

Grant update report

Recipient: Macclesfield Veterans Breakfast Club

Amount issued: £1,806.15

Date Issued: 9th May 2022

Issued for: Jubilee event

The event was a roaring success and everyone who attended had a brilliant time, it was fantastic. There were 40 people in attendance. We are so grateful to the town council for the grant, it was a huge help.



Recipient: SUSO (Speaking Up, Speaking Out)

Amount issued: £1,500

Date Issued: 8th March 2022

Issued for: Room renovation

Work will begin with the removal of the old floor (carpet) on the 6th July and will hopefully be complete by the 8th July. SUSO will need to close to members for this period of time, but we are sure it will be worth it.

Many thanks again to Macclesfield town for the opportunity to support our members in their journey. We will be sure to send before and after pictures.

Recipient: Rossendale Trust

Amount issued: £1,000

Date Issued: 9th May 2022

Issued for: Jubilee party

We just wanted to say a big thank you on behalf of everyone at the Trust for your support in allowing us to create a truly memorable day for our staff and the people we support. After 2 years of very limited contact it was amazing to see everyone together again and the weather was kind to us too!!



Once again thank you for your support, it really is appreciated by everyone involved.

Here is the news story on the Rossendale Trust website:

A Day of Celebrations at Rossendale Hall

After what seems like forever, we were absolutely thrilled to be able to invite our staff , tenants and service users to a celebration of the Queen’s Jubilee. Once again the grounds of Rossendale Hall were alive, filled with chatter, laughter and great music as people from across the Trust gathered for a traditional afternoon tea.

Everyone was treated to a sumptuous selection of sandwiches and cakes and of course tea! Live music was enjoyed by all and many even got up for a dance or two. It was a delight to see the grounds filled with people while friends and colleagues enjoyed socialising once again.

It was a wonderful way to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee and so perfect that we could all do this together as those who were there explained;

“Everyone enjoyed themselves and everyone had a smile on their face! It was so, so nice that we could all be together. It was a brilliant day!”

“I feel lucky to have joined such a lovely, hardworking team! It was lovely to see everyone together enjoying themselves.”

“We definitely need more events like this, great for the tenants and great for the staff too. What a lovely day. ”

“What a wonderful place to work, with wonderful people! So lovely to be able to celebrate with the staff and tenants. Everyone loved the afternoon and the weather was kind to us!! What a lovely way to spend a day at work!!! ”

This event could not have happened without the generous support of Macclesfield Town Council. A huge thank you to them and to local businesses Brown or White Catering & Louise Brown Bakes for the amazing food and the very talented Jaxx band for entertaining us all.

Recipient: Macclesfield College
Amount issued: £2,000
Date Issued: 6th September 2021
Issued for: Community garden project

The students have been led on the project by our Head of Construction Tony Costello. The students have been involved from the very start of the build, measuring the area, obtaining utility plans, digging out foundations, right through to placing the wooden planters in situ. Staff were then involved in planting prior to the half term break. Our carpentry lecturers have also built two lovely pergolas and Tony has assisted students to make our college logo sign out of brick (photo attached).

We are now planning on adding planters along one of our other pathways which will add even more colour to our campus.

It is also lovely to see our students and staff utilising the lovely benches that we were able to obtain using your grant.



Recipient: Macclesfield Male Voice Choir

Amount issued: £2,000

Date Issued: 8th July 2019

Issued for: New uniforms

The uniforms have now been purchased and a few of our members are seen in the photographs below. Thank you so much to Macclesfield Town Council for the grant which enabled us to do this.



Recipient: St Peter's Church

Amount issued: £625

Date Issued: 6th September 2021

Issued for: Wildflower project

See attached report

Recipient: Circus Starr

Amount issued: £1,000

Date Issued: 9th May 2022

Issued for: Inclusive Circus event

See attached report

Recipient: The Fermain Club
Amount issued: £2,000
Date Issued: 22nd November 2021
Issued for: Feasibility Study

See attached report

Recipient: The Dollshouse Art Gallery
Amount issued: Micro grant - £100
Date Issued: 8th March 2022
Issued for: Dolls house project

See attached report

Wildflowers for Macc! *Growing, distributing and promoting wildflower seeds and plants*

Update on Grant: 15th June 2022

Objective of project (from the grant application)

‘Wildflowers for Macc’ is a small scale local project which is nevertheless important as it is only by mobilising local initiatives across the country that we can make a difference. As well as the production and distribution of wildflower seeds and plants the project will give away seeds to homeowners as gardens are an important habitat, and build public support for restoring biodiversity.

