN STORIES OUR NORTH CAN NOT FAIL WE'RE BOUND FOR GLORY 'COS THIS IS OUR HOUSE OUR NORTHERN POWERHOUSE



It's been brilliant. I've had the opportunity to meet some brilliant artists musicians and poets – Ian McMillan, for example! I never thought I'd be talking to him! It's absolutely amazing. I've never been involved in anything like this – and as big as this and in my home town! I'm elated!

FARMEEN AKHTAR, NARRATOR & PARTICIPANT







I hope to continue to bring out these stories in the time I have left at Nightsafe. I feel lucky to be there. One of the staff said that he had seen me grow and he was right. I have grown because of the beautiful moments I've been able to share with the people there.

NAJIA BAGI, NIGHTSAFE

I wanted to work with Super Slow way because I feel we are both on the same page in terms of approaches to working with people. They understand it takes time to create meaningful art work with people – for relationships to build, for processes to unfold, to try things out and take risks in a way that is ok for them.

JEAN MCEWAN, CIRCLE OF FRIENDS GO WALKING

My experience working on Beyond Labels was amazing. I learned lots of media skills including photography and filmmaking from professionals and it has inspired me to want to go on to making documentary films. I gained a lot of confidence as well and it has especially given me the confidence to stand up to bullies. I have never written poetry before but I think it's a great way to express myself and I think I will try and do more in the future. We have all become really good friends – it has been amazing.

MAHFUZ HUSSAIN, PARTICIPANT

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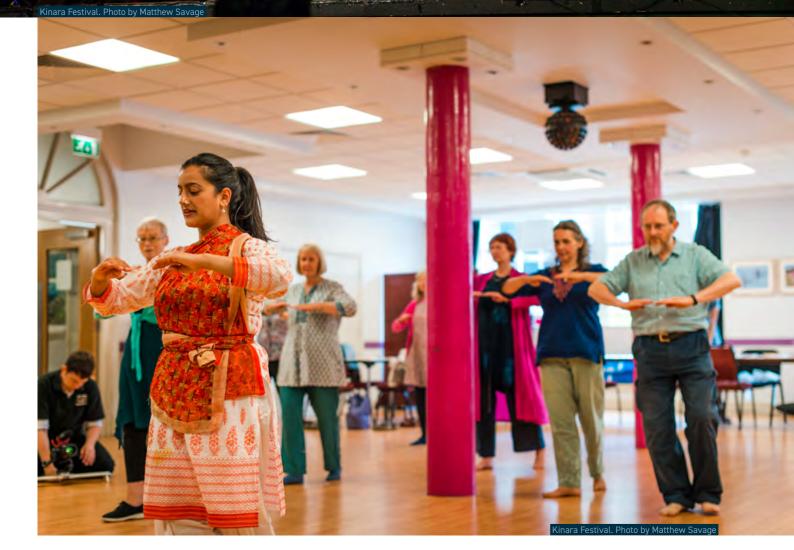
HYNDBURN

I have an important voice, I will use it to speak for the silent, the oppressed and the misunderstood.

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I think more and more in this day and age with all the turbulence that's going on in the world, we need to know more and the only way we're going to do that is by listening to each other and having conversations, finding out about each other's cultures and what makes them tick.

AUDIENCE MEMBER, LOVE BOMBS & APPLES, KINARA FESTIVAL



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You don't know how important this project is to me. I feel like it is my Egg! Being involved has really helped me through some rough times. We have had some really special moments. JO, PARTICIPANT

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BURNLEY

e Exburg Egg. Photo by Richard Tymon

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I'd like to feel that I can play a part in reconnecting the community of Burnley Wood with the closed-down wharf, remind them of their shared heritage and explore and discover its present state, and give the opportunity for some spiritual ownership of their own place at a time of huge environmental and economic change. Together we might discover something transcendental and culturally empowering in the ordinary, everyday actions of taking care of a place.

12

Why work with Super Slow Way? It's all in the name. I have always felt that slow is important in an age where we somehow prefer quantity over quality, speed over depth of connection. Where we have to get something fast or not bother at all. We all need time for contemplation, consideration and the joy of really connecting with each other, the world around us and our own inner selves."

