



SHOUT! ANNUAL REPORTS



Paula Boulton

**Shout! Annual Reports
2003-2004**

Date	Events diary
May	Leaders' training residential in Edale
July	Shout! Fifth birthday show at the Willows Arts Centre
Nov	Jack starts writing <i>RACYTILE</i> , a piece about literacy for the libraries Visit from MAGRAH about Racism Conference play Racism Conference piece cancelled Solvent abuse conference
Dec	Started play for Neighbourhood Renewal conference
Jan	Visits from NCC bods to advise on play
Feb	<i>Deeds not Words</i> at Rockingham Speedway CVS funders visit re residential
Mar	First <i>RACYTILE</i> gig as support for author Kevin Brookes <i>Vagina Monologues</i> : 5 Shout! performers take part 6 Shout! performers get first paid gig in <i>Tackling Teenage Pregnancy</i> at Kettering Hospital for the midwives
April	Moved into the Arc Theatre
May	Visit from NLGBA after homophobic bullying
July	Asked to re-do <i>Deeds not Words</i> by Enterprise Solutions, as a good news story about Corby. Chose to write <i>Heart of the Willows</i> instead. Visit from Kenny Campbell to help with research about community leadership
Sept	Second <i>RACYTILE</i> gig
Oct	Third <i>RACYTILE</i> gig
Nov	Fourth <i>RACYTILE</i> gig <i>Heart of Willows</i> cancelled

2003 – 2005

Chair's Report

As Chair of Shout! I am proud of what the group have achieved this year. Notably the success of RACYTILE (I performed in the first show) as a piece to get folks talking about dyslexia, book lovers, literacy and bullying in a town with low literacy levels.

Projects

To be asked to write new plays as a result of people seeing us out there is a mark of the impact we have. Heart of the Willows and the current teenage pregnancy project both came to us this way! Touring Northamptonshire libraries later this year should raise our profile even more, and hopefully shape the way young people think about the subject.

The mayor chose us as one of her charities after seeing us in action too!

The group

The new members have merged well and it was a privilege to be asked as Chair to play the part of the Chair of Corby Council in the Heart of the Willows film. It gave me an inside view of how well the young people, mainly from Kingswood school, work together.

The venue

Having seen the different venues that the young performers have had to work in with their various stresses and strains, it is nice to see them in a theatre which gives the young people the chance to tread the boards and throw their voices. Beautiful spaces make beautiful people. Being here raises their self-esteem in a way that the Caledonian never did. I know we all disagreed with our Director on this one... but thankfully we are a democratic organisation which means we listen and try to understand where we are all coming from.

Meetings

On that very subject, our weekly debrief sessions at the open hearth not only allow us to do the necessary committee work, but also give us a chance for Lee, Jen and Paula to swap notes on the young people's progress and to go over any problems which may have arisen. At these meetings I have the chance to ensure that everyone in the organisation is abiding by our rules and regulations to keep us all safe and well.

Committee and thanks

My thanks to the committee for their various contributions, and to Paula, our Director, for her belief in the hidden talents of Corby's young people, and determination to make Shout! a safe space in which to express themselves.

Conclusion

My one regret is that in some ways we have been a victim of our own success; due to the request for plays, we tend now to Shout! about what other people ask us to, instead of what the young people would necessarily choose. But it means that young people's voices are being heard – and often by influential adults at conferences.

Anyway, I understand that the warm-ups and sessions between projects still allow for free choice of subject matter...Big Brother, Fruit Bowl, juggling balls and The Magic Roundabout all making an appearance.

As we approach our seventh birthday, I would like to wish Shout! many more years. Hundreds of young people have been part of the group at some point, growing in confidence and learning to get on together, whilst having a chance to explore issues and learn performing and writing skills.

Long may it continue.

Sue Savage, Chair.

Director's Report

Performances

2004 – 2005 has been a productive year for Shout! Performance has focused on the Literacy Project commissioned by Corby Library. Five different casts performed an adapted version of Jack's original idea to five different audiences at Corby library from September to February. The play RACYTILE looked at a friendship between a dyslexic child and a book lover who were both bullied.

The Head of Children's Services watched one performance, and as a result has commissioned a new piece about teenage pregnancy to tour libraries in the county this September.

The group were also asked to perform Deeds not Words again because it was a good news story about Corby people. That piece was originally commissioned by NCC for their Neighbourhood Renewal conference, performed at Rockingham Speedway in February 2003. However, the group decided the piece was specific to that event, and instead they developed a new piece for the 2004 September deadline based on a suggestion by Nigel, our secretary, and wrote Heart of the Willows – a play about the takeover of Corby Theatre by Corby people.

We have just finished filming it, and an edited video with a script will be presented to the staff at the Willows Theatre.

RACYTILE has also been handed on to the children at Rockingham Primary who form a junior Shout! and they have performed it at a school in Leicester to stimulate discussions about bullying.

The group

The group has renewed itself and now has an average age of 13 years. For the first time in our history, instead of children from all of Corby's schools, oddly enough, the majority are from Kingswood school – although we rehearse in the Arc Theatre on the opposite side of town!

The group have developed their own ground rules and a contract to ensure we use our time well and all know where we stand. We also now have an informal audition to give us a chance to try out new members for group fit as well as talent. This has led to a more cohesive group, but although my job is easier, we have lost the challenges and opportunities of an open door for now.

We advertised at each performance of RACYTILE and did try integrating some young people from CCC and Lodge Park. Talent aplenty! But...we have to be

stricter in this space, and had agreed not to include violent or drunken young people who see this as a place to get out of the rain and have a laugh. The new group want to do Drama and not spend all night dealing with hostility. I do as I am told!

It is a tricky balance to help some young people work through their attitude problems whilst keeping the others safe. At present there are not enough adult helpers to mentor and support those kicking off. And only those willing to sign and abide by our contract are accepted.

It is interesting to me how this generation, when given the task, made fairly rigid rules. Do young people want us to set clearer boundaries and stick to them, I wonder?

Helpers and committee

Since our great residential in May 2003, volunteers Willy, Pete, Danni and Gabri have eventually moved on due to developments in their own lives and careers, and in the case of John and Carrie, they went travelling.

We thank them all for their help in the past. They keep in touch, as do many past members, several of whom are now doing Performing Arts at college.

All three officers, Sue as Chair, Nigel as Secretary and Michael as Treasurer have been volunteer helpers at times and I know I can draft them in as required.

More importantly they all appeared in the film recently, playing the adult roles very well. Sue also drives and offers vital disciplinary back-up when required. I know I can call them up when needed and I feel well-supported. All helpers have now been police checked in line with our Child Safety guidelines.

The venue

We were thrilled to move into Corby's new theatre as the resident youth theatre company and found the space quite inspiring. A purpose-built meeting place allows us to explore the possibility of stage lighting and gives the young people a real feel for performing. It also allows those with a technical interest to be involved.

On the downside, I feel we have lost our links with the wider community through moving to a space where we see no-one else all night, and though I would prefer moving back into a club for weekly sessions and hiring the theatre as required, I find myself outvoted on this one! As funding runs out, we may need to move again, and I am thrilled to hear that the Labour Club are willing to have us back on a trial basis.

Our thanks go to the staff at Club 2000 Exeter, our last home. Jimmy, the owner, died recently; his inclusive vision will be sadly missed. Also, our thanks go to all at the Caledonian Club.

Money with strings

The grants from NCC and Awards for All have meant that we have had a stable year financially and have been able to subsidise some young people, pay for transport and move to the theatre in addition to our normal costs. The NCC grant required us to develop our organisational side – so behind the scenes, the committee have been hard at work, developing Health and Safety and Equal Opportunities policies. Jen and Lee have both been learning about leading the group and running meetings, and Lee is our Health and Safety rep.

NCC also chose to profile Shout! in its Annual Report as an example of how their grants help people in the county.

We were also honoured to be one of the Mayor's Charities this year, after she had seen a Shout! performance and felt it was important to encourage creativity in young people.

Networks

We would like to thank:

- Sue Cordwell, the Head at Rockingham Primary and the vision behind this space, for her support and patience when we were not sure about funding. She saw this group as an important piece of community youth work. We wish her well in her new role
- Joy Elizabeth, the new Theatre Development Worker, has raised our profile by putting us on the Arc website!
- SureStart for providing their minibus
- Deb Bailey, for her assistance in preparing the accounts and helping me set up better money systems.

Future

Our current plans include an appearance at the carnival this summer, spending the Mayor's donation on a residential and Shout! merchandise, and finishing the new play ready for our October first night. We will have a Heart of the Willows screening once I have edited it! Maybe we will wear our new gear that night complete with nicknames.

I look forward to many more Tuesdays.

On with the show!

Paula Boulton, Director, Shout! Youth Theatre

Comments from members:

We Say!

I first came to Shout! a few months ago by Philip, Sabby and Georgia asking me to go with them. Unfortunately, Paula was not there on the day but I had a good day with everyone else. Since then, I have been going to Shout! and having a lot of fun there and hope to in the future.

Robert

What I like about Shout!

What I like about Shout! is that we do some really good drama and do proper acting more than what we do at school, which is just mainly imagery. Also, that it helps improve your social skills and we can make some friends.

Chelsea

My report on Shout!

I think personally Shout! is a really good club. It allows you to socialise with your friends as well as doing fun. To me Shout! is like another school where everyone is friends and there is no violence and no bullying and no name calling. The Shout! group is like a massive community that sticks together as well, guiding others out of serious problems. Ever since I started Shout! I have had no problems. I have had laughs and fun doing drama. The Shout! guides, as I like to call them, keep control of what's going on. So, if a fight does break out, they're always there to stop it. Being in Shout! now is not like I am in a prison. I am free to be who I am without putting on an act. I only put on an act in role. So right now, Shout! is a major part of my life.

Jodie

2005 – 2007

Chair's Report

I would like to start by welcoming you to this Annual General Meeting.

The word Annual is in fact not true, since we have failed to have an AGM since 2005.

However, Paula has kept us informed of how the group has been going and has called on our support as officers when needed.