The grant is requested to support the following activities:

- *Production and distribution of wildflower seeds and plants.*
- *Promotion of wildflower seed planting including information panels at the gardens, information leaflets and website.*

Previous work

- We received grant approval on 8th September
- Colleagues from St. Peter’s Community Gardens and Macclesfield Wild Network Trust had several meetings to plan the programme.
- An initial list of wildflower species for which seeds will be produced was agreed.
- We have obtained species which we can source from our current gardens, allotments etc
- We have purchased other species which are not locally available
- We have developed a method for preparing raised beds to avoid weed encroachment and to provide a low-nutrient medium, based on blending leaf mould with sharp sand
- We have met to start the spring programme, with volunteers working the beds from 21st February
- Text was produced for initial promotion and for interpretation
- A series of community workshops were planned for April-October 2022 to include information and promotion of wildflower planting
- Artwork was prepared for interpretation boards in the gardens, an explanatory booklet on making use of wildflower seeds, and seed packets, and print quotes were secured.
- Volunteers including Rossendale residents are working the gardens, preparing the seedbeds and preparing compost.
- A new roof has been fitted to the gardens workshop after the storms damaged it!
- A new access stairway has been designed and costed to improve access between the upper and lower gardens

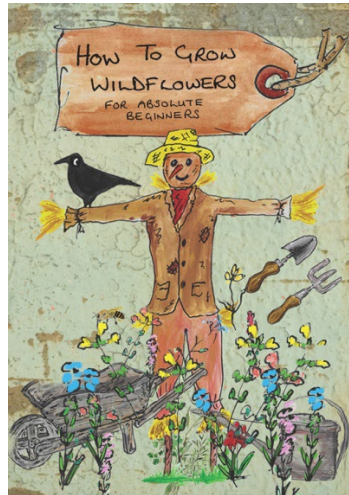
Current progress

Information and promotion

We recognised that online resources would be more accessible, useful and easily update-able than print resources and have therefore developed the content in an online form, accessible on devices including phones, tablets and laptops. This includes guidance on

starting out with wildflower gardening, a compendium of cultivated and wildflower varieties, guidance on gathering seed, and also promotes visits to the wildflower garden we have established in the church grounds. (for example there is an illustrated list of all wildflowers that can be found in the gardens to encourage visitors to use the information on their phones or tablets to explore the garden)

The complete online resource can be viewed at www.stpetersmacc.org/wildflowers



The site is currently undergoing testing and editing before going live.

Outreach activities

After the online site goes live we will promote it through social media and by production of a leaflet. The site is designed to promote gardening and also to encourage visits to the wildflower garden in the church grounds..

The community outreach activities have been delayed until 2023 for two reasons (1) Wildflower seed production is gathering pace, but we won't have a good range of seed available until the end of the 2022 growing season (2) The core volunteers have been diverted onto assisting a Ukrainian family to move to Macclesfield which has proved very time-consuming, so were not able to undertake preparation work in April and May. (The family have now arrived and are being established in their own home).

Seed production and distribution

As noted above we aim at the end of this growing season to produce a wide range of wildflower seeds for future distribution

We have also designed and printed 1000 branded seed packets to package and promote seeds.



Recipient: Circus Starr
Amount issued: £1,000
Date Issued: 9th May 2022
Issued for: Inclusive Circus event

GRANT FEEDBACK & REPORTING

What was the grant was used for?

Your generous donation has made it possible for vulnerable and isolated children in Macclesfield to come to our relaxed and inclusive big top circus show held at Macclesfield Rugby Club on the 10th June 2022. This is our first big top tour since 2019 and has formed part of our spring tour incorporating 33 other venues over three months. We are the only big top circus to move every other day as well as the only circus to provide a mobile changing places toilet.

