



# Annual Report 2011/12



# So, what is it?

Cre8 is an independent charity based on the Moss Estate in Macclesfield. It is governed by a board of experienced Trustees, some of whom are connected to St Barnabas Church on the estate.

Cre8 provides projects and activities and also works towards empowering young people and adults in the local area to make change happen for themselves and also for their neighbourhood.

Cre8 has a full time Director who is a qualified youth and community worker and also an ordained minister in the Church of England. The Cre8 programme is staffed by a small team of full and part time professionally qualified workers. The staff are heavily supported in their work by volunteers, some of whom live on the Estate and others are drawn from the wider community and Churches in the town. Cre8 also employs several students, trainees and apprentices in development posts which is a key part of Cre8's work.

Almost all the workers live on the estate and this provides Cre8 with a unique point of engagement with access into the neighbourhood and the families living here.

The Cre8 Youth and Community Programme is made up of:

- Cre8 Macclesfield Ltd (the Charity)
- Cre8 Works Ltd (the business - a social enterprise)



# The Cre8 Youth and Community Programme: making change happen

This year, it suddenly seems as though some of the things that I've been talking about are actually happening, which is both a relief and an encouragement.

A few years after starting Cre8 I said that we were hoping to have volunteers from the estate involved in what we were doing. I knew that was what needed to happen, but to be honest I struggled to imagine it. As our minibus was being car-jacked, our sheds broken into, bricks thrown through windows, and we were calling the police out to Clubs to get people down of the Church roof - I was saying (and trying excruciatingly hard to imagine) that one day these people would help us to run Cre8. Well now it's starting to happen.

Many of the young people and young adults helping us now at Cre8 have had some pretty unpleasant things happen in their lives, things that would quite frankly shock you. I am constantly amazed at their spirit and their care for others. It is a huge encouragement to us involved in youth and community work when the 'service users' become the 'service providers'! What I mean is, that I am very proud of the young people and young adults who are now coming forward to volunteer, support, help out and work at Cre8. They make me smile because they are giving something back. They have a genuine compassion for those whose lives feel like rubbish, which gives me the confidence that we are doing something very good here.

There is still plenty of bad stuff which goes on around here. The Moss Estate may look like a better place, but underneath there are people dying an average eight years sooner than those on the other side of town. Class A drug use, domestic abuse, violence and poor health are all still major problems here. The statisticians know it and see, feel and hear it every day.

What we are achieving is a growing sense of hope in the neighbourhood. Hope because people who thought their lives were hopeless are now able to give something to others. We started here in 2005 to bring hope. I think our efforts are beginning to bear fruit as you will read in this report.

The Cre8 Youth and Community Programme has brought, and we will continue to bring, change into this neighbourhood, I know there's still plenty to do.



Rev Rob Wardle  
Director



# Welcome to our Annual Report for 2012

It is a pleasure to be writing the introduction to this Annual Report, our first as an independent charity, Cre8 Macclesfield Limited, based on the Moss Rose Estate. The Cre8 Youth and Community Programme is an initiative of St Barnabas, the local Church, to whose congregation we are especially grateful, for their faith, commitment and enthusiasm.

2011/12 has been an exciting and challenging year, not least because we made the transition from a branch of Worth Unlimited to an independent charity. We have been very grateful for the support we have received from Worth over the years; we would not have been where we are today without it. We are particularly pleased that the Chief Executive of Worth Unlimited, Tim Evans, agreed to be a Trustee on the formation of our charity.

You will see in this report that we have continued the wide range of activities for young people, especially those at risk, and their families while establishing additional clubs and new initiatives. We have taken on the running of the previously derelict Community Building, now referred to as 'The Building', next to the Mayfield Centre. This has been possible through the generous arrangements made by Cheshire East Council and Peaks and Plains Housing Trust. Following the comprehensive refurbishment undertaken by our own young people, staff and volunteers, we are now able to offer a wide range of music lessons and performance recordings, as well as providing facilities for Alternative Education, outreach and Cre8 Works. The Building is still heated by wood stoves and powered by a diesel generator!