STEPHEN TL

From start to finish this project was absolutely amazing. Honestly, I was lost for words and my 6-year-old has told everyone at school all about it. Thank you to each and every one who performed and also to the staff and volunteers involved you were all amazing. Thank you for allowing this to happen, my son will remember this for a lifetime - thank you for allowing him to be a part of it.

High Way by Burnley Youth Theatre. Photo by Matth

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PARENT OF PARTICIPANT







It's been really great to see the street come alive again; everyone mixing and chatting. It's like the old days."

LEANNE, LOCAL RESIDENT

Harkat. Photo by Matthew Savage

Creatively, magic happens when you put artists of different disciplines in one space. I call it creative friction, people work together and make something more than the sum of their parts. This is not a backwater, this is not a place without culture, but maybe we need to bring these communities together a bit more and get them talking to each other.

a Festival. Photo by Richard Tv

JO BELL, POET





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For me, being involved in something that began as an idea 8 months ago and seeing it grow, and having a role in nurturing the various strands of work has been personally very rewarding. As a community worker it has been enriching to see something new and fresh to our cohesion work and it has brought in different angles and art, which usually isn't a theme in bringing communities together but it has done that very successfully. It's all about making Pendle a stronger place and this project is sewing the seeds for the continuation.

Photo by Chr

RAUF BASHIR, PROJECT MANAGER, BUILDING BRIDGES, PENDLE

Sounds of Water, Shapes of Hope. Photo by Chris Payne

24





Faculty of Social Arts Practice was a six-month pilot programme run by In-Situ and facilitated by Chrissie Tiller in partnership with Super Slow Way and other Creative People and Places programmes Creative Scene, Heart of Glass and LeftCoast.

The programme was created as a unique professional development scheme for artists and creatives and took the form of a series of weekend residentials the brought people with a passion for socially engaged art together. The experience offered them the chance to learn and to work with a group of peers and to explore some of the questions around interdisciplinary collaborative art and social practice.





BICENTENARY____

THE LEEDS & LIVERPOOL CANAL WAS THE ARTERY THAT FED THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, FOREVER TRANSFORMING THE LIVES AND LANDSCAPE OF THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

Its history spans 200 years and, like its meandering path through the countryside, there have been many twists and turns along the way. In the Bicentenary year, we wanted to celebrate the canal's triumphs by commissioning projects, events, a specially composed Rhapsody and a limited edition range of merchandise.

The canal connects all four of our partner boroughs, Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Burnley and Pendle and is cared for by our other major partner, Canal & River Trust. The canal is important to us, not only because much of the work we do takes place along its banks but because it is symbolic of a place where time slows down and people can take time out from their busy lives to connect with their local environment, each other and their creativity.





The canal was officially opened in Blackburn in October 1816 when, for the first time, the journey could be made from Leeds, through the coalfields of Yorkshire, through the weaving mills of Lancashire to the port of Liverpool, bringing work and industry and people to the towns along the way, making them centres of the Industrial Revolution. We wanted to tell this story and commemorate the Bicentenary year by commissioning a range of merchandise, highlighting the heritage, creativity, crafts, people and places connected with it.

Working with some of the most talented and creative contemporary craft makers, designers and artists, we have developed a range of canal-inspired products, which offer a unique souvenir of the importance of the canal within our local and national identity.

These products are available for a limited period only, you can visit **www.superslowway.org.uk** to find out where to buy them.