What were the main benefits of receiving the grant and how many people were impacted?

The grant from Macclesfield Town Council helped us to bring together children and families who have been most affected over the last two years and reopened the magical world of big top circus performance to them. A circus displays various beautiful art forms, as well as providing comical entertainment. We know how life changing the arts can be, and that is why we strive to make it available for everybody no matter what obstacles they may face. The tickets for our event were distributed between East Cheshire Hospice, Cheshire & Warrington Carers Trust, Scamps Macclesfield, Mind Employment Project, Rossendale Hall, The Firs, Park Royal Pre-School, Children's Ward, Space4Autism, Cheshire East Carers Hub, Just Drop In, and Cheshire East Council – Children with disabilities team along with many others. Over the two performances on the day, 661 attended from the Macclesfield area.

Has the project been completed or is it on-going, and was it deemed a success?

Our two big top performances took place on the 10th June 2022 and was completed on the same day. We have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback we have received and how much our pre-invited audience has missed being part of our event. We shall be returning to Macclesfield in our spring tour 2023.

What, if any, problems were experienced in delivering the service?

This year we have finally been able to return to our normal big top touring schedule which is wonderful. There have been many challenges over the last two years including a shortage of HGV drivers which has proved to still be the case. Thankfully, we have been able to form a partnership with family-owned transport company S & L Services who have provided drivers and transport at a reduced rate to move our show every other day. In the end though, it has all been worthwhile to be able to bring our show back to deserving children and families in Macclesfield.

Will your organisation be continuing this work and how will further funding be found?

We will continue to tour and hope to be back in Macclesfield in June 2023. Along with applying to grant making foundations, we will be asking local businesses to support their community by covering the costs of tickets for isolated children and families to come to the show. This mostly comprises of businesses who have supported the event over several years as well as those supporting us for the first time.

What future ideas or plans are linked to this work?

To be the most inclusive circus event we can be. This year, we have included a mobile changing places toilet on our winter tour for the first time, making us even more accessible to those with profound and multiple disabilities. We will also be expanding on our current signed performances to include more venues throughout the three annual tours. Free sensory boxes are available for children to prepare for a visit to the circus and next year we will be reintroducing touch tours for children and families who are visually impaired.

Any other comments

Everyone at Circus Starr would just like to say a huge thank you for your continued belief in what we do, but mostly we would like to say thank you on behalf of the children and families in Macclesfield whom you have supported. Your grant has allowed vulnerable families in the area to once again experience and be part of live performance and all that it has to offer.



“...It didn’t go without hiccups for us, however, being in an environment where people understand makes the whole experience worthwhile!”

Macclesfield Town Council Micro Grant Evaluation

The Doll's House Art Gallery

Thanks to the micro fund, the quality of The Doll's House Art Gallery (TDHAG) gallery has massively improved and is more in-keeping with Macclesfield with its new brickwork. The museum itself was possible and hopefully is informative and fun for visitors alongside its webpage with further information about Macclesfield's silk weaving heritage.



The Silk Weaver's Garret or "The Platt-Collins Miniature Museum" is named after previous residents of the listed building that TDHAG is within, researched for the project with help from Macclesfield residents.

The money was spent on the brickwork paper, flooring and the Victorian objects and others from the Silk Museum such as bobbins, buttons and silk which have brought the museum alive. Features of note in the garret include: Jacquard-style bookmark, text panels about Van Gogh's interest in weavers, loom and stool, Macc newspaper and a window showing the view from the back of Park Lane. Local artist and long-term ArtSpace volunteer Patty Callaghan also contacted us to create 'Edmund' for the museum, our resident 1:12 scale weaver. It was great to connect with another local artist and provide a place for her to exhibit her work.

Future Impact for the Community

TDHAG exhibiting artist Becca Smith commented that there is great interest in and need for pop up exhibitions because the town is of a relatively large size but does not have a dedicated art gallery.

TDHAG has already scheduled potentially 5 more exhibitions, 4 of which with local organisations and businesses ArtSpace, Proper Sound, Macc Model Railway Group and Cre8.

