

# DOUBLE R ARTS

England & Wales · Charity number 1165997

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2016-03-11

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Priory Lane Community Centre  
Priory Lane  
Penwortham  
Preston  
PR1 0AR

**Phone** 07749 076499

**Email** [DOUBLERARTSYOUTHTHEATRE@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:DOUBLERARTSYOUTHTHEATRE@OUTLOOK.COM)

**Website** [WWW.DOUBLE-R-ARTS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.DOUBLE-R-ARTS.ORG.UK)

## Activities

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**Objects:** 1. TO ADVANCE EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AMONG CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE PERFORMING ARTS BY THE PROVISION OF WORKSHOPS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN ARTISTIC PERFORMANCES. 2. TO ADVANCE IN LIFE AND HELP YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH: (A) THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES PROVIDED IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIAL WELFARE, DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE; (B) PROVIDING SUPPORT AND ACTIVITIES WHICH DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS, CAPACITIES AND CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY AS MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS.

**Activities:** Double R Arts works with young people across South Ribble aged 7 years and above. It's main aims are to develop the performing arts skills, confidence and interpersonal skills of all those involved, empowering young people to become positive and believe in their own abilities in a safe environment. Develop their skills, grow in confidence & meet new people.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Lancashire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	-	-	-	-
2023-08-31	-	-	-	-
2022-08-31	-	-	-	-
2021-08-31	£7,998	£7,172	-	-
2020-08-31	£12,138	£12,061	-	-
2019-08-31	£14,808	£15,723	-	-
2018-08-31	£13,802	£13,064	-	-
2017-08-31	£13,577	£11,199	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alistair Newsham		2018-11-12
IRENE ELIZABETH MOORE		2011-11-01
James Patten		2019-01-21
MARILYN DEVERILL		2011-11-01
Maria Adamson		2016-11-21
Tim Young		2018-01-29
Tracey Newsham		2018-11-12

**DOUBLE R ARTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1165997

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# Accounts

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# Annual Report 2020 – 2021

Registered Charity Number  
1165997

Contents

Chairperson's Report 4	Pg. 3 -
Co-ordinator's Report 7	Pg. 5 -
Double R Arts Virtual Performances/Events/Recordings 10	Pg. 8 -

Double R Arts Face to Face June/July 2021	Pg. 11
Funders/Fundraising	Pg. 12
Double R Arts Workers	Pg. 13
Our Partners	Pg. 13
List of Trustees	Pg. 14
List of Alumni Members	Pg. 14
List of Funders	Pg. 14

## Chairperson's Report

I was appointed Chairperson of Double R Arts in October 2019, having been involved with the Youth Theatre Group since 2015 and a Trustee of the group for 18 months prior to the appointment.

This report covers the period September 2020 – August 2021 during which time, due to the ongoing restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, there remained considerable changes for Double R Arts. As always, I should like to express the thanks and gratitude of the Trustees for how Beth, Rachel and their fellow workers adapted to the challenges brought about by the pandemic and of course to the young people who, in such difficult times, continued to embrace the work and ethos of Double R Arts.

Double R Arts virtually opened its door for a new academic year in September 2020, being forced due to the pandemic to hold all sessions on a virtual basis via zoom. The group was unable to meet in its 'home', Priory Lane Community Centre, throughout the entirety of the pandemic and workers were only finally able to step back into the premises in April 2021. However, the young people and workers learned quickly how to work virtually and to adapt to the new learning and performing environment they were placed in and created some brilliant and inspiring pieces of work along the way. Regularly Beth would use social media to provide memories of work that the young people had been involved in a year or two years previous which kept very much alive the spirit of Double R Arts. A very poignant piece of work, 'What a Difference a Year Makes', was created and performed by members of the Senior Youth Theatre and explored just how the pandemic had affected them personally. The virtual sessions culminated in a final 'virtual' production in May 2021 which brought to a close an epic 14-month journey that will go down in Double R Arts history as the one that was never meant to happen. As restrictions started to lift, Double R Arts was finally able to celebrate its first face to face session in 15 months in June 2021!

During the course of the difficult times created by the pandemic, all at Double R Arts have continued to operate with the professional, caring, passionate, creative and dedicated manner that they are renowned for. The team has not allowed any of the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic to affect the young people's enjoyment whilst attending virtual sessions and the attitude has continued to be "the show will go on". Evidence of the positive attitude and dedication to hard work is illustrated by the incredible work that has been achieved in the last 12 months, producing a wide range of shows and events throughout what was another very challenging year. The standard of work from both the workers, volunteers and the young people involved continues to be exceptionally high and a great deal has been achieved and celebrated. The young people continue to challenge themselves and have enjoyed participating in every activity, which has shone through greatly at every performance, be it in person or virtually. Their commitment and dedication is

commendable and the underlying ethos of the group to support each other within the “Double R Arts Family” flourishes as always.

We continue in our efforts to increase our funds in order to re-invest in the charity and to enhance our services and delivery. We welcome all fundraising ideas and we are exceptionally grateful for all support.

As the Chairperson, I am filled with confidence and assurance that, over the next twelve months and beyond, Double R Arts will continue to flourish and serve to be a welcoming, inspirational and motivating place for young people in the South Ribble area.

I would like to pay thanks to the Trustees, Co-coordinator, Workers, Volunteers and young people for making Double R Arts such a wonderfully imaginative and enriching haven, which enables young people to shine, build their confidence and feel part of something truly special.

Tracey Newsham

Double R Arts Chairperson

## Co-ordinators Report

Welcome to our sixth annual report that celebrates the fantastic work achieved throughout 2020 - 2021. However, like everyone across the world Double R Arts was still hugely affected by the Covid - 19 pandemic that first started in March 2020, meaning that most of this year was run through virtual sessions and performances.

As we moved into 2021, we also moved into our tenth year, and we did not let the restrictions stop us, as we used our virtual sessions and performances to remember and recreate some of our best moments from the last ten years. Despite the continued challenges that this year brought, we were still able to create some fantastic work, using technology to our advantage and creating some original pieces of work. Including performances focusing on the effects of the pandemic on young people, and how the pandemic has created many more social and economic issues. We were also able to continue to work closely with members of our Alumni, getting them involved in some of the original dramatic pieces, virtual concerts, and performances, which they probably would not have been able to do if we were operating in person.

Despite the many challenges and differing ways of working that this last year has brought us, children and young people continue to be at the heart of our work and their development, engagement and enjoyment is vital to everything we do. This year, again, it has never been more important, as for a large part of the year everything remained 'online' with home schooling and lockdowns, and a child/young person's 'normal' way of life was taken away and any type of engagement had to be done via a screen. Even once lockdowns began to lift, resuming 'normal' life and engagement was often done carefully and slowly, with some restrictions still in place.

At Double R Arts we finally began face to face sessions again in June, but with strict rules in place around hand hygiene and mask wearing, and detailed Covid 19 risk assessments in place. We were lucky as we were able to run most of our sessions outdoors, meaning that we could be slightly more relaxed, but still ensuring we were following any rules and guidance in place. Despite the unusual nature of running sessions outdoors, and still being unable to do many of the things we would normally do, such as singing and dancing, it was still wonderful to see our members face to face after such a long time.

