

QUARTER 3/ SEPT - DEC 21

OUT OF
THE BLUE
&
BREATHING
SPACE

hoot



Credit: work by J

Being creative
makes you feel good

Highlights

This quarter we continued our delivery across in-person and online offers and returned to our base in Dewsbury. The trial sessions we ran through September/October enabled us to open fully in November with confidence that our safety precautions are being well-received and that many people are keen to attend in person.

We have implemented a booking system so we can predict numbers for safety. Although there are understandably some nerves about attending against the backdrop of a continued pandemic, people have reported feeling delighted to be back in person, mixing again with their peers, creating art and supporting their wellbeing through creativity and connection. We have found some wonderful link ups between the in person groups and the online groups and everyone came together at our end of year Winter Warmer - hosted on Zoom - that enabled all groups to see the work each other had done and be together in celebration.

“

hoot is important to me, it's good for my well being. I have been at the bottom of the barrel until now. hoot helps my mental health.

”

WTB LANTERN PARADE



hoot offered a participatory music workshop at the Lantern Parade in Dewsbury to celebrate World Mental Health Day. We were proud to be part of such a wonderful event and join together with our partners to offer a fantastic evening. The video featuring the song that **hoot** artists facilitated is here: <https://youtu.be/XryYRqsyDZo>

ONLINE PRESENCE



Social media posts reached 2000+ people making 5000 impressions across Facebook, Instagram & Twitter. Highlights included sharing our [inclusion in the Baring Foundation's Treasury of Arts Activities for Older People](#) & showcasing the compilation of original music created by participants through the **hoot from home** platform.

WINTER WARMER



We had our annual get together on Zoom this year, bringing all our in person and online groups together in one space to enjoy each other's work, participate in live creative activities and celebrate being together through another challenging year. In the invites we sent out to participants we included a free tea bag with the message; pop the kettle on and enjoy a brew with us at our annual Winter Warmer. It was received very well.

COVID SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



We re-started our in person sessions with sensitive but robust Covid safety measures in place and we are pleased to hear that feedback has been very positive - people feel safe but not stifled. Click to view the Welcome Back pack online [here](#)

Out of the Blue activities



MUSIC

All our music groups - online, Huddersfield, Dewsbury and digital music - worked towards the same theme: Textures on a Big Canvas. This concept explored the 'thickness' of music - how many instruments and sounds are involved in making a piece. People took this in their own direction with some participants creating beautifully delicate sparse pieces and others going to town with lyrics, drums, flutes and percussion!

The Digital Music group have been learning new software and used the same theme to experiment with software synthesizers and effects. The process of layering sounds on top of sounds becomes visual, and the pieces reflect this in their sweeping ambient soundscapes. View and listen to the album here: <https://hootsoundmove.bandcamp.com/album/textures-on-a-big-canvas>

Excerpts from all of these creations were paired with the visual art groups' work and both were presented together at the Winter Warmer.

VISUAL ARTS

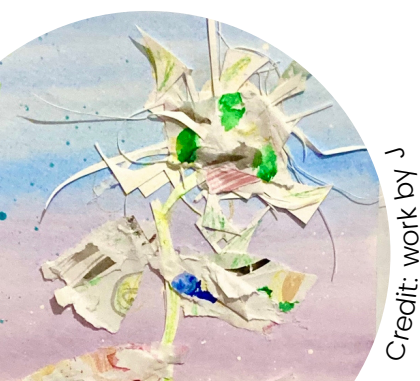
The groups explored texture through textiles and natural materials. Responding to images of tropical colourful flowers they made textile versions in bold, vibrant fabrics, combined with natural moss and lichen. Tropical shades and the magic of touch and texture provided an escape from the winter. We continued with our weekly online session so anyone unable to access in person could get involved.

SINGING

We engaged with different artists for the singing groups this quarter: Huddersfield with Jess Baker, Dewsbury with Sam Hodgson, and the Online group with Penny Stone. The feedback shows that after a year of uncertainty the groups are looking for consistency and are enjoying the current sessions, so the same artists are being contracted for another term.

CREATIVE WRITING

Award-winning poet Rose Condo delivered sessions exploring how and where we find comfort: food, clothes, places, shelter. Participants were guided through the activities in a way that means they could write and share as much as they felt comfortable. The theme was chosen by Rose to lean into the fact that the days are getting shorter and colder, that it has been a hard year for many but that we can hopefully all find comfort when we need to. [Click here](#) to view a beautiful piece called Embracing all of the wonders by one of our participants.



