

# Press Release

6.6.07



## **Arts Council England, North West inputs £120,000 to the *Creative Egremont* project**

Arts Council England, North West has recently awarded a grant of £120,000 to the *Creative Egremont* project. Egremont is a historic Norman market town in the centre of the Western Lakes, a deprived area of Cumbria, and this project seeks to enhance the town's ongoing regeneration. *Creative Egremont* comprises a basket of activities and public art projects aimed at energising residents and creating an infrastructure for continuing arts work and more positive outlook for the future as part of the town's ongoing regeneration plan. Details of projects that have taken place and that are being developed can be found on the website – [www.creative-egremont.com](http://www.creative-egremont.com).

Simon Walker, Egremont and Area Regeneration Manager, explained why this arts programme is so important to the town:

“Arts approaches have empowered the local community to feel ownership of the regenerative process and to find new imaginative solutions. The programme provides expertise that will act as a catalyst to encourage enterprise that there is a new role for art in Egremont. I am delighted that Arts

Council England is giving us support on this scale. It means we can bring some major projects to fruition and involve everyone in the community.”

The wide-ranging projects that are part of *Creative Egremont* include:

- young people from Thornhill Village working with an international artist to renovate a vandalised bus shelter
- the return of ‘the greasy pole’ to the annual Crab Fair via a new sculpture by artists Jeremy Deller and Alan Kane
- the creation of a new community radio station, Egremont FM
- a competition for young people to design a new lighting scheme for the town’s historic castle. Jason Hayton from Ehenside School, the recently announced winner, will have the chance to work alongside the lighting consultants and to see elements of his design installed for the annual Egremont Torchlight Parade in November.

The reach and aim of these projects matches several of Arts Council England’s current priorities, namely: to help create vibrant communities across the country; to enable more people to take part in the arts as both audiences and participants; and to enable more children and young people to take part in the arts. Egremont also falls in one of the three geographical areas which Arts Council England, North West has targeted for particular attention in 2006–8 – West Cumbria, East Lancashire and Liverpool, European Capital of Culture 2008.

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## Notes to Editors

1. *Creative Egremont* originates from the Egremont and Area Regeneration Partnership with partners West Lakes Renaissance and Copeland Borough Council. In addition to this year's funding from Arts Council England, North West, the project is funded from the North West Regional Development Agency and West Lakes Renaissance.
2. The grant made to *Creative Egremont* is one of several substantial grants made by Arts Council England, North West's Grants for the arts scheme in recent months. Others include: £120,000 for Blackpool's Regeneration Arts Programme; £69,000 for Blackburn with Darwen Borough Councils: C21 Legacy Project - a contemporary all-Asian art programme; £50,000 for the Hyndburn Arts for Health LIFT Project; £70,00 for Cheshire Year of Gardens '08; £30,000 to the Pathways to Art project in West Cumbria; and £20,500 for Congleton Borough Council's Gypsy Traveller Arts Project.
3. Arts Council England works to get more art to more people in more places. For 2006 to 2008 we have six priorities: taking part in the arts; children and young people; the creative economy; vibrant communities; internationalism; and celebrating diversity.

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**For further information contact:**

Simon Walker, Egremont & Area Regeneration Manager  
Email: [simon.walker@visitegremont.co.uk](mailto:simon.walker@visitegremont.co.uk)

Arts Council England, North West Communications and Press Contact:  
[Marian.blaikley@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:Marian.blaikley@artscouncil.org.uk); 0161 827 9271