From September to June, we continued to create virtual performances that would still entertain and engage audiences, including a Christmas event 'the Winter Warmer' that included all members of the Double R Arts virtual groups, and some alumni members. In the new year, the D&D and Junior groups created their own original pieces linked to Double R Arts' tenth anniversary, while the Seniors created numerous pieces of work including a satirical piece about the pandemic, and they also recreated the first ever Double R Arts production 'Arctic Roll', but as a pre-recorded film. We also managed a further two 'live' virtual concerts with members of our Senior Youth Theatre, alumni and workers performing, and three alumni members -

Harrison, Rachel and George were involved in a piece about the effects of the pandemic on older young people.

For the final 6 weeks of the year, we finally had our groups back together with the intention of doing a brief outdoor performance for family and friends in July, to signify the end of another unusual year. However, on the day these performances were scheduled, the weather was very bad, and we were unable to perform outdoors, so our end of year performances were closed events with the just the groups and workers indoors.

Double R Arts was originally formed in October 2011 because of very successful youth arts work being carried out across South Ribble for almost 30 years by Ron Blenkinship. He was incredibly passionate about the work and the positive impact it could have on a young person's life, and he believed in the 3 C's - Care, Consideration and Cooperation and these formed the basis and the ethos of all his work in the performing arts. When Ron retired in 2011, a group of his ex-colleagues, young people and parents of young people came together to form Double R Arts, as we all truly believed this work had to continue. When Ron passed away less than 12 months later in July 2012, we decided to carry on the work to continue his legacy and give many more children and young people the opportunities that so many of us had because of Ron.

Ten years later and we are still moving from strength to strength, and despite the challenges of the Covid Pandemic, we still had new members join us while we were working virtually. I am very privileged to be involved with and run such a passionate and creative organisation and I have an amazing team of workers who make it all happen on a weekly basis.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Double R Arts Team for 2020 - 21; who due to Covid did change and alter during the 12 months, with more alumni members coming forward and getting involved as well as workers coming back to run virtual workshops and perform in virtual events.

Stephanie Greer, Cat Morewin, Rachel Cooper, George Parkinson, Harrison Newsham, Ben Seed, Jorge Bradbury, Amy Donnelly, Zack Leigh, Rachel Blenkinship, Maurice Wright, and Angela Blenkinship have all been involved with different groups, performances and events both virtually and in person throughout the year. Their passion, care and creativity allow Double R Arts to operate, giving so many children and young people opportunities that they may not have had.

I would also like to thank the Double R Arts Trustees who have continued to provide excellent support 'behind the scenes' allowing us to continue to operate successfully. They have also had to navigate the challenges that the Covid pandemic has brought us as a charity, and their support these last 12 months has been invaluable. I would also like to thank the organisations that have provided us with funding over the last 12 months enhancing the work that we do, particularly as we have been able to create some interesting pieces of work virtually.

This last year has continued to bring challenges that none of us could have foreseen, particularly the length of time we remained virtual. Yet we knew that stopping Double R Arts was not an option and we had to find a way to continue our work with our wonderful members if we were going to survive. Even though we are not trained counsellors or psychotherapists we believe in supporting the 'whole child' and providing them with a safe and secure space where they can feel and do anything they want to, and we believe we were able to continue to create that space virtually for most of our academic year, finally creating it again in person for our last six weeks.

We know that we cannot solve many of the problems our members, alumni, and families experience, but if we can provide normality and in some cases fun for the member, that can be very important, when going through difficult times, as we all have this year. The need for our work and organisation has become vital for some of our members this year and we have been honoured to be trusted and brought into their lives, making me realise that is it so important we continue to carry on the positive work of Double R Arts. As a small charity, in an ever-changing environment there will always be challenges ahead us, however we will continue to remain strong and resilient, delivering our Double R Arts groups and sessions with the same ethos that we always have done, whether that be in person or online.

Beth Blenkinship

Double R Arts Coordinator

## Double R Arts Virtual Performances/Events/Recordings

### **Hate Crime Awareness Week Films for Progress Housing - October 2020**

Progress Housing approached us during the summer and asked if we would be interested in creating some pre-recorded drama pieces focusing on different themes linked to Hate Crime Awareness Week. During September and October members of our Junior and Senior groups, created several original pieces that were filmed and produced by Double R Arts, but then shared on the social media pages of Double R Arts and Progress Housing. Progress Housing provided funding for us to create these films.

The films were entitled: Acceptance, Don't Judge a Book by its Cover, Validity and Language Barriers.

Eloise Jenkins, our oldest member of the Senior group also recorded 'It Means Beautiful' - a song from the musical 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie', that was used to accompany footage and photos from previous Hate Crime Awareness events.

### **Winter Warmer Event - Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> 2020**

This virtual performance including all active members that have been engaging with Double R Arts through virtual sessions since September 2020. The performance was a mixture of live and pre-recorded pieces that included drama, dance and songs. It was a Christmas themed performance, with the D&D and Junior groups taking on different Christmas related themes, creating light-hearted drama pieces, some which were performed live and some pre-recorded. Members of the Senior groups, some alumni and workers performed different Christmas songs and carols live throughout the performance. This was watched by approximately 70 people, including the Mayor of South Ribble.

### **Alumni Covid Film - February 2021**

In January after moving into the second calendar year of the pandemic, we spoke to some of our alumni members about the social and economic effects that it was having for them, as they were either still at university or recent graduates. Through these conversations we agree that using their experiences to create a piece of film that may support other young people in a similar position, would be a productive and positive use of their experiences. Harrison Newsham, George Parkinson and Rachel Cooper agree to be involved in the film, and the premise was that three questions were asked, all related to the pandemic and lockdowns, and they answered them in two different ways. The first answer to each question was the 'positive' response, and often the answer they felt they would give when asked about their experiences during lockdown. The second answer was the 'negative'

but often more honest answer. The film explored how the lockdown was affecting older young people in different ways and that it is 'okay not to be okay'. Once completed this film was shared across our social media channels and with partner organisations.

### **Alumni Magic Moments Event - Sunday February 21<sup>st</sup> 2021**

We invited our alumni members to take part in a virtual concert that celebrated their favourite Double R Arts moments from the last 10 years. We had eight members involved and they all chose one or two moments from their time with Double R Arts. This was explained to the audience and then clips, audio or photos were shown. They also they performed versions of the songs from previous productions, but often did slightly different versions as they were in their own homes and not on the stage. The alumni members involved in this event were Bridget, Rachel C, George, Louise, Ben, Harrison, Cat and Rachel B. This event was created with funding from the National Lottery Local Connections Fund.

### **'What a Difference a Year Makes' Senior Youth Theatre Covid Film-March 2021**

In January 2021, as we moved into another term of virtual sessions, we began to discuss with our Senior members the many changes that had happened during the previous nine months of the pandemic, and how the unpredictability and often quick changes in legalisation and guidance had caused a lot of anxiety and confusion for the general public. Through these conversations, ideas for a satirical but poignant film piece were formed and our seniors created 'What a Difference a Year Makes', which demonstrated the constant changes during the pandemic since March 2020. We took information, news headlines and personal experiences to create a piece that reflected the previous 12 months. Once completed, this film was shared amongst our social media channels and premiered to the friends and family of the Seniors via a Zoom session.