It shows how well the group runs that we do not get many calls. Signing grant applications, checking the accounts and signing cheques is about all that we are needed for.

The leaders who meet after each session deal with any problems before they get to an official stage.

The group has continued to provide a place for the young people of Corby to get together and explore what concerns them in a safe environment.

Not only do they learn drama skills, but they learn how to work together as a group, make decisions and increase in confidence as a result. These are vital skills for tomorrow's leaders. To quote a well-known local author, "You are our hope for the future."

It is our role as adults to ensure that the legal framework continues, to allow us to employ Paula to carry on for another ten years, producing excellent performers and independent thinkers to challenge the powers-that-be to listen to young people's views.

But also to create a safe, inclusive activity where young people of all ages can have fun being together, in different friendship groups, in a town which does not have a thriving leisure scene.

Many people have experienced a Shout! production since our last AGM. They will have had an unforgettable experience; whether taking part in an impromptu demonstration as part of Women of Steel, or being asked for their visa at the Foreigners play. They will have had access to an innovative, challenging and informative evening.

And those attending conferences which have included a Shout! performance will have got more than they bargained for. Not just thought-provoking drama, but group members behaving very well indeed, proudly challenging the myth that all young people are yobs.

In fact Shout! is flavour of the month. At a recent conference more than one influential bod claimed they had a long association with Shout! – wanting to be seen to be attached to such a great bunch of young people. We challenge them to put their money where their mouth is and support the group financially.

I would like to wish Shout! all the best for another successful ten years!

Sue Savage, Chair, Shout! Youth Theatre

Director's Report

Part 1: 2005 – 2006

Picking up in Summer 2005, we found ourselves hard at work on the teenage pregnancy play newly commissioned by Northamptonshire County Council Libraries department.

They had asked us to create a piece of theatre that could be performed in four libraries around the county, whilst the latest collection of materials about avoiding teenage pregnancy was launched.

Anyone who has followed Shout!'s progress over the years would know that this topic is very familiar! As far back as 1999, the group did Teenage Sex Shock, upon realising that Corby had the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the region. Some years later the group were interviewed and assisted in the development of Tackling Teenage Pregnancy. This was a play that my performing company Parallel Universe were developing to perform to professionals – putting over young people's point of view. That was 2001. It went through many adaptations – some involving Shout! members – and its last live version was a paid gig to midwives at Kettering General Hospital with older Shout! members, some who had been the original interviewees, playing themselves!

So, having completed Heart of the Willows, I casually brought up the topic of teenage pregnancy – starting as ever, with a Paula-style biology lesson. Shout! may be no stranger to the subject, but the dozen 13-year-olds who were the bulk of my group in June 2005 were, of course, new to the topic.

It was like trying to interest them in tax law. In previous groups the youngsters were always thrilled to be able to talk candidly to me, and ask questions.

This lot had nothing to say – and nothing to ask!

Their views were sensible and they pointed out that it was not a subject they spent much time thinking about.

Whether this reflected on the school they came from (still predominantly Kingswood), or a genuine shift in attitude, we were yet to discover.

After some initial workshops using previous scripts, we decided to do some concentrated work at an outdoor summer school.

We booked East Carlton Park campsite for four nights, and with input from Jen, Lee, Michael and Sue, had a fabulous week.

This included a trip to Hunstanton, a whale-sized wasp, not a lot of sleep (as is the way with all residential) and some excellent creative ideas.

Our first booking had been moved to November which helped us enormously. The play was called *To Do Or Not To Do*, and explored the lives of a group of 14-year-olds, as they found out about sex and then made their choices.

The libraries had bought their resources, we had written and rehearsed our play – but the schools were very slow on the uptake.

Eventually, we performed it in Weston Favell, Kettering and Corby libraries.

The performances were excellent in some very challenging spaces. Talking loudly in a library is one block to overcome – but when the props table is next to the microfiche reader, complete with an elderly Asian man, the dynamic is even more interesting.

It was very well-received, and the feedback showed how much young people appreciated peer education. Hearing the information in their own language had a big impact.

Equally as impressive was the way *Shout!* conducted the after-show workshops. We had a pre-prepared set of questions as a guide focusing on the characters' views and experiences so that it would depersonalise the discussion.

Even so, talking sensibly with people older than you about such a sensitive topic is pretty challenging. Our fourth performance was to a group of young people from the same school and same year group!

Apart from some silly lads deciding that the girl who played the one who gets pregnant was REALLY telling her own story, it was well-handled.

Out thanks to Head Teachers for allowing the young people time out of school. In particular David Tristram and the staff at the Kingswood school.

We hope that *To Do Or Not To Do* did, in fact, have the desired impact of reliably informing young people where they can find out what they need to know.

In October we had a few weeks' break from our preparations when we were asked to take part in FLEA week. Marion Anderson approached us on behalf of CBC Arts Development to be "Woodland Sprites" for the Saturday during half-term, in the town centre.

The idea was to encourage passers-by to make a wish about the future of Corby, which was hung on a Wishing Tree.

We had a fascinating session from TV and theatre make-up specialist Cory Gray who demonstrated how to create fictional characters, making Rob and Georgia unrecognisable in the process.

At this stage our funding for theatre hire ran out, and we moved back to our former home of Corby Trades and Labour Club.

Our thanks to all at the Arc Theatre for having given us the chance to work in such a beautiful space.

I personally felt much more relaxed at the club and was not spending as much energy policing the building. It felt like a base, a home. Straight away we were back in the community, with interest generated amongst staff and users at the club. It was also in the town centre, so accessible to young people across the town.

We started the new year with a showing of Heart of the Willows, expertly edited by John from Professional Video Productions. The film opens with "What have you done today that makes you feel proud?" – a fitting tribute to the volunteers at the Willows and the young people who choose to capture the story.

Michael introduced Sarah to the group as a new volunteer, and all leaders had their CRB checks renewed.

As we approached Holocaust Day, we were working on a piece that looked at what would happen in Corby if the Germans, Jews, and Gypsies were the English, Scottish and Irish.

Very volatile and nationalistic sessions for a few weeks as the young people explored their Gaelic and Celtic roots and then fought for their survival.

From November to March a small sub-group had been working on a proposal to form a "Shout! Youth Arts". The idea arose during November's rehearsal for To Do Or Not To Do at Danesholme Community Centre. Some young people had broken into the building. The four who stayed with me waiting for the police and centre staff ended up viewing the "Noshpot" and began discussions with Lynn Johnston about holding Shout! style sessions in Dance, Music, Design and Art.

We received a visit from Chris Mallender, Chief Executive of CBC, who was very impressed with the group, and subsequently instructed that the building be made available to us at a peppercorn rent.

Part 2: 2006 – 2007

In May we were visited by Mark Conway from Bee Bee Developments, who talked to the group about the plans North Northamptonshire Development Company have for the town.

This was the stimulus for the group to start preparing for their part in Women of Steel, a play I had written for Corby Women's Theatre Group about the demise of the Steel industry.

I was focusing on the older generation whilst Emma, a founder member of Shout! was writing about the "Wasted Years" of the 1990s and the impact on the 25-year-olds. To complete the piece, we needed Shout! to contribute their thoughts about the present and future for young people.

In the end we created an original piece (with visuals prepared by James Steventon as the play was multi-media) about Mark Conway's visit to the group. Then each group developed their own pieces, including original writing from Jack Boulton Roe and Kirsty Graham.

Their pieces looked at educational opportunities, the lack of facilities in the town and their hopes for a future. We also resurrected "Steel Kids", a piece of physical theatre set to my favourite poem. The group worked well in this style and the mass choral speaking in the finale – some even sang.

It was great to see how the group worked with the older people and in the other theatre group, and to see intergenerational mutual respect developing.

Also, watching their self-esteem grow as they learned that they have a history to be proud of.

Once again, the group proved to be adaptable, finding themselves performing outside and in a marquee at East Carlton Park to sell-out audiences on three nights in July.

After a few weeks' break, we reconvened to the news of another successful Awards 4 All bid. The task now was to teach the group all aspects of researching, devising, producing and performing a community drama on a subject of their choice.

Initial exploratory workshops came up with their choice to do a piece about discrimination. After some further work, and following the understanding that they had gained about migrant workers from their involvement in Women of Steel, they

finally decided to narrow it down to a play called Foreigners.

We hope to do our first performance at the end of May.

This project was also supported by a small grant of £750 from Corby Borough Council.

In October the group had attended a performance of Wild Geese, a play about migrant workers by Banner Theatre. They made contact with Gaylan Nazhad, a Kurdish refugee, who was very impressed with the group, and he subsequently came and did a workshop with them showing Kurdish drumming and dancing.

Their appreciation of other cultures is growing through this project.

They all have had to choose a role which they understood from their close involvement with Women of Steel – and interestingly enough, there has been very little overlap.

Writers, Directors, Security, Technicians, Backstage, Front of House – you name it, someone wants to do it! Especially the writers!

Rob, Jack, Leanne and I spent a weekend at Newton Field Centre having a writers' residential where some excellent work was done, despite a lethal lurgy which prevented Chelsea's attendance.

In the middle of these preparations, we were approached by Jo Dacombe who commissioned us to create an exploratory piece about the new square on Kingswood.

Again, given the local links of many of the group, this was very pertinent.

However, the event, scheduled for March 24th, was to be performed outdoors and there were some strong objections from the group regarding their safety.

So, we decided to make a film instead. We worked with CorbyZone on this, using Emma's physical theatre and storyboarding skills and then James's skills to edit.

The final product was to be shown on a massive outdoor screen behind Kingswood Community Centre.

Due to problems with filming, we were not sure if things would be completed on time.

The result was that six of the girls volunteered to do an adapted live performance at the event. Again, difficult conditions – but well received.

Thanks go to Michelle Grimwood who stood in as Director on the day and who also made our set.

Thanks also to Rachel Arnold, Jan Timmins, Lyn Plumpton and Rein Kybarsapp for the filming, and KGHP for editing facilities.