During the summer of 2012, I had the privilege of joining some of our young people and our leaders at Camas, run by the Iona Community, on the coast of the Isle of Mull; one of a number of residential we run for young people throughout the year. Camas is a beautiful and isolated location, cut off from the world, where the young people and their leaders experience lots of outdoor activities and learn about themselves and each other. This was a very special experience for me which I thoroughly enjoyed.

By the end of 2012, Cre8 has been running for seven years. Our achievements are well recognised by the Authorities and the local community, and by the young people themselves, some of whom are now actually employed by the charity. None of this would have been possible without the dedicated leadership of our Director, Reverend Rob Wardle, whose tireless energy and faithful commitment has been a great inspiration to us all. We are also blessed with hard-working and committed staff who are ably supported by a large number of enthusiastic session workers and volunteers.

We are fortunate in having skilled, experienced, and dedicated Trustees who together provide sound counsel and safe leadership. We are particularly grateful to the very generous trusts and individuals through whose dedication and faith in us we have been able to grow steadily and securely year after year by providing our essential core funding.

On behalf of all the Trustees, I should like to use this opportunity to thank all those who have made Cre8 what is today; we are very blessed. We look forward to the future with great expectations. We do hope that you enjoy this first Annual Report.

**We are blessed with hard-working and committed staff who are ably supported by a large number of enthusiastic session workers and volunteers.**



Pip Mosscrop  
Chair

During the year...

537

Meals shared together

86

New young people engaged with projects during the year

14

Young people who used to attend projects are now volunteering at Cre8

190

Club nights run throughout the year

735

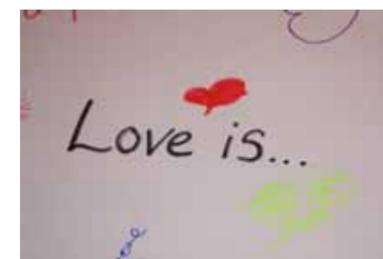
Hours spent making music over the year

13

Young people re-engaged with formal education

Young people involved with Cre8 projects each week.

107



# Finding buried treasure...

## John Fitzpatrick, Club Volunteer

I am 19 years old and I live with my parents on the Moss Rose estate. I've done an apprenticeship in plastering and I now work full time doing this and other things as well. I'm a committee member of the Moss Rose Community Trust and I helped found the Trust in 2012. I volunteer at Club on Thursday nights and during the past year I've volunteered at Pre:Cre8, Cre8 Football and helped on the Cre8 Bike rides. I've also helped run activities at the Community Fun Day and St Barnabas Day event. I'm a regular and committed member of Re:Cre8 on Sunday evenings.

I started at Club in 2005 when I was 11 years old and since then I've been involved in lots of Cre8 projects. I was quite short and chubby when I started in Club - I'm now 6ft 1in tall and also a lot fitter! Jonny Aiken (one of the leaders at Cre8) has been a big inspiration to me; sometimes he's pointed me in the right directions and got me involved in different things which have been good for me. I've learnt to take a step back and look at a situation rather than react to it. It's good to do things with other people and when I see them enjoying themselves I start to enjoy it too. I've learnt not to judge other people just because of what they look like or because of what they do.

In the future I can see myself doing lots of different things with Cre8 - I don't want to lose contact with any of the people I've got to know here.



Our group of five club nights are all about having fun, sharing food and activities, and building community. Quite often it's the first point of contact we have with young people, and as they move through the clubs they may also get involved with other Cre8 projects and eventually they'll hopefully come back as volunteers.

Some of the highlights from the past 12 months include:

- Woodland bushcraft day at the Building; learning how to build dens and cook with an open fire.
- Boat trips on the narrowboat Ivy.
- Overnight camps to places like Gradbach, Linnets Clough and Barnswood.
- Residentials to Taize in France, Bulstrode in London, and the Camas Centre in Scotland.
- School holiday trips to the beach or for walks around the forest.
- Playing on Just Dance on the Wii.
- Having six former Club young people come back as volunteers.