Summit Saddle Bag by Matthew Riley AWL Co



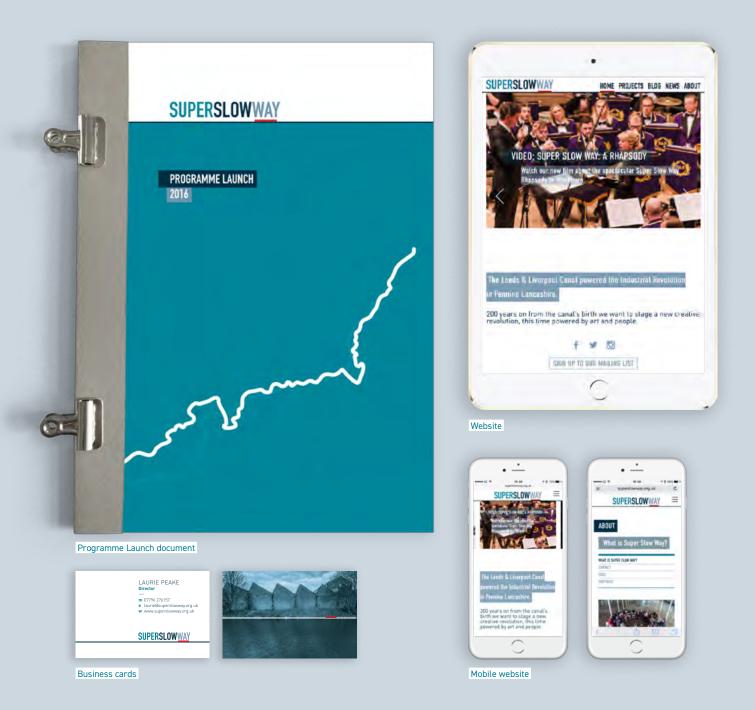


Narrowboat Pattern by Nick Rhodes / Switch Open

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS_

SINCE THE OFFICIAL SUPER SLOW WAY LAUNCH IN APRIL 2016 WE LAUNCH OUR PROGRAMME AND A BRAND NEW WEBSITE, FEATURING A NEW AESTHETIC, LOGO AND REFRESHED DESIGN DEVELOPED BY SOURCE CREATIVE.

We have developed a range of multi-platform campaigns to support our broad programme, utilising digital tools including blogs, videos and social media alongside a beautiful range of printed material to connect people with our work and our artists.



PRINT & DIGITAL

Rhapsody to the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Programme

SUPERSLOWWAY

Thoughts on our Swans

The Exbury Egg Echo broadsheet newspaper

By Stephen Turner, Artist in residence at Finsley Gate, Burnley

I counted five eggs in the nest, soon after arriving with my own large wooden egg at the former Finsley Gate Boatyard in a cold snowy April.

Dogs have fought with them and they have been to y children. As the in-situ Care Taker, I have been pon a number of times to ward off the stone th nd to keep a watchful eye on these stately res hat occasionally need more than the distant prot forded by the Queen (even though she has been

Often photographed and more often fed by local people, they entertain and concern the many who look out for their welfare.

...cartureak came when Pen broke her wing in a fight a local dog. It got so infected that she had to be put by the RSPCA and care for the two cygnets fell solely the male. He seems to have stuck to his task and r the two young alone.

These, and many other moments, have I through the photographic lens of many. These are just a few

Stephen Turner



Amongst their own avian kind, they have no peer and they lord it over the ducks and genes. A pair of genes were permitted to nest just ten feet from the Swani own straggly pile of straw and platic wates, but they had to be shown who was boss. One day 1 watched the cob sumter by and with havely a pause grain mother goose by the neck. He dragged her off her nest for around ten feet, then just non-hard sources.



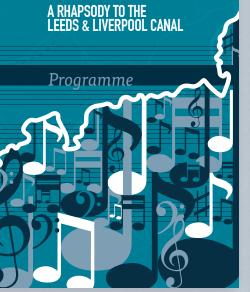
of Burnley Wood Co



SUPERSLOWWAY 🗛 🖬 🚬

Exbury Egg Signage

arts cou



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> SUPERSLOWWAY ds & Liverpool Canal powers Lancashire. 200 years on fr stage a creative revolution p

> > part of a communi orking with an artis **T US:** hello@sup

Keep up to date. FOLLOW US: 🛐 😏 🖬

SUPERSLOWWAY

A RHAPSODY TO THE LEEDS & LIVERPOOL CANAL A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF 200 YEARS OF THE CANAL!