With Squareabout under our belts, we have now gone back to concentrating on the final stages of Foreigners.

As to the future – well, firstly we will have run out of funding by 6th July, so I am currently looking for project funding.

I had hoped that CBC would take us on as a group for core funding, but this never happened, due to them being overstretched.

So, the search is on – and we are looking forward to the planned Shout! holiday in the summer.

I am extremely proud of the group, who never cease to amaze me with their commitment and creativity.

Paula Boulton, Director, Shout! Youth Theatre

2009 – 2010

Director's Report

It is my pleasure to begin this year's report with an overview of the amazing amount of work we have done since March 2009. This has been one of our most productive periods ever, resulting in a new play which was developed into a touring version and then a screenplay.

Project overview

When	What?	Who for?	Funder
April – July 09	<p><i>Being Bi in a Straight World</i></p> <p>A 16-week project which explored the theme of Bisexuality and Young People and resulted in:</p> <p>An original script, called <i>Look Both Ways</i>, based on 4 weeks' devising, created at a Writers' Residential held at Newton Field Centre for Charlotte, Chelsea, Dan Bass, Danielle, Djuliano, Kirsty, Lee, Phil, Rob and Will</p> <p>The submission of a formal research project based on our unique method of exploring a topic by Michelle Grimwood, member of the Governmental Advisory Panel on sexuality</p> <p>A staged rehearsed reading and after-show discussion for an invited audience, at the Labour Club, including government commissioners from DOH</p> <p>Requests for us to show a polished version at the DOH conference in Newcastle and at the Metro Centre in London.</p>	<p>Dept of Health</p> <p>Suggested by Michelle Grimwood</p>	<p>Dept of Health</p> <p>£3,000</p> <p>bid prepared with assistance from Sami Scott</p>

Sept 09 – Aug 10	<p><i>Upskilling Shout!</i></p> <p>Delivered 7 units using material or production deadlines as the content:</p> <p>Audition Skills Touring a Play Developing a Script Performance Skills Production Skills Set Design Stage Management Acting for Film</p> <p>Between September and November 2009, we prepared a new version of <i>Look Both Ways</i> in preparation for requested performances. In Dec we heard that neither performance was possible. Tried the Drill Hall, but they were unable to ensure audiences. The group decided that our aim was to challenge homophobic attitudes locally and that we should tour in the county. We then worked with Ben King from OPEN to promote the piece as a diversity and equality training event, and as an interesting play for the LGBT community. Gavin Porch helped source music.</p>	Ourselves	Awards for All £9,991 Bid prepared with assistance from Jen
March 2010	<p><i>Look Both Ways</i> Tour</p> <p>Two evening performances at the Castle Theatre in Wellingborough, an evening performance at Corby Trades and Labour Club and the daytime conference organized and delivered by the group.</p>	OPEN and the community	Money 4 Youth £4,000
	<p><i>About Her...</i></p> <p>Abbie, Caitlin, Eli, Elle and Helen joined CWThG as a group of rowdy teenagers in the latest play by Emma Boulton Roe and Paula Boulton exploring the town's womenfolk. They did two well-attended performances in the Arc Theatre with accolades from Phil Hope MP.</p>	Corby Women's Theatre Group	Arts Council England and Awards For All

<p>May-Sept 2010</p>	<p><i>Look Both Ways</i> Film</p> <p>The Acting for Film unit in the <i>Upskilling Shout!</i> project prepared the cast for filming the screenplay adaptation of <i>Look Both Ways</i>, which was developed in response to requests from the Equality and Diversity Manager for Northants NHS for a film of the play. The young people were not happy with their performances or the DVD of the play and chose instead to make it into a film.</p> <p>Those who wanted to work on the project formed a production group and from May to July:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed screenplay and shot list Planned film shoot Booked locations Set, props and costumes <p>Jack Boulton Roe had rejoined the group to play the priest in the tour version. He agreed to write the screenplay and he and Will Allen created a shot list and formed a directors' collective with me to ensure that there was at least one of us in charge on each shoot, since we were also acting in the film.</p> <p>They discussed planning stages with the camera crew with Lyn Plumpton and Jan Timmins at several meetings.</p> <p>Jen project-managed the preparations, was responsible for admin and production tasks, and had Chelsea and Dan Murphy on her team. All three performed in the film too.</p>	<p>NHS</p>	<p>CAMHS and NHS</p> <p>£1,700</p>
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	<p>Jenny Garlick came on board as set, props and continuity.</p> <p>By July we had formed a film production unit and shot 90 minutes of film, at old Kingswood school site and other locations around the town over summer hols.</p> <p>Karl learned loads as camera assistant and got roped in as an extra after all.</p> <p>Shannon Mae and Georgia did make-up and also got roped in to perform!</p> <p>We all emerged very much the wiser and had recruited several new performers outside the group, along the way. Cameo performances from Drew, Mark, Galib, Leona and her friend, Siobhain and Laura boosted our extras. The adult characters were played by John, Kenny, Rab, Rosie and Sheila.</p> <p>But most notable were the contributions from the Canada Square gang when we shot a scene in Mrs Kang's Premier Stores! They all thought Hollywood, or Bollywood, had come to Corby.</p>		
<p>Sept- Dec 2010</p>	<p>Editing Film/Freestyle</p> <p>In the background Lyn and I are editing the film. Meanwhile at Shout! we have been busy exploring what topic the group want to shout about, and then finding funding</p> <p>They settled on teenage pregnancy. Jen prepared and submitted a bid herself, using her new skills from her 6-month Arts Admin apprenticeship with Paula Boulton Performing Arts. She has secured £9,940 for our next project <i>Too Young To Be A Mum</i>, due to start April 2011.</p>	<p>Ourselves</p>	<p>Ourselves</p> <p>Possibly, Empowering Councillors or KCAP money for editing</p> <p>NCC Small Youth Grants money for the play</p>

Oct 2010	<p>Writers' Residential Weekend</p> <p>Chelsea co-trained with me at Newton Field Study Centre in sharing the process of writing a play for 6 of our emerging young writers: Abbie, Caitlin, Charlotte, Dan, Emma and Lee. Jen was catering manager. Three excellent scene scripts emerged as a basis for our 2011 play on teenage pregnancy.</p>	Ourselves	Ourselves
Nov 2010	<p><i>Bringing Books to Life</i></p> <p>A fun few weeks developing costumes and characters based round our fave book characters, ready to liven things up in the new library for which we had provided the consultation piece when we did <i>RACYTILE</i>.</p>	Opening of new Headspace Library	Ourselves
Dec 2010	<p>Mental Health Stigma</p> <p>Sessions exploring the topic of young people and the stigma that surrounds the experience and subject of mental health. It is hoped that we will secure funding to create an original piece of drama for CAMHS in early 2011.</p>	CAMHS	No-one

Additionally I was asked to deliver Shout!-type sessions to another youth club. However, having waited for almost a year for details, I met the group and, as it was summer, delivered Forest School sessions instead.

Various opportunities come along for our members based on our reputation e.g. Rutland Railway Museum rang me to provide young actors for their film.

We have had several commissions for the future which are not yet ready or fell through:

Social Services are waiting for the green light to go ahead with a piece which we will do with CWThG as a training piece for Social Work students about the experiences of those who have to deal with Social Services.

In November 2011 we will do a piece for the Domestic Abuse Conference for Northampton Women's Aid.

Bedford Learning Partnership approached us to take *Look Both Ways* into schools in Bedford, and we were asked to perform at the Wellbeing festival in Northampton. We did not accept either of these, due to existing project demands.

The film has been booked in advance for the Schools Out festival in February and the Directors were invited to the Launch of LGBT History Month at Twickenham.

Other notable events have been the screenings of DVDs of the plays for ourselves which always provide a great evening as the young people get to watch, learn and critique their own and each others' performances.

The wrap party included watching the uncut footage pre-edit and some very yummy refreshments. Fun awards were presented by the three Directors.

The group also did an interview for Radio Northampton about *Look Both Ways* without me!

We have affiliated to NAYC, which apart from bringing down our insurance costs by £220, has opened the door to training and residentials at a very reasonable price. Chelsea, Dan and Georgia completed their emerging leaders' training this weekend as Eli, Emma, Hayley, Karl, Sosha and I flew the flag for Shout! and recruited amongst other young people on our residential, whilst abseiling, caving, climbing and having a great time! I was very proud of the way the Shout! members behaved on the residential. They are such confident young people and clearly gain important "people skills" and self-confidence from being in the group with such a wide range of ages and abilities. This was remarked upon by the other youth workers. The Shout! ground rules help to develop a particular attitude whilst participation in the projects develops all sorts of skills.

Shout! is more than a drama group and more than a youth club. NAYC allows us to develop the youth club side whilst giving us a family of other groups to share with and learn from. Sosha, Karl and Dan also took part in anti-bullying training recently, which means we may be one of the first youth groups to get our accreditation.

We have lost some members to higher education recently. Will was successful in his audition for East 15 Acting College in London, and Jack is studying Contemporary Media Practice in London too. Chelsea, luckily for us, is having a gap year. Rob and Phil are both training in management positions in their workplaces.

Sadly, Djuliano has moved on.

Between March 2009 and December 2010, we have had 70 young people through our doors and currently have 26 on the register.

Jan – April 2009:

Becky, Ben, Carl, Chloe, Coral, Chris, Gary, James, Jemma, Kirsty O’Neill, Liam, Matthew, Micky, Terri, Wesley

April – July 2009:

Alex, Chelsea, Charlotte, Dan Bass, Dan Murphy, Danielle Malcolmson, Danielle Skillen, Djuliano, Eli, Ellie McBrearty, Emma, Georgia, Helen, Jen, Kirsty, Lee, Leona, Lorraine, Phil, Rachel, Rayanne, Rob, Samantha, Sarah, Shareace, Tabitha, Tony, Will

Try-out sessions:

Chloe, Paige, Nikki, Sarah, Skye

Sept – Dec 2009:

Gemma, Sam

Jan – April 2010:

Abby, Caitlin, Damon, Elle, Karl, Kieran, Reece, Ryan, Thomas

July – Dec 2010:

Jack, Shannon Mae, Sosha, Hayley, Jordan, Lily, Sam, Santa, Zara

Our thanks go to Sami Scott, one of our founders and first tutors, currently Learning Mentor from Lodge Park. She does such a good job of recruiting new members for us that for the first time in history Shout! is no longer a predominantly Kingswood group. The majority of members are now LPTC, but we have members from all Corby schools as well as Southfields and Uppingham Community College.