### **The Fabulous Females and Friends - Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup> 2021**

This virtual concert was led by the Fabulous Females, who are Double R Arts workers and alumni Rachel B, Cat, Rachel C and Katie. They were supported at this virtual concert by other alumni and senior members, including Harrison, George, Gabriel, Eloise and Kate. The theme of this event was 'strong female performers or songwriters', so all songs performed had to have been made famous by either a female performer or writer. This concert was again funded by the National Lottery Local Connections Fund.

### **'We are Revolting Children' D&D Group - Monday May 24<sup>th</sup> 2021**

This virtual performance was a combination of live and recorded pieces by our D&D members. They used the song 'We are Revolting Children' from the musical 'Matilda', which was done by the first D&D group six years previously. They learnt a dance and sang the song, (which was pre-recorded), and they did a number of school-based scenes and some script work linked to Roald Dahl's Matilda. It was a great performance and enjoyed by the friends and family of the group, via zoom.

### **'The Thursday Time Capsule' Junior Youth Theatre Group - Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup> 2021**

This project was begun in March and was run by Double R Arts worker Stephanie Greer. This project was linked to the Double R Arts 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the group were asked to look at memories from the previous 10 years of their own lives, as well as significant moments in history, pop culture and music from the previous 10 years. A movement piece and several drama pieces were created linked to the previous 10 years, which were then linked into the last 10 years of Double R Arts and significant moments during Double R Arts' history. It was quite a complex piece, but worked very well, and allowed us to create our own 'Double R Arts virtual time capsule' with this group. Again, it was a combination of live and pre-recorded pieces that were put together as one virtual performance and shown to family and friends via zoom. This project was run with funding from Community Foundations.

### **'Arctic Roll' Senior Youth Theatre Group - Monday May 24<sup>th</sup> 2021**

'Arctic Roll' was the first piece performed by Double R Arts in July 2012. It was an original piece written by a previous Double R Arts worker, and performed by the first Senior youth theatre, on stage to a live audience. It was performed again as the open piece during 60460, Double R Arts' 24-hour performathon that took place in March 2013. As we were in our 10<sup>th</sup> year, we felt that with some adaptation 'Arctic Roll' could be created as a filmed piece over Zoom, and still work well. The Seniors took the original script and adapted it so that it worked in a virtual environment. They worked for several weeks to create the performance and it was decided to film the different scenes separately and then for it to be edited together. The final piece was 'premiered' to the audience via Zoom, followed by a discussion with the cast and bloopers. It was a great way to finish the virtual sessions, and still link into Double R Arts' 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## **Double R Arts Face to Face sessions June - July 2021**

As restrictions began to lift, the Double R Arts workers and Trustees took the decision that we would carefully return to face to face sessions in June 2021. These sessions were carefully planned, with detailed covid risk assessments carried out before sessions began. Members' families/guardians were contacted and they had to register their child/young person's involvement in the sessions in advance. Strict procedures were in place regarding mask wearing and hand sanitizing. We ensured no workers crossed over between the groups, and cleaning regimes were brought in before and after all sessions. Due to good weather most of the sessions were able to be run outdoors in the caged area at the community centre, and this meant a little more freedom regarding the activities run.

Due to the rules and guidance in place at the time, we were unable to do any singing or dance sessions, so all groups did drama games and exercises, creating short scenes and scenarios. The 'check in 'that we did with all members at the start of virtual sessions continued, as we believed this was important, even as some sort of normality was resuming.

We did plan to do an outdoor performance/presentation event at the end of academic year in July for family and friends. However, the weather was very bad on the day that we had chosen for this, and it had to be cancelled at the last minute. All members still received their certificates, at a closed event with just members and workers, and the 'RON' award was presented to leaving member Eloise Jenkins.

## **Funding/Fundraising**

It was very important that parents/guardians did not feel pressured to pay the termly subscriptions during as virtual sessions, as we were acutely aware that the pandemic had affected peoples social and economic circumstances. Therefore. we gave the option to pay if parents/guardians wanted and were able to.

We also began a crowdfunding page, which was shared during all virtual concerts and events, and overwhelmingly this page raised over £1500 during virtual events. The was a fantastic amount of money and more than we could have anticipated., which all was reinvested into Double R Arts.

Successful funding was also granted from Progress Housing for the Hate Crime Awareness Project and the Lancashire and Merseyside Community Foundations Fund. The funding from this organisation supported all virtual sessions, allowing for workers and materials to be paid for.

We also received funding from the National Lottery Local Connections Fund, which was used for the Alumni and Fabulous Females concerts and allowed us to purchase a new Double R Arts laptop.

## Double R Arts Workers 2020 - 2021

Beth Blenkinship	Double R Arts Co-ordinator and worker on all Virtual Sessions.
Rachel Blenkinship	Senior Youth Theatre Lead Worker, Junior Youth Theatre and D&D Support Worker. Worker on Senior Youth Theatre, D&D, Junior Youth Theatre Virtual Sessions.
Amy Donnelly	Junior Youth Theatre Lead Worker and Senior Youth Theatre Support Worker on Virtual Sessions
Zack Leigh	D&D Lead Worker
Maurice Wright	Senior Youth Theatre Support
Molly Wyatt	D&D Support Worker on Virtual Sessions
George Parkinson	Senior Youth Theatre and Junior Youth Theatre Support Worker on Virtual Sessions
Rachel Cooper	Senior Youth Theatre support worker on Virtual Sessions
Cat Morewin	Senior Youth Theatre support worker on Virtual Sessions
Jorge Bradbury	Double R Arts IT and Technical Support

## Our Partners 2020 - 2021

Steve Caswell, Marie Curran, Councillors - Penwortham Town Council

Shaun Bradbury and Jorge Bradbury - Wrennalls

Samantha Beattie - Progress Housing Group

## **Double R Arts Trustees 2020 - 2021**

Tracey Newsham Chairperson

Maria Adamson Secretary

Marilyn Deverill Treasurer

Irene Moore

Alistair Newsham

Jim Patten

Tim Young

## **Double R Arts Alumni Members involved in 2020 - 2021**

Harrison Newsham

George Parkinson

Ben Seed

Rachel Cooper

Louise Champness

Bridget Flynn

Lois Hunt

Agnes Roberts

Lottie Wyatt

## **Funders in 2020 - 2021**

Lancashire and Merseyside Community Foundations Fund

The National Lottery Local Connections Fund

Progress Housing Group



**DOUBLE R ARTS**

Accounts to 31 August 2021

**INCOME**

	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2018/2019</b>
Subs	2195.00		
Penwortham Subs	0.00	4392.32	3443.00
D & D subs	0.00	892.65	1751.00
Summer subs	0.00	120.00	2325.95
Performances	0.00	4139.32	5401.48
Misc income	0.00	258.90	951.25
Sponsor	4468.17	2084.75	420.00
Donations	1334.40	377.80	513.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7997.57	12265.74	14805.68
	-7172.09	-12461.40	-15722.81
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	825.48	-195.66	-917.13