Macc Community ArtSpace are the next exhibitors. In collaboration with their new coordinator, the aim is to use it as promotion for the charity's work and to help achieve their fundraising and volunteer recruitment goals. Their Monday night group are inspired by the brickwork and potential to create an ArtSpace "retrospective", potentially including Barnaby Festival and "miniature Macclesfield" themed exhibits.

I plan to launch a call for 150 pieces of portrait art with Proper Sound in autumn 2022, open to the people of Macclesfield to engage with art through getting inspired by other portrait art and through a helpsheet.

I'm really excited about all the conversations about the potential for micro and pop up galleries and how they can bring art to communities and support local groups. I definitely think there is scope for bigger and more central opportunities for these groups to show the work they are doing.

ArtSpace Coordinator Jane Griffiths said:

"It's a great opportunity to spread the word about our charity work in a fun and creative way and to collaborate with more people in the town."

Recent visitors to TDHAG said:

"I know several people who have travelled from other Cheshire towns and from Manchester to see it. and it's accessible for children, wheelchair users and small groups to stand safely on the pavement."

"It offers a new focal point for art in Macclesfield, and is accessible and attractive in its location and novelty. It certainly adds a new element of culture to the town."

"I had no idea what to expect. When I arrived at the house I was surprised and impressed by what I saw. The dolls house is situated in the main window, which allows anyone passing (even people stuck in their cars during peak traffic) to view the exhibit. The interior detail is quite stunning. An amazing concept, brilliantly executed. ★★★★★"

"I love the whole idea of a miniature art gallery because it makes creating and seeing art seem so much more accessible. Walking past the gallery you think 'Oh what's this?' And then you realise you actually have permission to stop and look and enjoy it."

"I think The Doll's House Art Gallery is a valuable asset to Macc. I'm a resident of Stockport and the exhibition gave me a reason to visit. It's a really interesting, brilliant and exciting miniature gallery and museum that brings joy and makes art and social history accessible to many more people - for all ages and abilities to enjoy. The exhibitions made me feel happy and it was something nice to do with a friend."

Exhibiting artist Becca Smith said:

"As Macclesfield has few exhibition spaces for a town with a large creative community, it's very welcome. Other artists are excited about the opportunity to exhibit and art students from Pinc College (Heritage Centre) have visited for Arts Award research."

Online Metrics

From 18/04/22 - 08/06/22, since the micro fund was announced and the gallery opened, The Doll's House Art Gallery has had 117 site sessions (99 unique), up by 50% from the previous period.

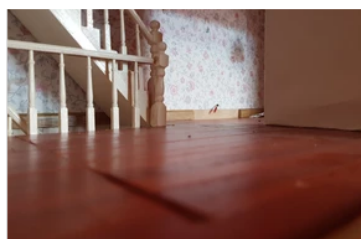
The most popular pages where people visited on www.TheDollsHouseArtGallery.co.uk were Becca Smith's [blog post](#) (27 views), the museum [blog post](#) (16 views), the Macc Move [blog post](#) (31 views) and the homepage (74 sessions)


From 18/04/22-08/06/22 TDHAG had social media growth of +40 IG and +63 on Facebook, a huge increase from the previous period of the same duration (9).

THE DOLL'S HOUSE ART GALLERY

1:12 scale museum & art gallery
in Macclesfield, Cheshire, UK

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 thedollshouseartga
Apr 3, 2021

GALLERY RENOVATION

A few years ago, the owner of The Doll's House Art Gallery inherited an empty doll's house from her...




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Apr 28

MACCLESFIELD MINIATURE MUSEUM

The Silk Weaver's Garret
Welcome to the Platt-Collins
Museum at The Doll's House Ar...



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Apr 22

INTRAMURAL GROWTH EXHIBITION

by Uncanny Artist Becca Smith,
open from sunrise April 30th to
sunset June 19th 2022 Award-...



 thedollshouseartgallery
Macclesfield

 thedollshouseartgallery Aaaa and we're open!
Visit the Macclesfield Micro Museum and
Gallery including Silk Weaver's Garret and full
gallery of work by @beccasmith_art on Park
Lane 7 days a week during daylight hours.
More information via the link in our bio.