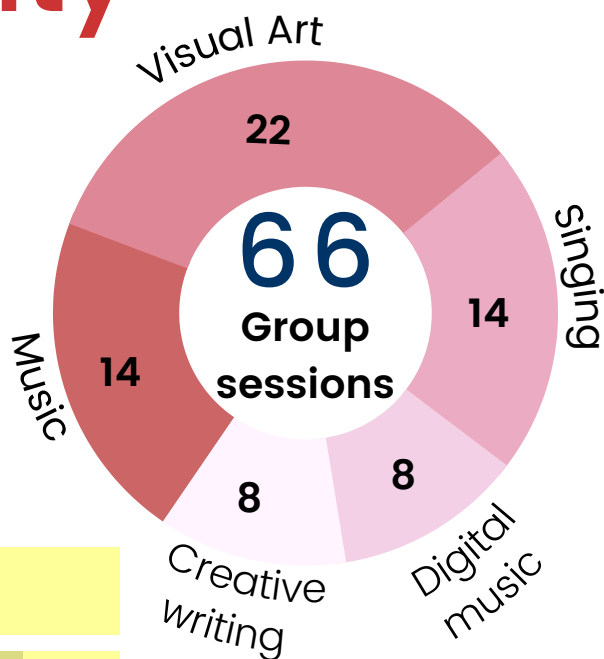
“ So nice to see people again and you're not judged at hoot...there is such a positive attitude. Great to be back. ”

In-person activity



71

people received
1-1 phone calls
to welcome
them back



87 attendees to group activities

66 groups offered across 3 locations

638 hours of contact with participants

Credit: work by Gwen



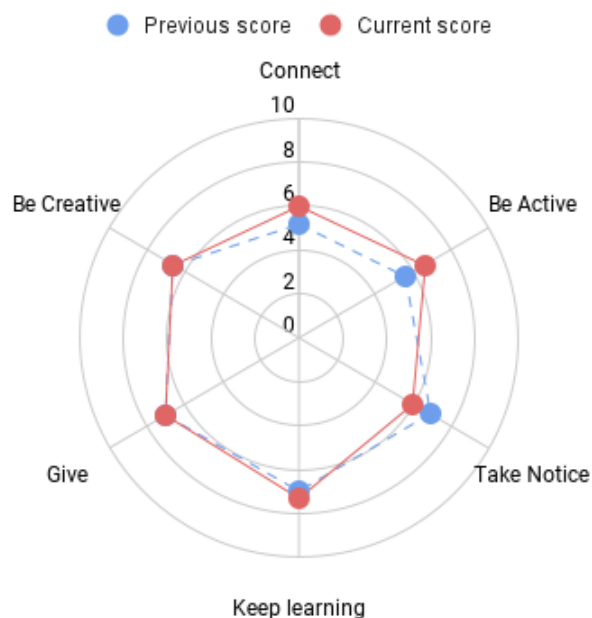
Outcomes

Creative Arts Plans stayed relatively stable this quarter. We did see the Connect score going up and people did cite the impact of being back in person amongst their peers at hoot as something that boosted this feeling.

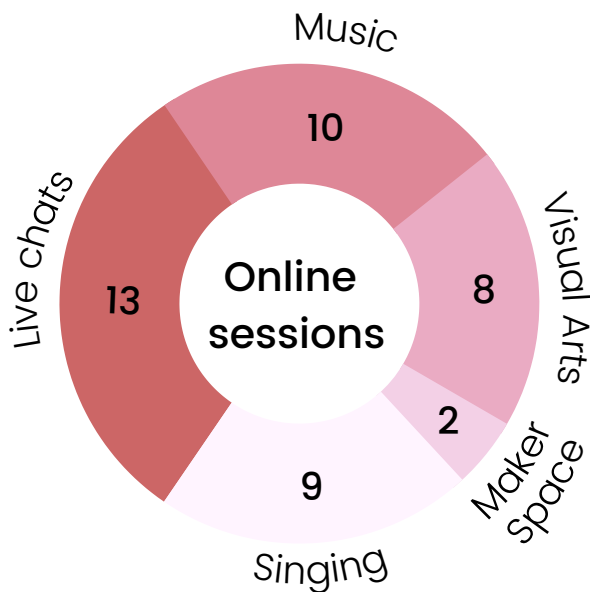
“

This is the only thing I attend.
Not ready for the big world yet.