**EXPENDITURE**

	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2018/2019</b>
Insurance	402.92	402.92	345.88
Equipment	834.27	235.86	572.64
Rent	200.40	1692.50	2140.00
Training	72.00		
Publicity		305.89	738.9
Show expenses		1172.47	2807.52
Gala Festival/'Live'	18.03	0.00	67.26
Penwortham Professional fees	5119.40	2570.40	2383.28
Staff travel Pen	306.16	2235.44	3376.76
Summer Professional fees		660.00	1660.00
Summer Expenses		0.00	984.11
Sundry expenses	218.91	542.35	646.46
Donation from Christmas Show		2643.57	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7172.09	12461.40	15722.81

Reviewed by T Taylor 28/6/22

**DOUBLE R ARTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1165997

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# Accounts

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**Annual Report**  
**2019 – 2020**

**Registered Charity Number**  
**1165997**

## **Contents**

Chairperson's Report	Pg. 3 - 4
Co-ordinator's Report	Pg. 5 - 7
Double R Arts Pre-Pandemic	Pg. 8 - 11
Double R Arts response to the Covid Pandemic	Pg. 12 - 15
Double R Arts Workers	Pg. 16
Our Partners	Pg. 17
List of Alumni Members	Pg. 17
List of Trustees	Pg. 17
List of Funders	Pg. 17

## Chairperson's Report

I was appointed Chairperson of Double R Arts in October 2019, having been involved with the Youth Theatre Group since 2015 and a Trustee of the group for 18 months prior to the appointment.

This report covers the period September 2019 – August 2020 during which time, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there were considerable changes for Double R Arts. At this point I should like to express the thanks and gratitude of the Trustees for how Beth, Rachel and their fellow workers adapted to the challenges brought about by the pandemic and of course to the young people who, in such difficult times, continued to embrace the work and ethos of Double R Arts.



Prior to the pandemic, Double R Arts fulfilled one of its greatest achievements – to put on a huge Christmas spectacular, the Christmas Express, at a local high school, All Hallows Catholic High School, in conjunction with Penwortham based dance school, PM Dance Club. The show was hugely successful with sell out performances and achieved what it set out to do – raise invaluable funds for a local

hospice, St Catherine's' Hospice Lostock Hall, in memory of the late father of three young members of the dance school and Double R Arts. The tribute paid to this gentleman by this show was truly outstanding.

Our last senior show, Never Said Goodbye, equally played out to full audiences and was the final opportunity for a number of our seniors to perform together. It was also our last show before Double R Arts was forced to close down its face-to-face sessions due to the pandemic in March 2020. But never one to be defeated by challenges, Double R Arts took up the mantle of continuing to inspire its young people via holding virtual sessions on a weekly basis and, through this, produced various concerts online, including an end of year performance and a virtual PAWW event in August 2020.

During the course of the difficult times created by the pandemic, all at Double R Arts have continued to operate with the professional, caring, passionate, creative and dedicated manner that they are renowned for. The team has not allowed any of the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic to affect the young people's enjoyment whilst attending virtual sessions and the attitude has continued to be "the show will go on". Evidence of the positive attitude and dedication to hard work is illustrated by the incredible work that has been achieved in the last 12 months,





producing a wide range of shows and events throughout what has been a very challenging year. The standard of work from both the workers, volunteers and the young people involved continues to be exceptionally high and a great deal has been achieved and celebrated. The young people continue to challenge themselves and have enjoyed participating in every activity, which has shone through greatly at

every performance, be it in person or virtually. Their commitment and dedication is commendable and the underlying ethos of the group to support each other within the “Double R Arts Family” flourishes as always.

We continue in our efforts to increase our funds in order to re-invest in the charity and to enhance our services and delivery. We welcome all fundraising ideas and we are exceptionally grateful for all support.

As the Chairperson, I am filled with confidence and assurance that, over the next twelve months and beyond, Double R Arts will continue to flourish and serve to be a welcoming, inspirational and motivating place for young people in the South Ribble area.

I would like to pay thanks to the Trustees, Coordinator, Workers, Volunteers and young people for making Double R Arts such a wonderfully imaginative and enriching haven, which enables young people to shine, build their confidence and feel part of something truly special.

Tracey Newsham

Double R Arts Chairperson

**DOUBLE R ARTS SENIOR YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS**

**NEVER SAID GOODBYE**

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20TH 7.30PM  
 FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 7.30PM  
 SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22ND 2.30PM AND 7.30PM

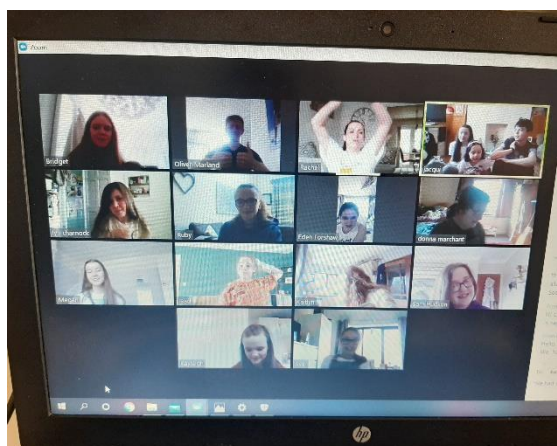
ADULTS: £7 YOUNG PEOPLE (16 AND UNDER): £4

THE  
 PRIORY LANE COMMUNITY CENTRE, PRIORY LANE, PENWORTHAM, PR1 0AR  
NOT SUITABLE FOR UNDER 7'S. PARENTAL GUIDANCE ADVISED DUE TO SWEARING  
 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO BOOK TICKETS

Double R Arts T: 07749 076499  
 E: DOUBLERARTSYOUTHTHEATRE@OUTLOOK.COM  
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1165997

PENWORTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

## Co-ordinators Report



Welcome to our fifth annual report that celebrates the fantastic work achieved throughout 2019 – 2020. However, like everyone across the world Double R Arts was hugely affected by the Covid – 19 pandemic that first started in March 2020 and even as I write this, we still are dealing with the effects as we move into our 10<sup>th</sup> year. Despite the challenges that 2020 brought, we were still able to create some fantastic work, discovering that virtual technology allowed us to run sessions and create ‘live’ performances

through computer and phone screens. ‘Learning as you go’ was definitely the theme for the first part of 2020. Before the pandemic started, we were incredibly lucky that our Seniors got to perform their annual production in February 2020, ‘Never Said Goodbye’ and in December 2019 we did the ‘Christmas Express’ – two Christmas concerts, performed at All Hallows Catholic High School in aid of St Catherine’s Hospice. We also managed two concerts at Penwortham Town Council’s latest building ‘The Venue’, one of these concerts were performed by our Senior members and the other with a small group of our alumni.