This is to certify that



Rhapsody to the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Certificate



Promotional postcard







Kinara website

SUPERSLOWWAY

Shapes of Water, Sounds of Hope invite





Shapes of Water, Sounds of Hope book



Shapes of Water -Sounds of Hope

CONTENTS

- 4 Introduction
- 8 Contributors 18 Shape Note Music
- 28 Dhikr Chants & Mill Ballad
- 33 Thank you

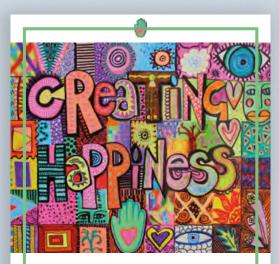
- page 3

PRINT & DIGITAL





Blackburn Canal Festival origami swan from leaflet



Creating Happiness

EXHIBITION OPEN

Mon 28, Wed 30 November and Fri 2 December 10am–4pm

EXHIBITION & WORKSHOPS An exhibition of art created by people using the services of Creative Support Blackburn Social Inclusion Project working with local artisl Cath Ford.

Inclusion Project working with local artist Cath Ford. BB1 for Life, 72 Northgate, Blackburn

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lat of the Super Slow Way Community Commissions

Creating Happiness poster

Sat 27th & Sun 28th August 11am till Spm 🔆 BURNLEY CANAL FESTIVAL

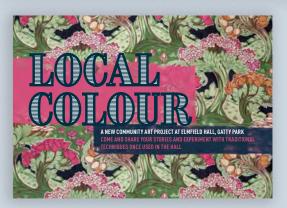
Burnley Canal Festival Leaflet and programme











Local Colour postcard

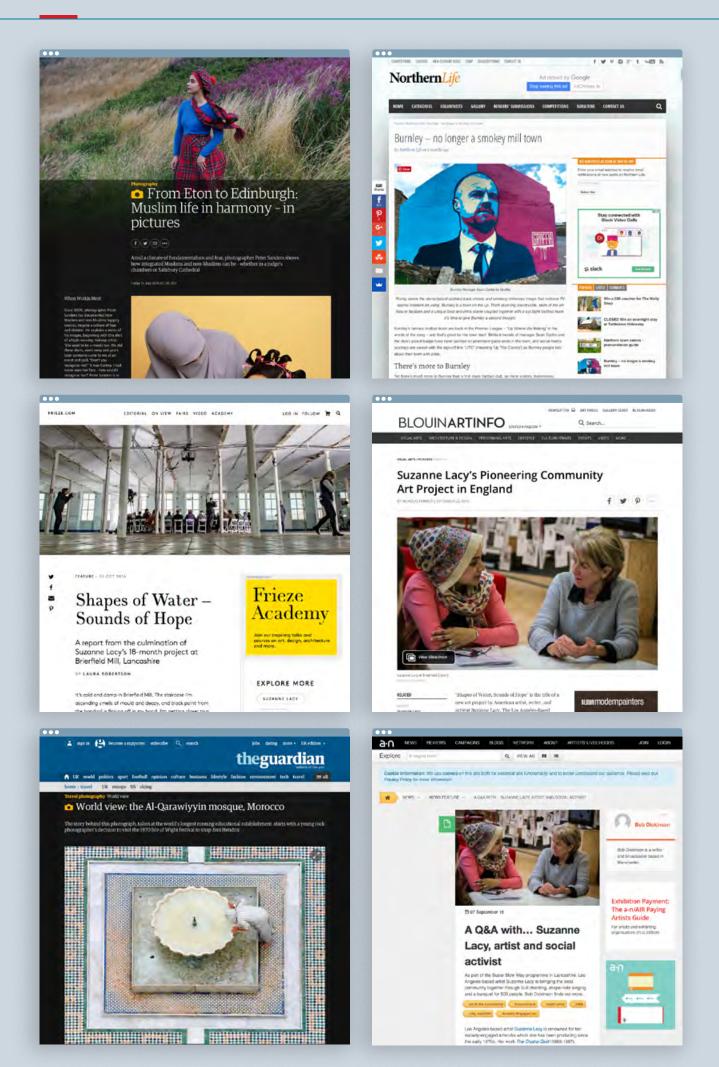
Slow Boat to Burnley __ A Special Bicentenary Year