#macclesfield #cheshire #beccasmithart
#peakdistrict #cheahireplain #northwestuk
#macclesfieldbettertogether

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MAY 1

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




 thedollshouseartgallery
Macclesfield

 thedollshouseartgallery It's all on schedule!
We open on Saturday and hope you're
planning a visit soon, however, there's no rush!
@beccasmith_art's exhibition will be open for
ages and the museum indefinitely, so there's
plenty of time! Park Lane doesn't have the
widest of pavements, so please be courteous
of passersby and try to only visit on foot :)

A huge thank you to

[View insights](#)

  
Liked by craftymissfitz and 53 others

APRIL 25

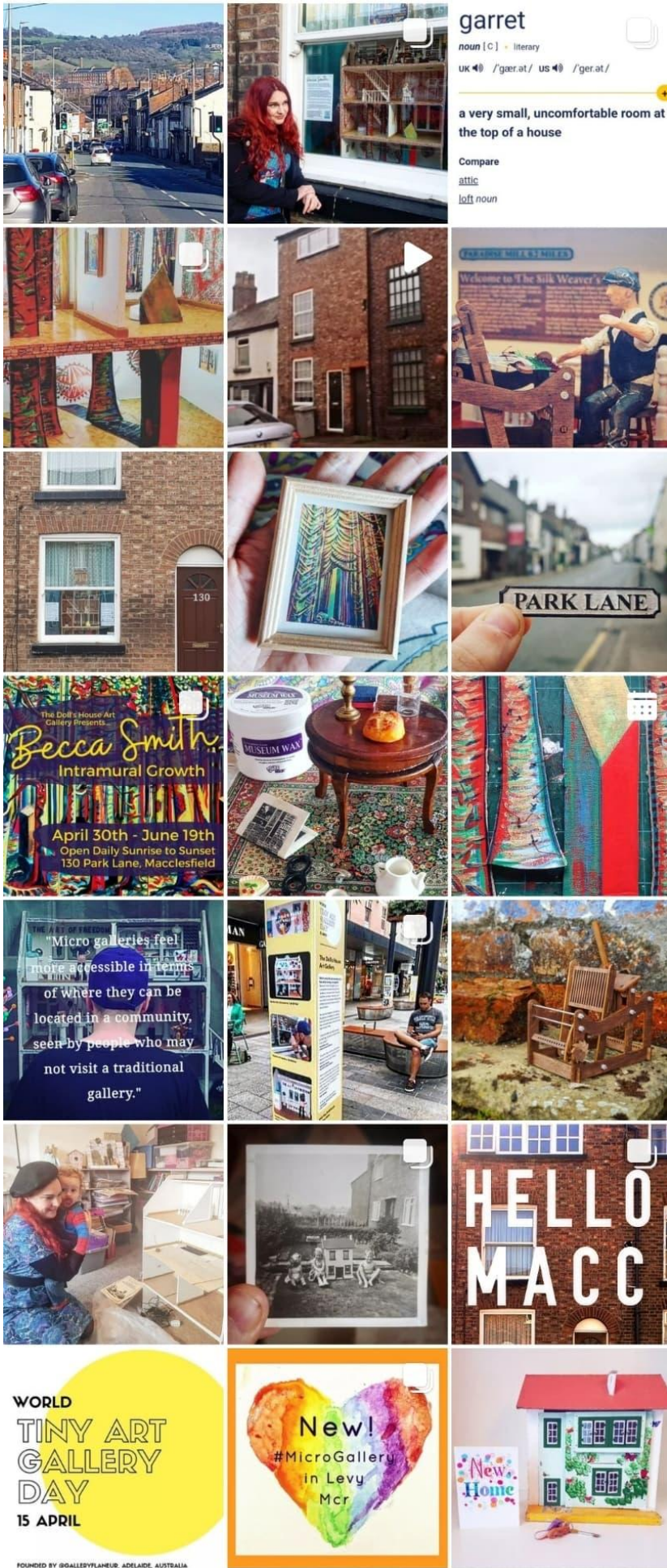
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