Despite the many challenges and differing ways of working that this last year has brought us, children and young people continue to be at the heart of our work and their development, engagement and enjoyment is vital to everything we do. This has never been more important this year as everything for children and young people went ‘online’. With home schooling and lockdowns, their ‘normal’ way of life was taken away and any type of engagement had to be done via a screen. We became aware of the huge impact this was having on our members as we began to bring in weekly catch ups where at the start of every virtual session we would speak in depth to each member on the virtual call about their week and how they were feeling. Sometimes these conversations took the whole session, but as workers and those who cared about the impact the lockdowns were having on our young members mental health, we knew this was time well spent. Unfortunately, we did lose regular contact with some members and workers as they were not comfortable with the virtual sessions, but we did maintain some contact through emails, texts, and occasional phone calls.

We also kept in regular contact with our alumni members, many of whom were struggling with changes to university courses and struggling to find work as they left university during the pandemic. Ironically despite us all being in separate rooms, sometimes in different areas of the country, I believe that the Covid pandemic did bring us closer together,



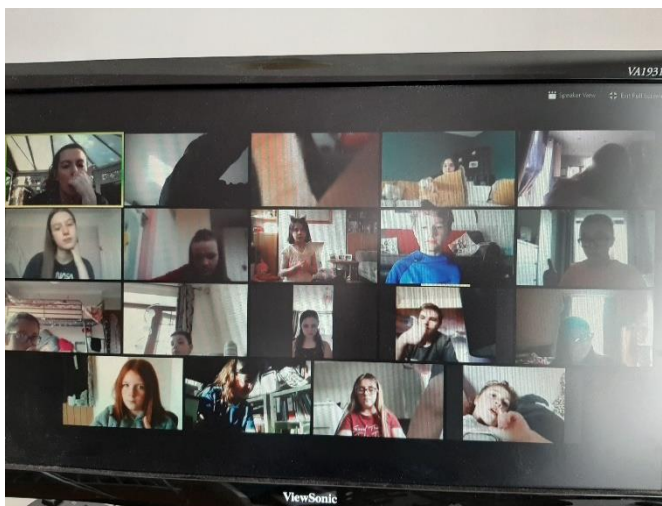
as we found that members from across groups supported each other through virtual sessions, performances and conversations.

During the last six months of the year and during the pandemic we worked hard to create virtual performances that would still entertain and engage audiences, and we managed three 'live' virtual concerts with members of our Senior Youth Theatre, alumni and workers performing. We also created virtual end of year shows for all three



groups – D&D, Junior and Senior Youth Theatre, which allowed us to say goodbye to the seven members of the Senior Youth Theatre leaving us in 2020. Bridget, Agnes, Gabriel, Lois and Chloe were all original members of our first Junior Youth Theatre in 2013, while Lottie and Reilly joined us a year later and Sara joined us as a technician in 2018. Luckily they did all get to perform in their final show 'Never Said Goodbye' in February 2020, however we still wanted to make their last virtual event with us special. We ended the year with a virtual P.A.W.W. (Performing Arts Workshop Week), which again was done fully using Zoom, and despite being a challenging piece of work it was great fun and involved pre recorded scenes, live vocal performances and fantastic characterisation from the members involved.

Double R Arts was originally formed in October 2011 as a result of very successful youth arts work being carried out across South Ribble for almost 30 years by Ron Blenkinship. He was incredibly passionate about the work and the positive impact it could have on a young person's life and he believed in the 3 C's - Care, Consideration and Cooperation and these formed the basis and the ethos of all of his work in the performing arts. When Ron decided to retire in 2011, a group of his ex-colleagues, young people and parents of young people came together to form Double R Arts, as we all truly believed this work had to continue. When Ron passed away less than 12 months later in July 2012, we decided to carry on the work to continue his legacy and give many more children and young people the opportunities that so many of us had because of Ron.



Nine years later and we are still moving from strength to strength, and despite the challenges of the Covid Pandemic, we still had new members join us while we were working virtually. I am very privileged to be involved with and run such a passionate and creative organisation and I have an amazing team of workers who make it all happen on a weekly basis. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Double R Arts Team for 2019 - 20; who due to Covid did change and alter during the



12 months, with more alumni members coming forward and getting involved as well as workers coming back to run virtual workshops and perform in virtual events. Stephanie Greer, Cat Morewin, Rachel Cooper, George Parkinson, Harrison Newsham, Oliver Marland, Ben Seed, Molly Wyatt, Bridget Flynn, Jorge Bradbury, Katie Stokes, Amy Donnelly, Zack Leigh, Rachel Blenkinship, Maurice Wright and

Angela Blenkinship who have all been involved with different groups, performances and events both in person and virtually throughout the year. Their passion, care and creativity allow Double R Arts to operate and give so many children and young people opportunities that they may not have had.

I would also like to thank the Double R Arts Trustees who have continued to provide excellent support 'behind the scenes' allowing us to continue to operate successfully. They have also had to navigate the challenges that the Covid pandemic has brought us as a charity and their support these last 12 months has been incredible. I would also like to thank the organisations that have provided us with funding over the last 12 months enhancing the work that we do, particularly as we have been able to create some really interesting pieces of work virtually.

This last year has brought unprecedented challenges that none of us could have foreseen, yet we knew that stopping Double R Arts was not an option and we had to find a way to continue our work with our wonderful members if we were going to survive. Even though we are not trained counsellors or psychotherapists we believe in supporting the 'whole child' and providing them with a safe and secure space where they can feel and do anything they want to, and we believe we were able to create that space virtually for the last six months of our year. We know that we cannot solve many of the problems our members, alumni, and families experience, but if we can provide normality and in some cases fun for the member, that can be very important, when going through difficult times, as we all have this year. The need for our work and organisation has become vital for some of our members and we have been honoured to be trusted and brought into their lives, making me realise that it is so important we continue to carry on the positive work of Double R Arts. As a small charity, in an ever-changing environment there will always be challenges ahead of us, however we will continue to remain strong and resilient, delivering our Double R Arts groups and sessions with the same ethos that we always have done, whether that be in person or online.

Beth Blenkinship

Double R Arts Coordinator



## Double R Arts Pre-Pandemic (September 2019 – March 2020)

As we moved into our ninth year, we were engaging with over 70 children and young people on a weekly basis across all four groups (Monday and Tuesday D&D, Junior Youth Theatre and Senior Youth Theatre). We welcomed new members into the D&D groups after a successful D&D PAWS course and had a number of members move from Junior into Senior, so each group spent a number of weeks rebalancing and finding their strengths again, as this is really important at the start of any new academic year.



After the success of ‘the Christmas Spectacular’ at All Hallows in December 2018, we decided that we wanted to do a similar event again, but this time it would be for charity, raising funds for St Catherine’s Hospice, in memory of Chris Martin, the father of three of our members, who sadly passed away in May 2019. Working with PM Dance (a dance group that operates from the same building as us and has all three members involved as well), we put together

the ‘Christmas Express’ that was performed in December 2019 at All Hallows Catholic High School. The event saw audiences of over 300 people come together to watch over 100 children and young people perform a variety of Christmas songs and sketches, while raising money for a great local charity. Through ticket sales, raffles, and refreshments we raised over £2600 for St Catherine’s Hospice, and we managed to do the cheque presentation just before we had to close due to Covid.