Canal Festival returns in August 2016 to mark 20

BURNLEY Canal

FESTIVAL

SUPERSLOWWAY



PRESS & SOCIAL MEDIA



Teaching us to reclaim peace through nature









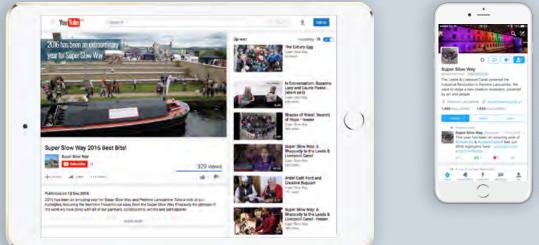


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COLLABORATORS

ARTISTS

Abid Hussain Adam Land Alan Williams Alia Alzougbi Alwin Reamillo Amanda Roocroft Amrit Kaur Andv Mercer Angie Thompson Anna Read Anthony Schrag Artisan Worked Leather Asif Khan Avaes Mohammed Avital Raz Abdul Salek Axial Dance Company Baxter Rhodes Beatrix Baker Ben Farmer Benny Ross Bethan Lloyd Worthington Blackburn People's Choir BREAD Brian Gore Brighouse & Rastrick Band Burnley Alliance Silver Band Calaita Flamenco Son Cath Ford Cath Ingham Cath Tyler Charlie Folorunsho Chris Dorning

Claire Shearman Claire Welford Claire Wellesley-Smith Clare Corfield Clark Rundell Danny Allison Darius Davies Derek Buckland Dhamak Emma Blackburn Fanna-Fi-Allah Farmeen Akhtar Faz Shah Folk Dance Remixed Grace Scrimgeour Gypsy Carrot Hafsah Bashir Hannah Land Harriet Lawton Hassan Erraii Helen Barber Ian McMillan Ian Stephens idle women Institute for Crazy Dancing Jacqui Beckford Jali Nyonkoling Kuyateh Javaad Alipoor Jean McEwan Jeni McConnell Jennifer Reid Jo Bell Jonathan Aasgaard

Julian Evans Julie Fox Karen Farnhill Karen Mirza Karen Turner Keisha Thompson Kerith Ogden Knotted Project Kuljit Bhamra Laura Jamieson Lee Mattinson Leila Gamaz Lemn Sissav Lilv La Mer Ltd Lin James Lisa Parry Lizzie Hobbs Louai Alhenawi Louie Ingham Lucy Birbeck Manjula Marina Moreno Mario Popham Mark Melville Mark Wardlaw Martina Mullaney Megan Macarte Michele Selway Michelle Luker Michelle Wren Millstone Band Mina Salama Mohammed Hussnain Hanif Mojisola Adebayo Morcambe Bay Jazz Band More Music Muf Architecture Nabil Abdulrashid Nadia Sultana Najia Bagi Naomi Hewitt Natasha Glew Nic Chapman Nizar Rahana Olcay Bayir Paul Allen Paula Wardlaw Peer Group Peter Sanders Poetry Takeaway Polly Thomas Prince Abdi Proper Job Rachael Elwell Rachael Gwilliam Rachel Wemyss Ragtag Arts Reece Williams Rimka Robert Parr Ron Penn Rossendale Clog Heritage Ruth Holman Ruth Jones Saieela Kerhi Sally Greaves-Lord

Samantha Walsh Sagib Choudry Sarah Hicks Sarah Yaseen Seal Films Seven Eves Shamshad Khan Simon Woolham Sonia Sabri Stephanie Buick Stephen Turner Steven Brett Sue Gibson Sula O'Duffy Susie Jones Band Suzanne Lacy Suzanne Smith Switch Open Tez Ilyas The Insect Circus Tom Macarte Urban Playground Verd de Gris Vicki Elliott Wagon Wheels Walkabout Wendy Meadley Werner Ullah William Titlev Yellow Door Artists Yinka Danmole Yussuf M'Abrary Zaneb Khatun

ORGANISATIONS

52nd St Andrews Burnley Guides Accrington and Rossendale College Accrington Library Action Factory Ashleigh Primary School Awaaz **Barnfield Construction** BB1 for Life Blackburn with Darwen Carers' Trust Blackburn YPS Boundary Mill Brierfield Action in the Community Brierfield Library **Building Bridges Pendle**

