

# Stockport2020 – video transcript

Interview Transcript with Lisa Boyer, director of arts organisation ArtyKind.

## **What is Arty Kind?**

It's a small grass roots project that I developed myself because I feel very passionate about helping people through art and craft and what I've been doing is doing art and craft workshops for people that are vulnerable, it could be that they are lonely, or just feel very fed up. The idea is to get people together to combat loneliness within the Stockport area. I was doing workshops before lockdown and I've been trying to carry on that connection during the pandemic.

## **How have you helped people during the pandemic?**

I worked in partnership with Stockport Advocacy and gained some funding so we could send out postal art activity packs which we called the sea and sky project. I've sent them out to 10 people over the pandemic and we've had a really good response. We've managed to send these out for free because of funding from Manchester Airport which has been amazing, and the Stockport Local Fund has also helped

## **Tell us more about the Sea and Sky project**

We named this project Sea and Sky because we felt it was a happy focus really, the fact that you know you're thinking about holidays and times when you are out in nature and I just thought it would be a nice focus. It's good to have some sort of theme going through because it makes more sense and the idea is at the end of our current situation when we can all get back together again, the idea is that we can set an exhibition up with everybody's work so it means they've got something to look forward to.

## **How has the pandemic effected member of your group?**

It's so hard, a lot of the participants suffer with mental health issues, being isolated is very difficult for anybody but if you have a difficulty with your mental health it's even worse so just to try to give them a bit of a boost, something to look forward to.

## **How has the project helped?**

It really has made a big difference, knowing that someone else is thinking of them, because I was really concerned about the group, I didn't want them to feel we had forgotten about them. We need to stick together and its given us a chance for us all to feel connected. It's been great!

## **Have you anything else you'd like to share?**

I do feel that art is a way forward especially in our current situation. Its going to be needed more to help people lift their spirits and help them out of feeling isolated and down. Its something they can focus on.

Anyone can be an artist, give it a go, you've got nothing to lose, you can use anything around the house collage work you can do with different bits of packaging, you don't have to spend a lot of money. Give it a go. It can help. It can focus your mood and give you a lift

## **How can people connect with Arty Kind?**

I've got an Instagram page artykind70, a Facebook page which is @ArtyKind and email directly on [ljbwyer@icoloud.com](mailto:ljbwyer@icoloud.com).