As usual we performed at Penwortham Christmas markets with members of the Junior Youth Theatre singing carols at both the Priory Lane Centre and outside the Venue. However, this year we worked with local businessman Michael Bailey, as four of our Senior members, Darcy, Rose, Elise and Evie, along with alumni member Oliver Marland, took on the roles of ‘Santa’s Elves’ to accompany his Santa Claus. As Michael Bailey wanted to do this for charity, he didn’t charge for children to see Santa Claus and gave any donations made from the event back to Double R Arts. This was a fantastic opportunity for Double R Arts and a very generous offer from Michael Bailey, which we continue to be grateful for.



We also had the opportunity to perform at Penwortham Arts Centre ‘The Venue’, which has been recently taken over by Penwortham Town Council, having previously been run by Lancashire County Council as the local library. ‘The Venue’ was a very different performing space to the Arts Base at the Priory Lane Centre, providing a more intimate



setting, meaning that performers were much closer to the audience than being on the stage. In November 2019, a group of our Senior members became the first group of Double R Arts members to perform there, revisiting songs and scenes from previous productions and events. It was a great opportunity for our members to perform in a different space, that was more relaxed, intimate and

stripped back. The audience of family and friends really enjoyed this different event and we planned to do more in the future.

In January 2020 a group of our Alumni members' performed in 'The Venue' as well, as a fundraiser for Double R Arts. Alumni members Rachel Cooper, Harrison Newsham, Oliver Marland, Louise Champness, Rachel Eaton, Molly Wyatt and Ben Seed, all performed their favourite moments from previous productions they had been in and some new songs chosen specifically for the event. It was compared by Double R Arts worker Cat Morewin, who also performed. Again this was a great event and further Double R Arts events were planned with 'The Venue' to have a regular performing slot.

Fortunately before we had to close due to the Covid pandemic we were able to create and produce our Senior Youth Theatre show 'Never Said Goodbye' and this one was very significant as it would be the final performance from five of our original Junior Youth Theatre members that had joined us in 2013. Again in September 2019, further changes came in the Senior group as three members had left, including our two most senior and experienced males Oliver and Harrison. However six very strong performers graduated from Junior Youth Theatre into Senior, creating another very strong youth theatre group in terms of ability, dedication and commitment.



In March 2019, the Senior Youth Theatre had performed 'The Show Must Go On' a musical adaptation of King Lear. This was another very dark piece, after the joy of 'Raise Your Voice' in 2018, yet the group had yet again risen to the challenge superbly. Therefore, this year we wanted to change the tone completely and Rachel Blenkinship (Senior Youth Theatre lead worker) created a piece based around the 'Hollywood and Broadway' era taking inspiration from musicals such as Follies, Company, Sunset Boulevard and A Chorus Line. Since we had



such a naturally talented cast, with both fantastic vocal, dramatic and movement ability – the challenge was to create something that would allow all members to have their ‘moment’ particularly the seven that would be leaving later that year.

‘Never Said Goodbye’ followed the story of nine characters who reunited after many years as their beloved theatre where they all started their

careers was to be closed down. However, through a series of flashbacks the audience would be able to see how their characters developed and the reasons why their relationships were as they were, in the present. Rachel created a story where there were two versions of the characters ‘currents and pasties’ and older members would take on the older ‘currents’ roles and the younger members of the group would take on the ‘pasties’ roles. Even though the two actors would never meet on stage in scenes, the different versions had to work together to ensure that characterisation carried through in both portrayals of the character. This piece was complicated due to the intertwining storylines and the importance to ensure that everything made sense to the audience. Again we also challenged our members with some large scale musical numbers, which were often created to be performed by characters older than themselves, yet they all portrayed their characters and created performances that were sensitive and mature, with the musical numbers enhancing their stories.



Due to the scale of the show many of our Double R Arts workers became involved in different elements, under the direction of Rachel. We also had Senior Youth Theatre members Lottie Wyatt and Agnes Roberts design and paint the set and design the publicity, for the final time before they would leave us later in the year.

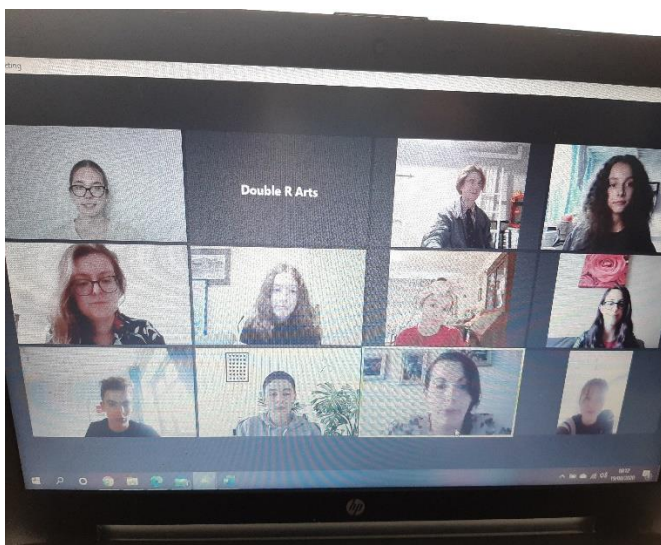


The production was performed in February 2020 for four performances. ‘Never Said Goodbye’ was the Senior Youth Theatre’s main performance this year, and without us realising it at the time, became our last ‘live’ performance with an audience for many months to come.



## Double R Arts response to the Covid Pandemic (March 2020 – August 2020)

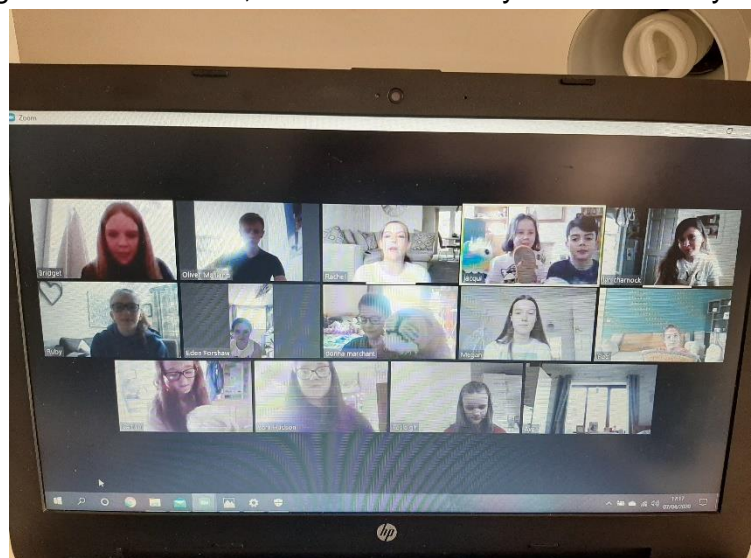
When the Covid Pandemic meant that we had to stop and face-to-face sessions, we knew that we had find ways of maintaining contact and a connection with our members. As the use of virtual technology became more common in the early weeks of the lockdown, we tested different video platforms, including Skype, Microsoft teams and Zoom to find the best way we could connect with our members, engage and create elements of performance. Zoom became our platform of choice, and the trustees agreed to pay for a monthly subscription, as it gave us more options within the platform, such as breakout rooms and the option to record work being done. The 'paid' version also gave us many more security options when working with our members, so that we could make the virtual sessions as 'safe' a possible while working remotely.