Our thanks also goes to the other professionals in the wider Shout! family who continue their association with the group:

Cory Gray, a Shout! founder, who led acting for film and make-up sessions

Dannielle Boulton, a Shout! graduate, currently studying Graphic Design, who designed our fabulous posters for LBW

Dani Treacher, another Shout! graduate, currently studying to be a Drama teacher, who took the rest of the group whilst I was rehearsing the cast for *LBW*, and then appeared in the film

Emma Boulton Roe, another of our founders, currently lecturer in Performing Arts at Tresham – for sessions she has delivered in Acting for Film, as well as tech and front of house support and mentoring the make-up crew.

Jenny Garlick for her excellent sessions on Set and Stage Management. Also set, props and mentoring in continuity. Mostly for her solid, calm, reliable presence backstage and on the film set

Lyn Plumpton and Jan Timmins for their mentoring and support for various members in preparing the film, and their tireless dedication to shooting the film. Also, for filming the plays and Lyn for editing

Nick Maple who provided us with sound and lighting equipment

Rebecca Boulton for her costume design sessions

Sami Scott – the technician and sound designer for the *LBW* plays.

In addition, we thank:

Deb Bailey for accounting support and training Jen

Michael Kimmins and Nigel Treacher in the background as committee members and cheque signatories

Rab McClintock for transport, set construction and general sound advice.

Shout! could not exist without a home. The staff at the Trades and Labour Club continue to make us welcome, and extended themselves when we chose this building as the venue for our half-day conference. They provided us with good wholesome food - a pan of home-made vegetable soup in place of the usual prawn vol-au-vents! And they fed a hungry crew on many an occasion throughout the filming. We are hoping to raise some funds to decorate the club as our thank you.

I look forward to another challenging year with Shout! as we continue to “Give Young People a Voice” in this ever-changing world. Hopefully those who leave Shout! will be able to speak out and demand the future they deserve, confident in the knowledge that they matter, and as excellent ambassadors for Corby.

Paula Boulton, Director, Shout! Youth Theatre

14 December 2010

2011

Chair's Report

Good evening and welcome to Shout!'s (not so) Annual General Meeting. I think it is safe to say that we have been very productive since the last one in December 2010. Between January and March 2011, the gang wrote, rehearsed and performed the play *CRAZY!* while starting *Too Young To Be A Mum?* towards the end of March, which has continued throughout the months with devising sessions, visits from interviewees, and workshops, which were provided by Groundwork. We also helped them with their film about Corby.

We had the launch and several showings of our first full-length film *Look Both Ways* between March and July. Rumour has it that Asda had a bit of a domestic in November too! And of course, you brightened up the NAYC AGM with your improvisation showcase. During the last few months of 2011, the group devised, wrote and performed *Consequences*, the violence and alcohol play for Corby Community Safety Partnership.

2012 began with the tour of this play to most Corby secondary schools. We have also started the drama group What If? for the over-18s. I think we can expect nothing but excellence from our former Shout! members.

Now seeing the whole year summed up in 100-odd words may look like very little has been accomplished this year, but that is something like: two brand new plays, one film, one video, six screenings, eight performances, seven workshops in schools, one new group, one interactive AGM, one public spectacle...rest assured, Shout! have made excellent progress over the last twelve months, "Giving Voice to Young People" on a whole range of issues.

Well done, and keep up the good work folks!

Chelsea J

Director's Report

Chelsea's report contains a fairly complete list of what we have been up to since the last AGM as far as performances go.

This chart fills in the details of how many people saw us – a staggering 4,312 – and who has funded us or been a partner in our many projects.

When	What	Funded by	Partners	Number
5 Feb 2011	Preview of schools version of <i>Look Both Ways</i> at Schools Out Conference in London	NREC, NCC Children's Services, NHFT	NREC, NHFT Schools Out	200
24 Feb	Safeguarding Training	Youth Works	Youth Works, NAYC, Social Services	6
March – April	Planned redesign of the stage and refurbishment of rehearsal premises, submitting a bid for £50,000	WREN	Brenda Easton, Corby Trades and Labour Club, Alan Scott	
1 April 2011	<i>CRAZY!</i> – a play examining stigma experienced by young people with mental health issues, written for Children and Adolescent Mental Health as part of their Stigma project. Performed at the Core Theatre	CAMHS	Young people's MH group	10 400
5 April 2011 – 2012	<i>Too Young To Be A Mum</i> , a project examining the issues involved in teen pregnancy	NCC	Ground-work, LPTC, Kingswood school, BW	420
23 April	St George's Day festival promoting <i>Look Both Ways</i>	NREC, The BUS	NREC, The BUS	200
6 May	Private View launch of 90-minute <i>Look Both Ways</i> film about young people and bisexuality	KCAP	Kingswood school	200

2-5 June	Stewards at the Out@ the Core exhibition with four screenings of <i>LBW</i>		The Core	187
21 June	County launch of <i>LBW</i> at Picturedrome in Northampton	NREC	NREC, OPEN, The Picturedrome	25
24 June	Corby Launch of <i>LBW</i> in Council Chambers	Bob Scott	CBC	40
23 July	<i>Heritage</i> , a new play about Corby in 1911, featuring two Shout! Actresses	Our Corby	Corby Women's Theatre Group	500
17 Oct	AGM for NAYC at which we asked attendees for themes as they arrived, and then performed devised pieces we prepared in an hour	NAYC	NAYC	250
19 Nov	<i>Bus Stop and the Goldfish Bowl</i> , an intergenerational collaboration with Paula's Over-50s drama group performed at the Library, using several Shout! members in both workshops and production examining lives at 14 years, in response to the riots	NCC	NCC Libraries service	50
24 Nov	<i>Domestic Abuse in Relationships between 18-and 25-year-olds</i> : short piece of Street Theatre performed five times at Asda	Shout!	CKDAF, Corby Community Safety Partnership, Northamptonshire Police	300
13 Dec	Preview of <i>Consequences</i>	Corby Community Safety Partnership	CKDAF, Corby Community Safety Partnership, Northamptonshire Police, KGH, parents	40

Jan –Feb 2012	Schools Tour of <i>Consequences</i>	Corby Community Safety Partnership	CKDAF, Corby Community Safety Partnership, Northampton- shire Police, KGH, parents	1,200
March 2012	Participation in the groundwork video about future of Corby		Groundwork	300
			Total audience	4,312

One area which deserves a mention is training. Four of our helpers have completed their emerging leaders training with NAYC. A further six have been on safeguarding training to ensure that our child protection is up to date, and we continue to provide a safe environment at Shout! All have been CRB checked. Five of us also attended anti-bullying training, run by NAYC, to ensure that we are committed to providing a bullying-free zone.

There has, as ever, been a flow of members in and out of Shout! We introduced a different entry system whereby newcomers have a four-week period to try out and then have a review. This gives everyone a better idea of how things are likely to work out, and took away the slightly forced situation of an audition on your first night. We have kept the tradition of applauding each newcomer the first time they perform informally at Shout!

We had a particularly memorable year re comings and goings. There had been a core group who had been with the group for five years or so, who all became 18 at about the same time. So, in one fell swoop, we said goodbye to some of our most talented members. Danni Malcolmson went off to Derby to study Drama, Charlotte Hynes went to Bangor to train to be a primary school teacher, Daniel Murphy is off at Moulton College studying Forensic Science, Chelsea, having had a year out, finally went off to London to study Linguistics. Will and Jack who left the year before continue to drop in for the odd session or to help out if they are in the area.

Other move-ons were Djuliano who went to London to drama school, and in February, Karl Lewis got an apprenticeship at the British Youth Film Academy in Newcastle. We are all very pleased for him, given that when we started *Look Both Ways*, he was too shy to be in the film and so volunteered as camera assistant – and got the film bug!

Sami Scott has continued her long association with the group, and introduced a whole range of students from Lodge Park as well as giving her invaluable assistance with technical support, as ever. She designed the stage lighting and sound for the new installations. Jenny Garlick has been there as our ever-reliable Stage Manager, and designed the curtaining for the new space.

Jen, Lee, Jordan, Georgia, Murphy and Dannie Skillen have all been helpers during this period. The committee has functioned well in the background, and Jen has continued to develop her systems, drawing praise from our accountant Deb Bailey, as well as from me, for her project management skills.

We currently have members from Southfields, BW, Kingswood, Lodge Park and Tresham College ranging from 11 to 18, and have had 42 names on the register since September 2011. For the first time there were also a number of 18-year-olds who stayed in Corby and did not go off to college, which created an imbalance. This led to the formation of a group for 18-plus, which meets at 9.15pm and is called “What If...?” following the success of using Forum Theatre on the schools’ tour. We currently have nine members between 18 and 26. They remain linked to the group and act with us if required, like in *Consequences*, which used the older members in appropriate roles. Joris and Gary both joined us on tour.

We are currently in the middle of refurbishments, having been successful in obtaining the grant from WREN, and will soon have state-of-the-art lighting and sound equipment in a lovely clean freshly-painted space. This will allow us to develop a new style of theatre, and gives us our very own performance space.

I am looking forward to this new era with Shout! As we enter our fourteenth year, we know we are established and part of the fabric of Corby when we are older than some of our members – and Lee has been here longer than the age of our youngest members!

Long may we continue to provide a safe space for young people to express themselves through drama, and to form the lasting friendships that characterise our warm and friendly group.