**Six former Club night young people have come back as regular volunteers**

## Offbeat provides special interest activities for young people who also benefit from being in small groups

Offbeat projects are usually focused around the interest and skills of the worker and aim to develop the skills and gifts of the young people who show an interest.

We run bike repair workshops and organise bike rides throughout the year. These have included:

### Bikes

Several trips to Llandegla Mountain Bike track in Wales.

Bike rides around the Peak District.

Running a bike repair workshop at Ash Grove Children's Centre holiday play.

Restoring old bikes that have been donated to us.



The Football project helps to keep young people fit and active and promote teamwork. The young people created the rules and sanctions that are used each week. Highlights include:

### Football

Weekly practices.

Fundraising 5K run.

Competitive games against Macc Town Community Sports Trust.

Restoring a wildlife area at Christ the King as a thank you for letting us use their facilities each week.



The music project runs activities throughout the week at our specially built recording studio at The Building (generously funded by Youth Music). These include:

### Music

High quality instrument and singing lessons provided free of charge to young people, by experienced and qualified music tutors.

Studio recording workshops teaching older young people to use the recording suite.

Drop-in 'have-a-go' session on Saturday afternoons.

Concerts (twice a year) where all the young people involved with the project get to perform.

Trips, for example to MediaCity in Salford.

## Developing gifts and skills

### Jess Davies, Cre8 Student Youth and Community Worker

I'm 22 and I've lived on the Moss Estate all my life. I loved primary school and had a good set of friends. I was quite a head-strong and rebellious child and was developing quite a temper. Secondary school was a different story; I hated it!! I skived lessons, was put in detention and placed on report. I would deliberately cause trouble so I would be sent out of the classroom. Science was the exception - I loved it, it was brilliant. I had become a very angry person at this time and it didn't take much for me to lose my temper.

When I was 14 I began to attend Cre8 Club Night. We would take part in a range of activities and I liked getting to know the Cre8 staff. However I then lost touch with Cre8 for a bit. When I was 18 I moved into my friend's house for about 6 months and wasn't doing much. One afternoon Rob knocked on and asked if I would be interested in joining Cre8 Works doing some part time work. I said yes. I did Cre8 Works one day a week for about three years and at the same time Cre8 did some one to one education sessions with me to help with my English. I started to get more involved and volunteered at Club Nights which I really enjoyed.

I ended up going through a difficult time and was struggling for somewhere to live. Around the same time Rob suggested I might like to study youth work and become a student youth worker supported by Cre8. As well as helping me to sort out my studies, Cre8 also helped me find somewhere to live and get myself sorted.

I'm now studying the Engage Course and doing my placement at Cre8. I'm hoping to complete my course and continue with youth work as I really enjoy it, especially Club Nights.



# Building and growing business



## Cre8 Works Ltd provides a highly professional grounds maintenance service including landscaping and construction projects.

Cre8 Works Ltd was founded as a separate business in August 2011. The company offers a highly professional grounds maintenance service including landscaping and construction projects to social landlords, private customers and local businesses.

The company prides itself on quality, professionalism and making sure we do a good job for our customers.

Cre8 Works also provides training and employment for young people and young adults who work alongside experienced team leaders. The work gives them the opportunity to increase their confidence in a work environment as well as assist them in developing skills to enter the job market. The work also assists the young people financially while they are in college or further education.

## Stefan Heathcote, Cre8 Works Supervisor

My first involvement with Cre8 was through Club Nights over 7 years ago when I was 12. I wasn't going to school much at all and I was hanging about with nothing to do. Club nights gave me a fun place to hang out with friends and I started getting to know the people that worked and volunteered at Cre8.

After a bit Rob and Jonny tried to get me involved with doing things at Cre8 during the day. About this time things went really pear-shaped at home and I needed somewhere to live, so I moved in with Jonny and Angie for a while. I started to do some English and Maths during the day at the Cre8 House and Jonny and Angie helped me to get a place at Reaseheath College to study Agriculture and Animal Care. Cre8 supported me practically while I was there, helping me get to college and with everything I needed. I had a really good time at college and graduated on my course.