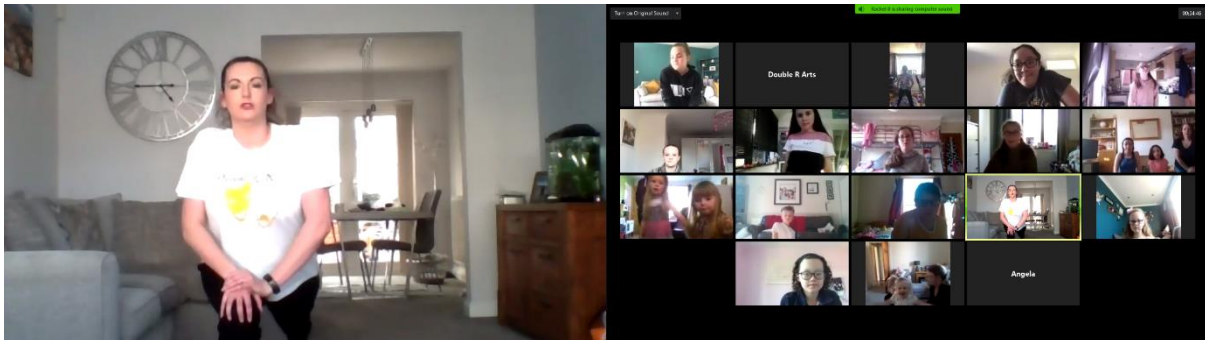
We began virtual sessions in April 2020 and these ran until May 2021. After combining some of our groups for the first few weeks, as the number of children and young people engaging with us grew, we reverted to our usual D&D, Junior and Senior groups, running weekly sessions on Monday and Tuesday evenings via Zoom. We got a regular group of children and young people engaging with us weekly, with other members dropping in and out of sessions, depending on how they were feeling on that day. Therefore, it was important that the Zoom link was sent

to all families each week, so that members always had the option to join us if they wanted to.

Initially we began using the sessions as an opportunity for our members to talk to us about how they were feeling, and how home schooling was going. We asked every member to tell us one positive thing about their week, and this could vary from what they had watched, or if they had managed to see a friend (virtually and then in person when allowed). These discussions would often spark other conversations and as workers we really felt that we were finding even more out about our members, as we had the time 'chat' which didn't always happen when working towards a production or event. We



began to adapt different drama games and activities that we found worked on Zoom, and the members became more and more used to working on the platform with their confidence growing week on week. We found that members who can sometimes struggle within a larger group setting were more confident on Zoom, which was a fantastic outcome for us, and as we became more confident and comfortable with the platform, we were able to challenge our members more regarding their performances and scenes that they were able to create, despite all being in different locations. Watching our members embrace the changes was very rewarding as we knew that by making things work virtually we would be able to find a way to keep Double R Arts going throughout the lockdowns and pandemic.



At a request from some of our younger members, we also began to run a weekly 'Dance Time' sessions where our worker Rachel, would teach the participants a new dance Routine each week. These were really popular, and we had members from all groups joining in (as well as some parents occasionally). We ran this session on a Friday afternoon, as it was always a great way to start the weekend.

Quite early in the first lockdown we also started to experiment with options for 'live performances' via Zoom. We quickly realised that choral and group singing was not an option due to the delay, however that soloists could perform to backing tracks or play instruments and this could be viewed and heard by an audience on Zoom. We realised this was definitely a way to be able to keep performing and keep connected with our wider Double R Arts family, our members and our wider network of supporters.



During the first lockdown between March 2020 and July 2020 we devised and performed three virtual concerts: Double R Arts Live Virtual Concert in April 2020, Sunday Chilling at the Movies with Double R Arts in May 2020 and the Double R Arts Disney Concert in June 2020. At each of these concerts current Double R Arts members, alumni members and workers performed a range of songs, related to the theme. Initially they were a new challenge from a technical perspective, but it was wonderful that we could still bring 'live performances' (albeit through a screen) to our audiences. The other great thing was the engagement from our alumni members and due to that we had members performing from their homes in South Ribble and Preston, but also from their university accommodations ranging from Durham to London.



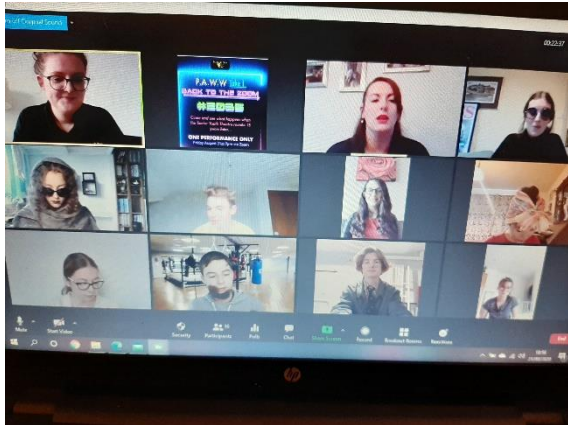
We were also able to use these concerts as a form of fundraising for Double R Arts, as all our other income streams had come to a stop due to the pandemic. We also were not charging a subscription fee for the sessions and doing it on a 'pay what you can afford' basis. However, as we still had some expenditure, we created a crowdfunding page and asked family and friends to donate throughout the concerts, and the other virtual performances as well. We also supported our alumni member Harrison Newsham, with a virtual concert he did for a charity - COCO (Comrades of Children Overseas) as we supported him technically and with several performers for his afternoon and evening virtual concert. Harrison kindly allowed us to use this event as well as a fundraising opportunity for Double R Arts allowing us to increase our crown funding total during that event. Through the different virtual events between April and July 2020 we raised just under £1000 through crowdfunding which was a testament to the work created by our members during such strange times.

It was through creating these concerts that we also made a small amendment to our logo, by adding the hashtag #keepconnectedkeepperformingkeepsmling. This became a tag line throughout the lockdown and all our virtual sessions and work, as these became our main aims for our members and our wider Double R Arts families.

With success of the concerts, we decided to try and do virtual 'end of year shows' combining elements of live and recorded performances, while still doing our traditional certificate presentations. Calling these shows 'Marking the Moments' we sent all our members certificates in the post prior to the virtual event, so that when they were 'presented' with their certificates they could hold them up to the screen for the audience to see. These performances worked really well, and with the D&D and Junior groups we were able to see some of their performances from the 'Christmas Express' and some new live and recorded scenes that they had worked on via Zoom in the weekly sessions. It was very important that celebrated our Senior members as well, since seven members were graduating in July 2020. Luckily the Seniors had been able to perform their final show before the lockdown, however it was still hard to not be able to celebrate with our members in person as we had done for so many years. However, we were able to create video montages for each member that were shown as a dedication to them during the event before they were also 'presented' with their certificates. Despite it being a very different 'end of year presentation' it was very special and will be remembered in Double R Arts' history.