Paula Boulton, Director, Shout! Youth Theatre

March 2012

2012 – 2013

Director's Report

When	What	Funded By	Partners	Which young people	Number
Feb 2012	WREN refurbishment	WREN	CTLC	Chelsea, Will, Lee	
Jan – May	<i>Too Young To Be A Mum</i> project and workshops			Sosha, Holly, Karl, Caitlin, Samm, Eli, Rachel, Charlotte, James, Will, Dannie	1,200
	<i>Too Young To Be A Mum</i> showing			Caitlin, Samm, Simone, Monica, Georgia, Sierra, Nikita, Kacey, Charlie	
May	Creative and Connected		Core Mighty Creatives	Sabrina, Sean, Lee, Gary, Jordan, Chloe	80
July	Arts Alive – <i>Roots, Rhymes and Recollections</i> Poems		Over-50s creative group The Core		12
8 – 9 Sept	NOIR residential			Lee, Sean, Jordan, Dannie, Jen, Chris, Chelsea, Charlotte	
	<i>What A Riot?</i> Inter-generational session	A4All	CWThG, Arts Alive		12
	<i>Look Both Ways</i> re-edit		Martin, Leona		
Nov	Complaints Choir		Barb Jungr, The Core		300
	Rowell Martyr				
	PAG Awards				80
	Video to DVDs				

	Over-50s brought pieces				12
Jan – March 2013	<i>If Bricks Could Talk...</i>		CWThG, Arts Alive CTLC		180
Feb	Pinkstinks – Mike Payne				
April	New mixed Shout!				
				People who saw/ worked with Shout!	1,876

Picking up the story of Shout! from March 2012 requires talking initially about two groups. The newly-established group for the older members had an interesting trial with a regular group of eight – Gary, Joris, Jordan, Jen, Sean, Dannie, Chris and Lee, but with visits from Chelsea and Charlotte when they were home from university, and also James, Rob, Murphy, Georgia, Alex and Phil. We had Carla, a BTEC student from Tresham (being taught by Emma, one of the original Shout! members) with us for a couple of weeks, and she had a chance to prepare her audition piece with us. Ironically, one of the monologues from *Women of Steel*.

The group argued a lot about a name, and in the end left it as Adult Shout! I kept to the same pattern as we have used for years: circle time, warm-up, devising and then performing with feedback. As Joris said, “Why fix what is not broken?”

As an adult group we were able to look at older themes, but I knew there was a chance of some funding to explore youth unemployment, and introduced the group to the White Ribbon campaign, which is men opposed to Domestic Violence. Both of the initial explorations on these themes brought out the lack of positive male role models for many of the group, and although I was aware that this tied in with national concerns about the “crisis of masculinity”, the group as a whole chose not to pursue this line of enquiry. We looked at Holocaust Memorial Day and theatre styles too, but despite several starts, the group could not settle on a topic.

Part of the aim in setting up the group for me was to encourage them to possibly seek funding independently and go into schools. Despite many false starts and the best of intentions, it would be fair to say that no-one had the time to put into developing beyond a weekly session.

Over the summer the group met on their own and developed a fascination for *film noir*. We had a residential planned at Newton for writers – so we gave ourselves the task of developing a new piece for the group in the *noir* genre. A great time was had by all. Newton worked its usual magic, and with Jordan and Chelsea at the helm, a basic script emerged from everyone’s fun and hard work and rehearsals began.

Everyone took on a role in addition to being a cast member: Director, Musical Director etc. But it proved impossible for the group yet again to commit to anything other than a weekly get-together. In addition, I was now supporting from behind, as I had clearly stated that Shout! is an issue-based, documentary group and I had no interest in the subject matter. Also, peers trying to lead one another led to personality conflicts, and eventually the project was abandoned.

The other development role for the older group was to be trained up on the new lighting and sound equipment. We had two very thorough sessions from the WORKS, and Sean in particular thought he had died and gone to heaven!

On one occasion the dArts theatre group came to perform their play, *The Rowell Martyr*, and we were very impressed with the quality of feedback the group gave. It was fascinating to see how the group responded to such an innovative piece of theatre and they have continued to refer to aspects of the production in subsequent months.

Sadly, Joy Elizabeth Surgey, who had worked with Shout! before and who brought the play along, has recently died of cancer. But at the funeral the dArts asked to come and visit us all again to share more ideas in the future. They are a group who studied together at Dartington Hall College in the 70s.

Fortunately, my new play was in process by then. The rehearsals for *If Bricks Could Talk...* had begun and many of the group got involved in this historical play about the Labour Club. This culminated in a successful production in March at the Labour Club watched by 180 people. This was also the first opportunity to try out the new equipment, and Sean did a good job of showing just what the gear could do.

We also attempted to archive all previous Shout! films and videos by converting to DVD, with limited success, but the project needs to continue to allow our previous work to be seen.

The *Look Both Ways* film has also been developed into a 20-minute educational tool, with Martin Steed editing the existing footage and Leona brutally cutting an hour and 40 minutes to leave shorter, clearer storylines about Joe, Karmel, Bernie and Dave. This is nearly complete. Now I am writing a voice-over to help teachers guide young people to the issues covered in the film.

As for the younger group, after the successful tour of *Consequences* we moved on to *Too Young To Be A Mum*. This necessitated going into Lodge Park on several occasions to interview a group of 14- to 16-year-olds and finding out what the issues were. Some of the older group joined in as facilitators: Jordan, Joris, Jen and Georgia accompanied me to these sessions.

The subject matter has been done several times in Shout! but it was interesting to observe that there were new angles to the topic. Facebook and texting have brought all sorts of complications, and celebrity influence on the way young people regard pregnancy was strong.

Interestingly the different schools which we toured with *Consequences* also had a workshop with us afterwards about teenage pregnancy, and we heard CTC kids say that “aspiration is the best contraceptive”, whilst LP kids said loads of girls there got pregnant but the school were really supportive. Clearly there is a lot of influence from the hidden agenda in each school.

Our link with Lodge Park continued via Sami Scott, the Learning Mentor, who introduced a whole range of young people and had negotiated school support to do so. Sierra, Bradley, Simone, Stacey, Georgia, Kirsten, Chloe and Jade all joined Sosha, Samm, Caitlin, Zoe, Rachel, Jordan, Millie, Lee, Nikita, Charlie, Monica and Holly.

During the refurbishments, we often met upstairs and developed a whole range of new rules to contain one or two of the more challenging group members. The group explored *Too Young To Be A Mum* extensively, and we videoed the final resulting sketches, deciding against a formal show due to the inconsistent attendance of some members making rehearsal difficult. This new approach did, however, allow us to explore lots of aspects of the topic fully and gave the 12- to 13-year-olds a chance to learn about sex education and puberty/adolescence in an informal manner.

We had lost a couple of regulars to the Core, who had unhelpfully programmed Musical Theatre on a Tuesday, but we still got occasional visits from Eli, Hayley and Dan after the other group finished.

Shout! were asked to take part in the Mighty Creatives networking event and I was invited to hold a workshop. We were the only group with any young people in attendance, and I ran the workshop for my own groups in the end. However, the young people were extremely popular and were asked by all the providers to come and do their workshops. Sadly for us, this marked the end of two more regular attenders who were subsequently poached by another group who did not know about their situation, and then lost interest in performing and now hang out on the streets.

For the event, Sean put a PowerPoint together, and I finally made some sort of business cards. We had also started a Facebook page as a way to keep all in touch whilst observing e-safety and not breaching contact rules, in line with child protection.

Our next newcomers were slightly older students from LP brought along by Rachel, and with Channelle, Dean and Wiktoria in the group, we tackled the issue of ageing so that we could share another piece with the Over-50s group from the Core who had asked to come and perform to us.

We had a great session where they performed their piece *Roots, Rhymes and Recollections* to us and the young people performed their sketches about growing old. Excellent intergenerational work.

After the summer break we started the *What A Riot* project, having received an Awards for All grant, which Jen and I had applied for. It was a follow-on from the successful *Bus Stop and the Goldfish Bowl* work. The aim was to do six lots of sessions, beginning with a trip to or from a group of community members, to discuss areas of common concern. The group would then work up a piece on those priorities and present it back in the end. We had a visit from a very enthusiastic videographer, Liam and his friends Sven and Hippy, who agreed to film the project at the outset and purchased video equipment for us. The first mixed-age session was fun, bringing up the things that people used to do and what they do now.

The group developed the subject matter over the first term and presented it back, as planned, to an enthusiastic small audience.

However, the numbers were getting quite low and inconsistent again. We planned to join in the second anniversary of the Cube and everyone learned the songs I had written for the Complaints Choir. In the end only Zoe was well enough to take part – but a great evening was had by all.

By the end of November our numbers were averaging six: Channelle, Zoe, Holly, Jess, Dean and Kieran. At this point it was decided that we no longer needed two Youth Leaders, and so Lee and Jordan stepped aside, leaving Jen as the helper.

We did, however, get nominated for the Positive Activities Group Award and won the Performing Arts category. A lovely evening at the Hotel Elizabeth took place with previous Shout! members in attendance.

I was considering closing at this stage, because then came exams which took the numbers down to three, and though Chelsea joined us at the end of December, we decide that there needed to be a big Shout! relaunch in 2013.

We advertised open audition sessions, and Jen and I contacted schools and youth agencies and did as much outreach as possible. All to no avail.

Linton joined us via a relative at the club, but no-one came to audition and we were officially in crisis for the first time in Shout!'s history.

In February and the first part of March the Holly, Zoe, Linton and Chelsea team worked on. We developed the issues of cyber-bullying and also, in collaboration with Mike Payne who funded us to do the *CRAZY!* play, we started to look at the pre-sexualisation of young girls. We made contact with Pinkstinks and are still in process of making contact with Our Ladies primary school to do a play with them on this theme.

At this point various thoughts fell into place. The discussion around this topic led to the realisation that it was relevant to those about to go to senior school – therefore technically outside the Shout! age group. The numbers dwindling was a problem being felt all over

the youth service as more and more young people become hooked up to cyberspace and others are feeling the pinch and just not joining groups. Also, the intergenerational sessions were really fun and both the cast for *If Bricks Could Talk...* and the members of the Complaints Choir were aged 13 to 79.