I've had lots of different experiences and there have been quite a few bad things that have happened to me and my family. However I think it's important to just keep working at things you enjoy doing and try to lead a good life.

I did some youth work study and enjoyed doing activities with the young people. I found that I could understand them and I wasn't bothered by some of their bad behaviour. After doing various jobs I'm now back working at Cre8 as the Cre8 Works Supervisor (organising work schedules, supervising workers, maintaining equipment etc). My involvement with Cre8 is very exciting now and I am enjoying being part of the team. I see things with Cre8 and myself going very well. My current role at Cre8 is giving me the skills that fit my interests which makes it very easy to come to work in the morning!



### Highlights for Cre8 Works this year include:

- Creating a communal seating and garden area at Ivy House for Peaks and Plains Housing Trust (PPHT) residents.
- Building a pathway and seating area for residents at Parkmount Residential Home.
- Keeping the alleyways and ginnels accessible around PPHT properties across Macclesfield.
- Rennovating the Beach Hut on the Isle of Iona for use by the Iona Community.
- Building some new sheds for volunteers at the Camas Centre on Mull.
- Several landscaping and paving jobs for private customers across Macclesfield.



# Cre8 One to One provides Alternative Education for young people at risk of exclusion from schools or who struggle in full time education

## Realising hope

Our well established One to One project has been running since 2007 and now engages an average of 12 young people at a time. We are able to run 35 of these two-hour long sessions per week based at the Cre8 House. Some young people are with us for just one term and some for over a year. Young people may come for one or two sessions a week as part of a package of alternative provision. For others in a crisis situation, Cre8 may be the only thing they engage with.

Our educational focus is on personal and social development and behaviour management which takes place in a nurturing, calm environment.

The aim of the project is to help young people stay connected, or re-engage, with some form of 'mainstream' education; be that full time or on a reduced timetable.

We find that through activities like art, cooking, gardening, music, games, and work experience, we're able to help young people grow in confidence and self-esteem.

One to One takes referrals from the wider Macclesfield area through Social Care, primary and secondary schools, special schools and other agencies working with young people.



Artwork by an 11 year old boy from the Cre8 One to One project. The piece on the left was from his first session at Cre8 and on the right from one of his final sessions. He's now back in full time education.



## Sarah Postlewhite, Cre8 Youth and Community Worker

I am 37 yrs old, married to Lee and have 3 children: Daley 19, Ellie 13 and Rafferty 7. I have been working at Cre8 for about 3 years now and have been on quite a journey during this time.

I moved into a house on the Moss Rose Estate when I was 19 with my son Daley who was 18 months old. I met up with Lee and we got together and have been ever since. Up until about 6 years ago my life was quite chaotic. I made a lot of bad choices, had very low self-esteem and confidence and was very depressed and drank and smoked a lot to deal with this.

In 2007/8, I was encouraged by staff and a Parent Governor at Ash Grove Primary School to do some volunteering with them, and later at the local Children's Centre, and became heavily involved. This voluntary work was hugely important; I began to recognize that I had some good skills and I enjoyed and valued giving back to my community. As Rafferty had just started nursery I began to question and think about a career. I felt I was at a crossroads.

Out of the blue, Rob Wardle knocked on my house and offered me a few hours admin work at Cre8. I had heard about Cre8 as Daley did some activities with them, but that was it really. I said yes and before I knew it I had joined the team.

This is when big changes began to happen. Although I enjoyed admin work, I found I was interested in the youth work side of things and started doing one to one work with young people. Within 8 months I had started studying the Engage Course (Level 3 in Christian Youth and Community Work). It wasn't easy at all. Not only did I have to write essays but this course and the work at Cre8 challenged everything in my life. I began to question my behaviour, my values, my faith and my life!

Good news, I did it!! I'm now a qualified Youth Worker but I have to say I couldn't have done this without the Cre8 team being alongside me all the way. They have supported me so much and influenced me in different ways. It's like being part of a family and what has been brilliant is that they haven't just helped my career, they have been there for me and my family on a personal level too. They still are.