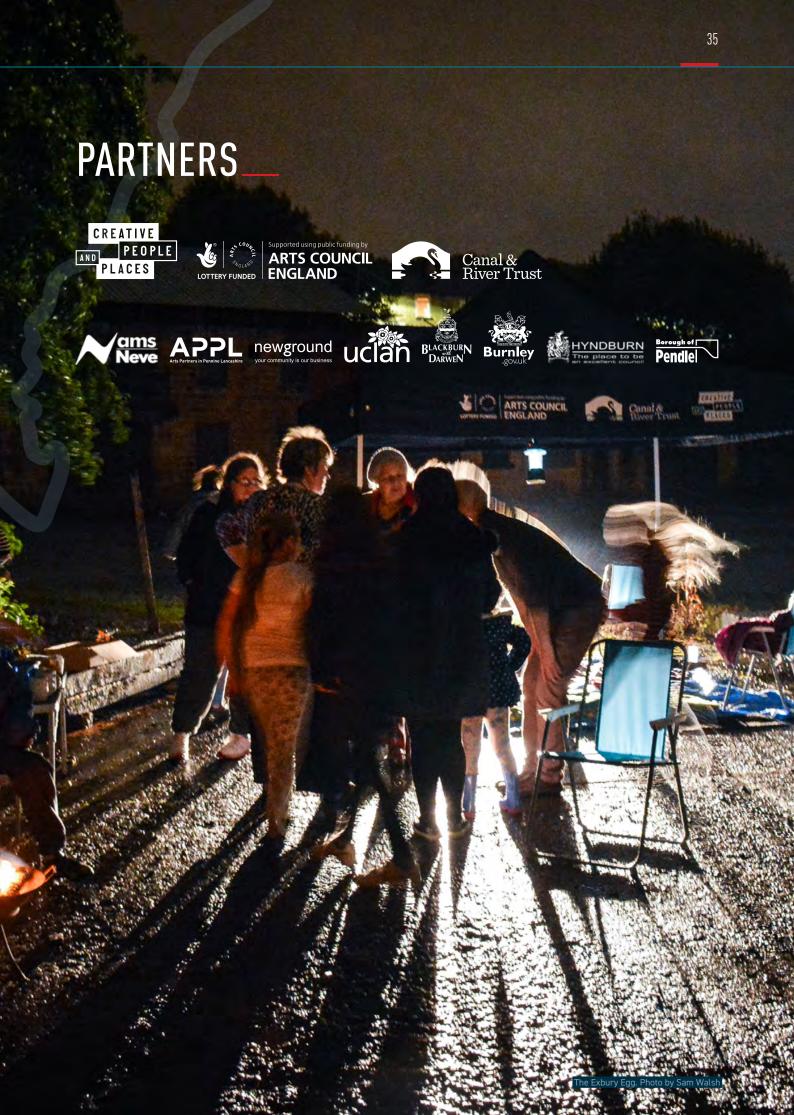
Burnley Wood Community Centre **Burnley Youth Theatre** Calico Canalside Community Centre Carer's Link Cedars Primary School Christ Church Nelson Circle of Friends Civic Arts Centre Community Cohesion Action Network **Community Solutions North** West Craft and Crumpet Creative Support Culturapedia

Burnley Interfaith Centre

CVS Cycle Routes DAPA Darwen Aldridge Community Academy Eachstep Care Home Fraser Street Free Spiritual Centre Gannow Community Centre Gawthorpe Hall Hapton Valley Boats Hollins Technology College Humraz In-Situ Intack Primary School King George's Hall Lancashire Mental Health Service

Lancashire Women's Centre Leeds & Liverpool Historical Society Lower Darwen Primary School Mill Hill Community Centre Mums2Mums Navigation Mill Hill Nelson and Colne College Newground Nightsafe PEARL PeerGroup Right Angle Coaching Sacred Harp Shape Note Singers Safe Space SLYNCS

South West Burnley Partnership Board Spacious Place St George's Scout Group St Silas CE Primary School St Stephen's CE Primary School The Bureau The Free Spiritual Centre The Jinnah Centre The New Neighbour Scheme TransDev Victoria Park Pavilion Café Waterfall Mill Weavers' Triangle Visitor Centre Weslev Hall Young Carers







LOTTERY FUNDED

SUPERSLOWWAY

Find out more about our programme **visit:** www.superslowway.org.uk

CONTACT US: hello@superslowway.org.uk

Keep up to date. FOLLOW US: 😭 🎔 🖬

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