So, we had a committee meeting, and I suggested that we try Shout! as a mixed age range, dependent on topic, if we wanted to recruit below 11 years old.

Now this needed agreement from the Awards for All people. But the Grants Officer was convinced by the rationale, and on 30 April we started Shout! an issue-based group allowing people to explore subjects through creative expression.

Adult Shout!, former Group Leaders, people from the Over-50s group and people from the Gallery, all sent someone along. We welcomed Andrej and Lillian from the Gallery, Tim and Chris from the Over-50s – and Gary brought two new young people, Jonathan and Edward. Linton, Holly, Chelsea and Zoe have stuck with us and their parents are happy with the idea of the new group, which included our ex-Shout! older members Lee, Sean, Dannie, Joris and Jordan.

We have retained the right to do youth-specific projects and continue to recruit. But it has to be said that the 16 people last week from all walks of life and right across the age range produced some very thought-provoking sketches. There is so much to be learned from one another.

Perhaps “Giving Young People a Voice” has now changed to “Giving People a Voice!”

Who knows...but Shout! has survived and evolved and moved with the times, and I for one look forward to this next phase.

The committee have functioned very well and Deb Bailey once again deserves our thanks for auditing our books, along with Ollie Few who has finished off that process to allow us to have our AGM and accounts at the end of the financial year.

Paula Boulton, Director, Shout! Theatre

14 May 2013

2013 – 2015

Chair's Report

This has been a year of success for Shout! in general. We have now successfully maintained the mixed age range within Shout! for two years, which has benefitted both younger members and older members. Our group numbers have slightly increased, going from a group of four to a core group of nine; we have seen some members leave and new members come.

Since the refurbishment of the hall has been completed two years ago, we have started to use the sound and lighting systems. We are currently not using it to its full potential, and we have in the past mentioned training and skill development in these areas, which still have not been acted upon; however, I want to move forward with the training within the next coming years.

Two years ago, the Shout! office became a communal space with the She Matters group, which in hindsight was a mistake – it led to us not using the office, as there were concerns about client confidentiality. Within the two years of the communal office, we had a number of disagreements with She Matters on how the space was to be used effectively, and this consumed group time and resources which would have been better used on our own group. Due to a number of reasons, Shout! was given a larger office, which is currently under renovation by the committee.

This year Shout! was nominated for another award, and although we never won it, it still showed the level of support that Shout! has. At this point I would like to thank all the members of the group that have been and gone over the years and are currently with us, and the people who continue to support Shout! in our trials and tribulations, as we develop as a group and help to develop not just the youth of Corby but the community as a whole.

I would also like to thank my fellow members on the committee, whose hard work often goes unacknowledged by the group, but their hard work is still appreciated. Last year it was mentioned that the Health and Safety needed improved on due to lack of risk assessments. This has been improved, as we now have numerous risk assessments put in place. However, we have not put the Fire Wardens in place as yet. This is due to the fluctuation of the group members.

I would like to mention the dArts group, who have throughout the year participated in performances and workshops within the group. We witnessed a production of *We're Still Here*, which was a production on the older generation feeling invisible. This then led into a Communications project which is still in production. Also, this year we have cemented our relationship with the University of Northampton.

Shout! has also set up a Local Giving account where people can give money to help the group and support us on the road ahead. This year we had a break in Shout! tradition: we still had our residential but this year it was not for a project or writing purposes. It was for a holiday as a reward for the group, but as always new skills were learnt and a good time was had by all.

Gary Docherty, Chair, Shout!

Director's Report

When	What	Funded by	Partners	Which young people	Numbers involved
Jun-Dec 2013	<i>What A Riot</i> part 3	Awards for All	Arts Alive, dArts	Linton, Holly, Zoe, Edward, Chelsiea, Jonathan, Ben, Jess, Gary, Lee, Dannie, Joris, Brian, Tim, Tim, Jen, Jordan, Sean, Max	
Aug	Danish Shelter Camping	Self	Fermyn Woods and Forestry Comm-ission	Linton, Zoe, Edward, Chelsea, Jonathan, Ben, Jess, Gary, Lee, Dannie, Joris, Jordan, Sean, Max	
Oct – Nov	Social Worker training	Northampton University	Northampton University	Jonathan, Linton, Zoe, Ben, Dannie, Gary, Edward, Jordan	36 Social Work students
2014 Jan – Mar	<i>CRAZY!</i>	Margaret Griffin – NCF	Safe House, Corby	Jess, Ben, Holly, Linton, Edward, Zoe, Lee, Chelsiea, Gary, Jen	150 in audiences and meetings
Feb	Motionhouse – Physical Theatre Workshop	The Core	Motionhouse/ The Core	Linton, Jonathan, Zoe, Jess, Edward, Ben, Lee, Gary, Chelsiea, Holly	Motionhouse management Board, Danny the workshop leader
April – May	Gender Representation	Margaret Griffin – NCF	Mike Payne – Service Six, Pinkstinks, Everyday Sexism Let Toys Be Toys No More Page 3	Holly, Zoe, Lee, Gary, Dannie, Stewart	30 in audiences Countless online

June – July	Inter-generational conflict – <i>We Are Still Here</i>	Margaret Griffin -NCF	dArts, Arts Alive, CWThG	Ben, Edward, William, Holly, Zoe, Linton, Rachel, Lee, Rob, Linda, Jonathan, Gary	6 other dArts members 3 Arts Alive 25 in audience
July	Newton Residential	Self	Newton Field Centre	William, Ben, Edward, Jonathan, Linton, Gary, Dannie, Zoe, Max	
Sept	Spirit of Corby Award Ceremony			Edward, Ben, William, Gary, Joyce, Dannie	300 at ceremony Countless voters and general public
Sept – Dec	<i>Let's Work Together</i> – Communication and Physical Theatre	NCF	dArts	Ruben, Tara, Brogan, Tilly, Rachel, Jess, Jonathan, Ben, Edward, William	20 at the showing
Sept – Dec	Online Safety workshops	Adam Simmonds – Police	County schools and NPCC	Paula and Brogan, Jonathan, Ruben, Lee, Ben, Linton, Edward, Rob, Rachel, Jess, Dannie, Gary	250 young people in the workshops 200 in national audience at report Presentation Countless readers of the report
Nov	Social Worker training	Northampton University	Northampton University Tresham College	Jonathan, Linton, Brogan, Dannie, Gary, Ruben, Rachel, Nicola	36 Social Work students 3 lecturers
2015 Jan – April	<i>Making Change</i> – Video for Youth and Community Work Students	Northampton University	Northampton University	William, Ben, Jonathan, Edward, Ruben, Gary, Dannie, Lee, Connor	Countless students 4 lecturers
Feb	<i>Can This Be England?</i>	Ongoing	Peter Kennedy	Dannie, Paula, Lee, Gary, Peter	

I always find it surprising and enjoyable to look back at what we have been up to as I write my Director's Report. We certainly cover a lot of ground. Apart from all the projects listed, we have also had several theatre trips as a group and we went together to the Bonfire Night display when it coincided with a Shout! night. All these extra trips and activities have added to the feeling of family, which seems really strong at the moment. That may be because we have four brothers from one family and then two from another! Also, for the first time in Shout's history, the group currently consists of almost exclusively boys and men. What happened to the girls?

We lost Zoe and Holly to school work pressures after many years, and they took Chelsea with them. Jess has gone off to Unicycle which is unfortunately on a Tuesday too. And Rachel stayed with us for six months. Tilly, Ann and Tara both put in brief appearances and we still have Dannie and Brogan. Chelsea and Charlotte still drop in from time to time.

It is inexplicable but interesting. Though relatively small, the group has remained stable for some time now, having dropped right down. Last week we welcomed 11-year-old Connor to the group. His Mum Natasha and Uncle Craig were both in Shout! many years ago. Watching 18-year-old William and 15-year-old Edward take him under their wings was a joy.

Gary and Lee fill in the middle age layer now, though Sean, Jordan and Joris have also been part of this range.

Dannie and Jen are the two women in this middle layer made up entirely of original Shout! members. Jen was the Assistant until she got a job last year and Joris took over, until he too got a job. Now Gary and Dannie tend to hold the fort if I am unable to make a session for any number of reasons – including singing in the House of Commons two weeks ago!

They are increasingly confident as leaders. They also, with Lee and Jen, make up the committee and are always on hand to do the behind-the-scenes part of running Shout! Jordan and Joris fulfilled committee roles since the last elections but no longer attend.

There has been a noticeable bonding in the group since our fabulous and memorable camping trip last summer. The project we were doing explored how the world will cope without electricity. So, we spent a weekend living off-grid in the Danish Shelters in Fermyn Woods with only one compost toilet and an open fire pit. We had to take our own water, and that meant individually figuring out how much one would need. The excess was used for an unforgettable water fight at the end of the weekend.

We had hoped to go again last summer, but found to our dismay that the place was uninhabitable due to muck spreading or some such, which made it hard to breathe when Gary, Dannie and I went to do a risk assessment the day before we set off.

Not to be put off, I phoned Newton Field Centre at the last minute and we had a different but equally fun weekend away, with some notable games, walks and (thanks to Karen) a lot of pizza!

Just as well we have such a cohesive group – because when the coach broke down on the way to London to see *Othello* at the end of January, despite the disappointment, the group had a great time. Other people on the coach mentioned how pleasant the group were and how well-behaved. Yes they were noisy – but clearly having fun and being respectful.

Watching *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, Motionhouse and Glasshouse introduced some new ideas and also showed how confident Shout! members are when it comes to speaking up in a discussion.

However, we too have a definite style – a point which was brought home to me three weeks ago when we read through *Can This Be England?* for the first time. It was truly boring in places – the end was OK though! But Gary and Lee instantly knew how to make it live. No scripts needed. What is the writer trying to say? OK, let's improvise on those points! Have a scene which lives and breathes. The gist, strong characters, good chemistry between the well-cast roles and a belief in our ability to improvise and think and express, as those characters would, about a whole range of thoroughly-discussed socially-relevant issues. This is what Shout! has become.