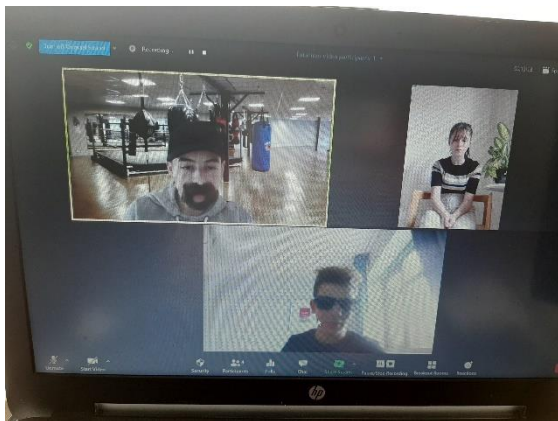
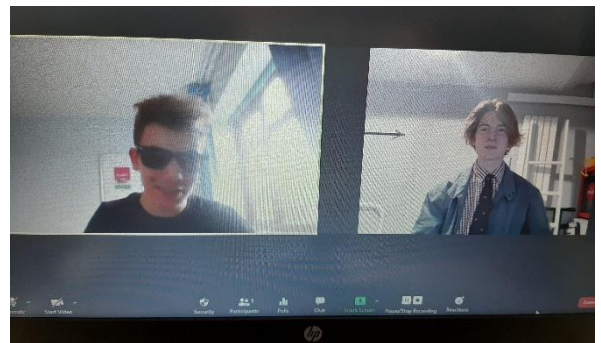
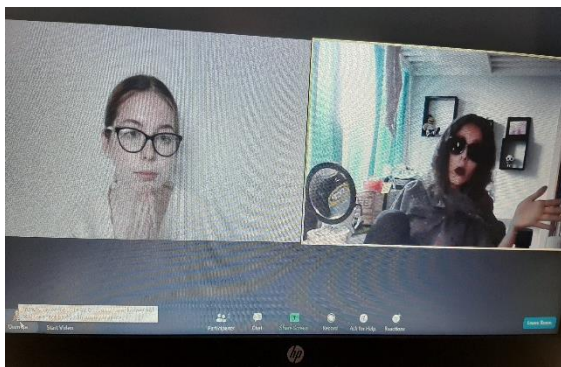



Our PAWW (Performing Arts Workshop Week) usually ends our year, with two courses being run for our younger and older members. Despite restrictions being lifted in July 2020, we decided it was still safer to attempt a virtual P.A.W.W. inviting members of our



Junior and Senior group to engage with us daily across a week, while we created a original piece, with a full story, scenes and musical performances. PAWW Take 1 – Back to the Zoom 2035, had nine members engaged. In the piece set 15 years in the future, they all played older versions of themselves and created a ‘fake future’. The piece looked at them reuniting and how the way they had changed over the years affected their relationships. It was a brilliant piece and the group worked really hard to

create characters, stories and scenes – while all in separate homes – that still made sense, flowed, and gave dramatic and comic moments. It was a great achievement and great way to end a very unusual year for Double R Arts.





## P.A.W.W Take 1

# BACK TO THE ZOOM


# #2035

*Come and see what happens when the Senior Youth Theatre reunite 15 years later...*

**ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY**  
Friday August 22nd 7pm via Zoom

Just email  
[doublersartsyouththeatre@outlook.com](mailto:doublersartsyouththeatre@outlook.com) or  
 direct message the Double R Arts Facebook page and you will be sent the Zoom link!

#KeepConnectedKeepPerformingKeepSmiling



Registered charity no. 1165997

## **Double R Arts Workers 2019 - 2020**

Beth Blenkinship	Double R Arts Co-ordinator, Senior Youth Theatre Lead Worker, D&D Lead Worker (Monday and Tuesday) Coordinator and worker on all Virtual Sessions
Rachel Blenkinship	Senior Youth Theatre Lead Worker, Junior Youth Theatre and D&D Support Worker. Worker on Senior Youth Theatre, D&D, Junior Youth Theatre and Dance Time Virtual Sessions.
Amy Donnelly	Senior Youth Theatre Support Worker, Junior Youth Theatre Lead Worker and Senior Youth Theatre Support Worker on Virtual Sessions
Zack Leigh	D&D Lead Worker (Monday and Tuesday), Junior Youth Theatre Worker
Kate Stokes	Junior Youth Theatre Lead Worker
Maurice Wright	Junior Youth Theatre Worker and Senior Youth Theatre Support
Molly Wyatt	D&D Support Worker on Virtual Sessions
George Parkinson	Senior Youth Theatre and Junior Youth Theatre Support Worker on Virtual Sessions
Rachel Cooper	Senior Youth Theatre support worker on Virtual Sessions
Cat Morewin	Senior Youth Theatre support worker on Virtual Sessions
Jorge Bradbury	Double R Arts IT ad Technical Support

## **Our Partners 2019 - 2020**

Steve Caswell, Marie Curran, Councillors - Penwortham Town Council

Suzanne Simpson, South Ribble Borough Council

Richard Adamson and the staff – All Hallows Catholic High School

Shaun Bradbury and Jorge Bradbury – Wrennalls

Samantha Beattie – Progress Housing Group

## **Double R Arts Trustees 2019 - 2020**

Tracey Newsham      Chairperson

Maria Adamson      Secretary

Marilyn Deverill      Treasurer

Irene Moore

Alistair Newsham

Jim Patten

Tim Young

## **Double R Arts Alumni Members involved in 2019 - 2020**

Harrison Newsham

Oliver Marland

George Parkinson

Ben Seed

Rachel Cooper

Louise Champness

Rachel Eaton

## **Funders in 2019 - 2020**

South Ribble Borough Council

Michael Bailey - Keller Williams Estate Agents

Tesco Bags for Life Covid 19 Fund

Progress Housing Group



## DOUBLE R ARTS

Accounts to 31 August 2020

### INCOME

	2019/20	2018/2019
Subscriptions	5157.47	3443.00
		1753.00
Summer subs	120.00	2325.95
Performances	4139.32	5401.48
Misc income	258.90	951.25
Sponsor	2084.75	420.00
Donations	377.80	513.00

12138.24	14807.68
-12061.00	-15722.81
<u>77.24</u>	<u>-915.13</u>

### EXPENDITURE

	2019/20	2018/2019
Insurance	402.92	345.88
Equipment	235.86	572.64
Rent	1692.50	2140.00
Publicity	305.89	738.90
Show expenses	1172.47	2807.52
Gala Festival/'Live'	0.00	67.26
Penwortham Professional fees	2570.40	2383.28
Staff travel Pen	2235.04	3376.76
Summer Professional fees	660.00	1660.00
Summer Expenses		984.11
Sundry expenses	542.35	646.46
Donation from Christmas Show	2243.57	

12061.00	15722.81
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