I am not perfect and never will be but Cre8 and my faith have helped me to realise that I am on a journey and I will continue to make mistakes and get things wrong. What is important is that I learn and continue to move forward. I can share my journey and experiences with young people, and others who are going through similar things. I can encourage them and show them that change is possible, giving them hope.



**RD is like a Saturday job. Young people have the chance to earn some pocket money and learn some skills.**

I am a property valet for Clean and Green; we restore and renovate UPVC on private houses; this includes restoring UPVC windows, conservatories and doors to what they were like when they were new - we are like little miracle workers! I've been doing this for nearly a year now. I am a perfectionist and I really enjoy making our customers happy - doing my job well.

When I was 15 or 16 I could never have imagined that I would be doing this. I was living on my own, in my Mum's house due to my Mum getting a prison sentence. It felt like rock bottom. It was also very crazy, mad even, because I was too young to be responsible for the house., I wasn't going to school at all, I was having parties every day, there was heavy drinking going on all the time. A lot of people were round all the time, some of them I didn't want to be there, but some of them I did because they were my friends. There was a lot of mad stuff going on that shouldn't have happened. I got into trouble with the law and ended up in Crown Court but I managed to stay out of prison.

Whilst I was at this low point, Cre8 seemed to take notice; I had been involved in Cre8 Clubs before but this was different. Rob and Jonny came round to my house and brought food, they helped me in my dealings with the landlord and wanted to sort me out.

Later they offered me a position at Cre8 Works and I did an apprenticeship and went to college. I lived with my dad for a few years whilst I was doing this work. I worked at Cre8 Works for two and a half years and they helped me get the full-time job that I have now.

**Sean McCormack,  
former Cre8 Works employee**

Working with  
fun

#### During the year

- We cleared snow and ice from the pavements around old people's bungalows, and when it snowed again we went back and cleared it again! There were of course one or two snowball fights along the way.
- We built a new store for the Church. Three tonnes of concrete arrived at 4pm one afternoon and we worked our socks off wheel-barrowing it round the back of the Church and formed the foundations before it set.
- We knocked down a toilet block for another Church. All Health & Safety compliant. That was great fun swinging the sledge hammers and weighing in the scrap for the Christmas do which was a trip to Wagamama's Japanese restaurant in Manchester.
- Earlier this year, we decided to turn the back of the Cre8 House into a mini zoo so we built a dog kennel, chicken huts and chicken run. We're eating lots of eggs.
- All year we have kept the Cre8 Building in fire wood for the wood burners. Zero fuel bills for the Building this year!



# Income and expenditure

The Cre8 Youth and Community Programme was set up in 2005. Following a period as a branch of Worth Unlimited, Cre8 Macclesfield became independent in September 2011. This financial report relates to September 2011 to August 2012.

We have continued to build upon the foundations of the preceding years in order to fulfil the aims and objects of the charitable purposes of the Company, which is reflected in the financial figures shown below.

Full financial results for this year are published separately.

Funds transferred £86k

## Income

Grants and contracts	£122k
(in addition for future years - £51k)	
Donations, gift aid and other income	£89k

Total incoming resources for 2011/12 £211k

## Expenditure

Salaries	£117k
Residential, activities and materials	£20k
Premises, administration and office	£18k
Travel, repairs and maintenance	£14k
Other	£7k
Governance	£2k

Total resources expended £178k

Net contribution to reserves £33k

We are extremely grateful to the Funds, Trusts and individuals who have generously contributed to our income throughout the year.

# Looking ahead: our strategic priorities

- Continue to grow our earned income
- Develop the Cre8 Works business
- Increase Cre8 One to One
- Continue to develop, train and educate young adults from the estate to be workers on the programme
- Improve communications with supporters
- Continue to develop best practice in everything we do
- Get the stories out

**The Cre8 Youth and Community Programme  
(Cre8 Macclesfield Ltd and Cre8 Works Ltd)  
11 Belgrave Road  
Macclesfield  
SK11 7TW**

**t: 01625 503740  
e: [info@cre8macclesfield.org](mailto:info@cre8macclesfield.org)  
[www.cre8macclesfield.org](http://www.cre8macclesfield.org)**