And it is this formula which is being used to train the Social Workers and Youth and Community Workers at Northampton University. Another highly memorable moment was observing the confident way that Jonathan and the others gave feedback to the Social Workers en masse. Eloquent and not a hint of awkwardness at being a school student commenting on a university student's skills!

It is really satisfying that our ability to realistically become other people and stay in character is being put to real use in giving Social Work students a genuine experience of interviewing before they have to go out in the field and do it for real. It has been good to be able to call on Emma Boulton Roe at Tresham too. A founder member of Shout!, she is now lecturer in Performing Arts there, and was glad to share the opportunity with some of her HND students.

Jonathan and Brogan are currently studying Drama at Tresham, as did Linton briefly. It is interesting to have their input and the crossovers with their course as well as regular feedback between Emma and me.

We have also enjoyed welcoming visitors to occasional sessions, sharings or as part of our projects. All of them remark upon how warm and welcoming the group is and how equal it feels. A visitor from the Police and Crime Commissioners department was quite stirred up by our frank way of acknowledging who we are and how old we are without a shred of self-consciousness. She had never sat in a space where it was OK to proudly say "I am 58", instead of the usual "Mind your own business!"

Which brings me to the main focus of the past 20 months. At our last AGM we voted to become Shout! Theatre instead of Shout! Youth Theatre, and to be open to anyone over 11 years old, because we had had a positive experience of intergenerational projects with *If Bricks Could Talk...*

This is the first AGM as the new multi-generational Shout! and we come to it richer and stronger for all the sharing between the generations this decision has brought us. Rob Bailey, in his 60s, worked with us for much of last year and there was some serious learning going on between the men and the boys.

Working with dArts has been a great success. The joint sessions produced some excellent sketches. Who remembers Judy running around trying to get everything done whilst the lads watched TV? David and Jonathan being David then and now. And of course, the copy dancing as the group tried to learn the physical theatre/dance piece by pairing up with one of the group.

My most vivid memories are of William twirling gracefully and the Ebola scarf. But no – my mind has just remembered the sight of the lads in wigs being stereotypical girls. Ben – who needs brains! Enough said.

We had a range of responses to the idea of trying to use more physical theatre. Edward, Ruben, Jonathan, Brogan all totally comfortable with dance/movement at one end of a spectrum which has a reluctant Ben and William joining in – whilst Gary and Lee sit it out. Except for the challenging Motionhouse workshop where Danny set a tough pace and everyone joined in regardless. Our own Dannie, as a talented and experienced dancer herself, had many skills to bring to this aspect of the work.

We have also had a series of photographers from the Rooftop Gallery working with us on various projects. Stewart Clark documented *We are Still Here* and Anna Guzek is currently preparing a visual script for our upcoming production *Letters Home* and has documented our sharing.

Looking to the future, we have the video to complete with Mark and are already thinking that the characters we have created for him really need a play of their own. We will also finish off *Letters Home* with a performance in May, tying in with Corby Borough Council's WWI Commemoration project. Hopefully after this we will have been successful with an Awards for All bid to work with the Stroke Association on a play to educate the community about the effects of living with stroke.

The Shout!-style sessions I have been running in schools around the county about online bullying have taken our name and reputation further afield, as has the work with the University. Who knows where this may lead?

There was also some finishing off on previous projects to be done. The *Look Both Ways* re-edit was promoted across the county and to national organisations concerned with tackling homophobic bullying. And a pamphlet of the interviews done for *If Bricks Could Talk...* will be published shortly.

With the continued support of the Labour Club in providing us with a venue and the enthusiasm and commitment of the group, I look forward to this next phase. “Giving People a Voice” for the 18th year running!

Paula Boulton, Director, Shout! Theatre

23 March 2015

2015 – 2016

Director's Report

When	What	Funders	Partners	Who	Numbers
April – June 2015	<i>Making Changes</i> Film project	Northampton University	Mark Allenby Social Workers and Community Workers	Lee, Gary, Will, Edward, Ben, Jonathan, Brogan, Dannie, Ruben	
May	<i>Letters Home</i>	CBC	dArts, Veterans for Peace, Corby Women's Theatre Group, Arts Alive, British Legion Poppy Appeal, CBC	Lee, Gary, Will, Edward, Ben, Jonathan, Brogan, Dannie, Ruben, Rob, Nicola, Ben, Sheila, Maggie, Betty, Spike, George, Pat, Joyce, Rotraut, Pauline, Ray, Brian, Clive, Jan, Becca, Jen, Andy, Anna, Kate, Sean, Emma, Eli, Luke, Max, Jack, Kate D, Martin B	30 in audience 40 cast and crew Online: 2,635 reached, 171 looked, 88 liked
June – Dec	<i>Shout About Stroke</i> part 1	Awards for All	Stroke Association, Tresham College	Tracy, Maggie, Bea, Margaret, Gary, Will, Edward, Dannie, Ruben, Rob, Jess, Sharon, Ade, Rich, Laura, Dawn, Clive, Anna, Kate, Sarah, Sean, Sue, Marianne, Maria	Audience, 1 Dec: 15 Students at the workshop: 20 Cast and crew: 24
July	Health and Wellbeing Conference	Voluntary Impact	NCF, dArts	Rob, Linda, Danielle, Paula	250 attendees
Oct	Big Film Week	Made in Corby	HD media	Paula	25 attendees
Dec	<i>If Bricks Could Talk...</i>	GMB	Tresham College	Paula, Kate Anderson	50 copies distributed
Jan – May 2016	<i>Shout About Stroke</i> part 2		Brooke Weston, CATS, Recycled Costume Co Ltd	Rose, Nick, Richard, Pauline, Andy, Pete, Gary, Will, Edward, Dannie, Ruben, Rob, Jess, Sharon, Ade, Rich, Laura, Dawn, Clive, Anna, Kate, Ade, Richard, Sarah, Maria, Marianne, Sue	Cast and crew: 21 Audience on 7 May: 80

A full and satisfying year, supported as ever by our hosts at the Labour Club to whom we are indebted.

Gary, Danielle and Jen have fulfilled their committee functions as competently as ever and have been truly supportive employers.

There was also sad news in May. One of our early members, Laura Gibb, died.

At the funeral I met up with former Shout! members Claire and Dani who had travelled down from Scotland, and Laura's close friend Dannie. We talked of Shout! memories and I was struck by how strong, articulate and opinionated they were.

I would like to think that their time at Shout! gave them a voice and helped them in some way become the fine-spirited free-thinking adults they are. Laura certainly was.

Reflecting on what we have achieved since the last report is both sobering and impressive:

- A video which will be used as a teaching resource in university to inform the practice of trainee Social Work and Community Work students
- Participation in a conference promoting the positive benefits to mental and physical health of participating in drama
- Two historic projects involving further dissemination of previous plays – showing the film of *Women of Steel*, and printing a booklet of *If Bricks Could Talk...*
- Two excellent productions, *Letters Home* and *Shout about Stroke*, tackling major issues which brought together people across a broad age range to share their perspectives, knowledge and experience.

All this carried out by the smallest group we have had in the 18 years since we started!

The dedicated core members Danielle, Gary, Ruben, Will and Edward have been there throughout, and despite shifts, studying, illness, double-booking and tragic family circumstances, have shown incredible commitment and stuck together as the Shout! family always does. Rob from dArts has stuck with us too, attending when he could and contributing a lifetime's experience.

We lost Jonathan, Brogan and Ben to work and college after *Letters Home*. Lee finally left at the same time, not wanting to be in *Shout About Stroke*. He was our longest-standing member, having been with Shout! for 17 years. If there was a long service medal it should go to him – but a “thank you” will have to do. We wish them all well in their lives going forward.

However, both *Shout about Stroke* and *Letters Home* drew in new performers: in fact, cast and crew for *Letters Home* numbered 40! How did we do that? See the project reports below.

Film for Northampton University

Following on from our success training Social Workers by providing them case studies to practise on, Mark Allenby asked if we would do a similar thing to allow him to film and keep as a training tool for students in the future. He came along to several sessions and played the part of the Social Worker in the subsequent *Making Change* video.

If Bricks Could Talk...

A pamphlet version of the script with memorabilia was printed and a copy sent to each performer.

Letters Home: May 2015

A really close group centring around the Walker and Docherty brothers plus Ruben, Dannie and Brogan was expanded by Rob Bailey who had originally helped them devise the World War I scene as part of the previous project when we worked with dArts on communication and how it has changed over the years. We were also joined by:

Nicola Piggott and Ben Elliot, Emma's students from Tresham

- Several of the Arts Alive group: Pauline Holman and Ray Andrews who contributed original pieces of their own making about the reality of war, and Brian Fawcett who read Wilfred Owen's war poems.
- Women from Corby Women's Theatre Group (the final script included a scene originally written for *Heritage* set at the War Memorial): Sheila Royce, Maggie Wood, Betty MacPherson, Pat Clarke, Jean Sumpter, and Joyce Stirling who had a strong opinion about the abuse of animals in war and wanted to bring that issue up in the Remembrance scene.
- Two Veterans for Peace, George Hill and Spike Pike, with whom I had previously performed Poetry for Peace.
- Musician Clive Parker and his wife Jan provided some 1940s glam, singing songs of the era, and the star of the show was 86-year-old Rotraut Anderson who played herself – a German.

Our usual competent tech crew, Sean Durkin on lights and sound, Rebecca Boulton on costumes, Jenny Garlick on sets, and props and videographer Andy Eathorne was expanded to include Anna Guzek, a Polish artist who created a very moving projection script for us. Photography was done by Kate Anderson.

Front of House was handled by Ben and Ele Morgan, and when Brogan turned up with her boyfriend Luke and asked if he could hang out in the dressing room, I said no, but he could help set up. And not only did he do that, but he played the part of the Air Raid Warden at the last minute. In at the deep end, teaching technique!