”



hoot from home activity



80 participants engaged online



495 visits to hoot from home



53 comments/repies

69 new posts

3.5 hours online*

*on average per person

>7.5 hours

spent offline on average per person, continuing creative work independently.

Credit: work by J



“ I'm happy to be back in person although I got on really well with the online stuff. I was pretty impressed with the work hoot produced for us on the platform which none of us had ever used before. ”

People

122 
people accessing the service

26 
people under the age of 35
Unknown: 24

31 
people who consider themselves disabled

181 
calls made to 69 people

72 
people over the age of 35

9 
people with Autism, Dementia, a learning disability, or other hidden disability

Additional contact hours

Celebrating Age

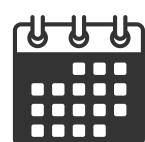
Creative arts opportunities for older people

58 sessions

57 participants  593 hours

395 attendances

Priorities for the year ahead



As suspected, returning to in-person sessions does not negate the demand for a continuation of online sessions. Some of the online groups have their own identity and community and wish to stay online, in other cases people have attended face to face and strive to continue the connection outside of sessions. We will continue to work with this model.

We continue to work closely with the Working Together Better partnership and are hoping to build on this over the next financial year. The Lantern Parade was a great example of how strong our offer can be when we work together.

Breathing Space

Breathing Space sessions in Huddersfield were led by hoot artist Sally Barker. Participants explored textiles and textures by combining natural materials like moss, twigs and grasses with other fabric and objects. Techniques including threading, gluing and sewing, were used to fasten materials to hessian. Participants were invited to bring items from home – old pieces of fabric, dried flowers or a shoelace! – to include in their work. Completed works are displayed along with hoot's other visual art groups.

hoot musician Rob Crisp led a session where the group considered their works and what sounds might represent the various textures and materials used. They played instruments to find the sounds and patterns they wanted and created and recorded a unique music piece culminating with a joyous clout on a gong. This music accompanied the visual art work included in the online Winter Warmer exhibition. [Watch here](#). All sessions were supported by a hoot volunteer.



In-person activity

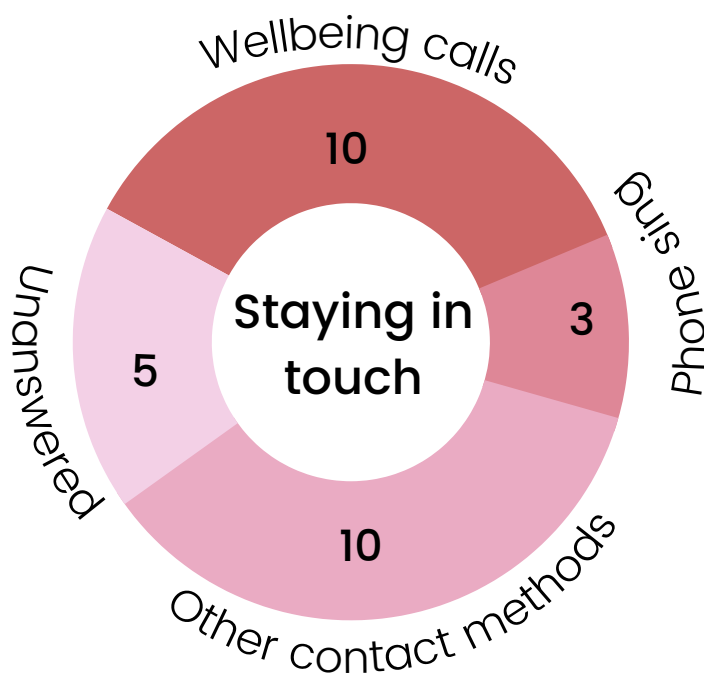


9 participants

5 with dementia,
4 carers and
1 support worker.

>790

minutes of contact with
people using the service



Evaluation

Data scores collected in Quarter 3 give a positive indication of the benefits participants feel to levels of communication and engagement.

Average impact of the Breathing Space sessions

Communication between you & the person you care for	Relationship between you & the person you care for	How well the person you care for involved themselves	Benefits for the person you care for
4.6	4.8	4.9	4.7

1 = No Impact and 5 = High impact for each area.

“hoot is the only thing he's happy to come to. When I tell him we're coming he's happy to come and remembers you. It's more thinking rather than remembering.

”



Credit: work by Breathing Space participants



hoot creative arts

Bates Mill, Milford Street, Huddersfield, HD1 3DX
01484 516224 | www.hootcreativearts.co.uk

Registered Charity 1146358
Company No 07980273



Out of the Blue & Breathing
Space are funded by