CBC had given us a small grant to do the production as part of the WWI commemorations and we were thrilled to have them in the audience at what was one of the most amazing performances we have ever given.

I had always wanted to expand the immersive/promenade experience I first tried at ECP with *Women of Steel* ten years previously. We managed to do that by creating zones around the Labour Club Hall representing different eras, making full use of its unique shape. In the centre we placed Jen's accurate replica of the War Memorial, and actually started with what appeared to be a real Remembrance service as the performers mingled with the audience before the WWI section began. Apart from some lack of clarity about where they were meant to look at any given moment and the need for some of the less mobile members of the audience to have a seat, it was very well-received. Audience members reported feeling very moved by the experience. Sometimes literally!

For me, this piece was a joy to work on and a new departure for me as a director. The core Shout! group met as usual on Tuesdays, but the rest of the piece was prepared via individual rehearsals by phone or one-to-one. I created a unique script that was actually a set of instructions and the piece was never actually run until the performance, as not everyone could attend the dress rehearsal. Even on the night, due to access issues with the stairs, two older cast members missed the briefing, so met the others once the play started. This certainly lent an air of spontaneity to the event.

It was like stringing beads on a necklace. I had actually heard all the contributions, but the whole thing hadn't been strung together. This led to real suspense and a feeling of not knowing what might happen next – which meant we all experienced a bit of wartime uncertainty. Only I knew who were cast and who were audience. I had instructed the Air Raid Warden what he had to do and no-one else knew that was going to happen. So, there was genuine surprise in the cast and audience when the siren went off and people were hastily shepherded into the shelter! Like having a real fire drill.

The other spine-tingling moment was Rotraut's retelling of her childhood. She had been an audience member for many of our productions, had been interviewed for *About Her...* and I knew she had an important thread to add to the story of war. Her sharing of her own experiences in Nazi Germany was the most riveting theatrical moment I have ever witnessed.

After Ray said, in his poem about playing amongst the rubble in the post-war London streets, "No-one ever wanted to play the German", I had instructed her to say to him "I am that German" and join in at that point if she felt able. We had created such a sense of wartime unity with the singing of *The White Cliffs of Dover*, it really felt like there was an enemy in our midst. And she clearly felt that too. We had just depicted the horrors of the German wartime atrocities and were all quite raw. But as she started to speak, she seemed to go back in time to the confused 14-year-old she really had been, with no food and no mother and not understanding why it was suddenly wrong to say "Heil Hitler".

Her testimony was incredibly powerful. Only the inner circle knew this was her true story. Some in the audience no doubt felt they were in the presence of an extremely good actress.

Her story was followed by Pat Clarke's memories of the War in Kettering. Pat and Rotraut were the same age and had met through church, and Pat had performed with us before.

The piece was followed by an excellent after-show discussion in true Shout! fashion and I was pleased as someone who is anti-war to have created a piece which allowed us all to re-examine our beliefs about war.

I was actually approached and asked if we would hold an alternative remembrance service for real as the audience were all given poppies and invited to lay them for someone they lost. This had apparently been very moving.

A great success, and a fitting tribute to those who died, including freakily one William Walker – played by...William Walker.

Shout about Stroke: July 2015 – June 2016

July – Dec: research and devising of the first version of *Shout about Stroke*, culminating in a performance to the interviewees.

Jan – May 2016: rewriting and rehearsal of the final script, performing it at Brooke Weston for a mixed audience of stroke survivors and their friends and families, plus professionals in the field from across the region.

June 2016 – viewing and social to watch the film.

The stroke project began as a request from Ann Lovely who had previously used Shout! to help raise awareness of teenage pregnancy for NCC Libraries. The local Stroke Support Group was meeting at the library and was trying to reach more people. After an initial meeting with the regional co-ordinator for the Stroke Association, we were asked to create a piece of theatre that would raise awareness of stroke. I prepared a bid for Awards for All which they agreed to manage financially. We were successful and able to call on Marianne, Sue, Maria and Dawn from the Stroke Association throughout, for expert knowledge as well as admin support.

The project began as usual with interviews and visits. The group in Corby shared lots of their stories, and from the outset we were on a steep learning curve. We also underwent training with Maria, which saw us trying to write backwards in a mirror and put clothes on with one hand, as we learned how we would have to alter our physical behaviour to act convincingly.

We also met with a stroke survivor who had been a physiotherapist, as well as various care assistants to help us understand recovery.

At some point I ended up interviewing Sharon Jones, a young woman who had had a stroke whilst doing her PhD. A mother of five, hers was a great story and not only did it

become the core of the play as we followed the exploits of the “Castle family”, but we also gained an actress as her daughter, 12-year-old Laura, joined us to play herself.

Next, we were joined by Ade and Richard who ran the Kettering Stroke Group where Danielle Skillen, Gary and I also delivered workshops. They originally came to see what we were up to and advise, but ended up helping write it and perform.

We also had two carers join the cast, and Rob Bailey joined us again, along with Richard from Arts Alive and Nick from NAYC who we co-opted in as the Voice of Stroke. As an example of integrated casting, it was remarkable.

We did workshops with students at Tresham who proved the statistic that one in 20 people will be affected by stroke, and as a result they took the session seriously and came up with some excellent ideas. We kept their characterisation of Stroke as a pantomime villain. Wearing a mask which William found on the internet, this character became the epitome of Stroke.

The December version gave us a chance to get feedback from our audience and we changed things accordingly. The *Letters Home* team were the core of this cast, and as the Castle family came alive on stage, it added a wonderfully close family feeling between Dannie as Mum and Gary as Dad with Ruben, William, Edward and Jessica as their children to all our sessions.

Pauline Holman finally joined us to play the doctor, after the part had been played first by Jamaican woman Rose and Polish woman Anna. That had allowed us to explore the status we gave to Jamaican or Polish doctors, and left us quite shocked at unconscious bias.

Sadly, a family member of the cast suffered a stroke during the preparation of the piece which made it all too real and led to some necessary recasting as it was too raw.

Sean joined us on stage for once but was not able to sustain attendance.

The creative process was interesting, with lots of scenes scripted by the folk who improvised them. We were also joined by Clive Parker again, who got the Shout! bug during the *Letters Home* project. He wrote some original songs with some lyrics by Ade Brown.

For once we were keeping the costumes and set really straightforward, so had no tech team, as we also used Pete, the technician from Brooke Weston which had excellent inbuilt technical facilities. We were joined at the last minute by Chelsea who did a grand job of stage managing.

It was a huge achievement to have actual stroke survivors in the cast, and we had a wonderful closing scene, a depiction of the Stroke Support Group, at which point we invited the audience to join us. Maria from the Stroke Association had brought her nine-year-old grandson to watch and he confidently strode onto the set and was immediately taken under Dannie’s wing for the rest of the show.

The performance was memorable. Due to a cancelled coach, the number was less than we had hoped for in the audience, but the script rang true for so many people, which we heard from the audience responses.

A totally worthwhile project, a great learner, and as a final piece I was more than happy that we actually “Gave a Voice” to stroke survivors.

We had a viewing of the video that Andy Eathorne made on the night and that acted as a social too – and I have to say I was tearful as I left the Labour Club that night.

A lot of sessions over a lot of years with a lot of young people. It has fed me as much as helped them grow and learn, and I am very proud of what we achieved.

The tears lasted until I got to the pub where by the end of the night, we had discussed possibilities for the next project and I realised that Shout! would grow and change.

Perhaps this was the end of the weekly Youth Club part – it is becoming increasingly difficult to get people’s attention long enough to achieve anything. But we will find a way to continue to give a voice to people.

2016 – 2018

Director's Report

With no further play in production, we moved onto the next phase of Shout! as a vehicle for community consultation through the arts. The committee supported our first Community Consultation project, using music as the medium.

I had attracted ACE funding for a project called *The Sounds of Home*, which required me to interview people from all over the world who had come to Corby. I then composed a piece of orchestral music which reflected the music of their homelands, and formed an orchestra to perform it in January 2017.

This was a very formal occasion, and we decided that we should try to get funding for a Community Performance, which we did. This allowed me to work with children in schools and musicians from the different communities, and to put on a free concert for the interviewees and their families as a “thank you”. This took place at Brooke Weston, where we had begun to build up excellent links when we performed *Shout about Stroke*.

It was good to have the committee in the audience, and for some of them it was their first orchestral experience.

The other huge event was that the Labour Club closed in May 2017 and we had to empty the Shout! office and find homes for all the sound and lighting equipment we had bought as part of the refurbishment. We managed to bequeath much of it to Mark Walker, who was in the process of setting up a new small theatre in Kettering called Bonkers Playhouse. We look forward to sitting on the Olympic chairs watching a show lit by our flashy LED lights. Sean has the portable lights which he uses for gigs, and Clive has the projector ready should we need it. I have all the costumes, papers and scripts from the office, and the big props like the War Memorial and the Number 3 Bus Stop are with CATS.

It was very emotional leaving the club premises. Annoyingly the auditors stopped me getting our belongings to begin with, and when we finally did get access, they limited what we could take. We were just outside the terms of the WREN contract, so unable to prove that the stuff was ours and not the club's. Then to hear that the new owners didn't want to use it as a hall and theatre, so we could have our fixtures and fittings, was beyond a joke.

The silver lining though was that I realised what a long history we have, and the seeds of our current heritage project were sown during all that moving. Dannie, Gary and I sat at the Saxon Crown one night and wrote down a list of 126 people we could recall having been in Shout! at some point – and remembered 20 plays!

Aware of what a fascinating range of important topics we have explored over the years, and musing about what will have happened to all our members, the new project idea was born: *Shouting for 20 Years!*

The process of looking for funding has begun. I want to bring all the plays and memorabilia into one digital place – probably a website – and also hold a reunion and workshops to revive some old plays. I also want to interview past members to see how Shout! affected their lives, and find out what they are doing now.

It is clear to me that we have played an important role in “Giving People a Voice” over our 20-year history, and that voice needed to be heard. I am immensely proud of what we achieved, and would not have missed it for the world.

Paula Boulton

23 May 2018

