



## WHO WE ARE

Handmade Parade formed in 2008 and are an arts organisation based in the Calder Valley, who specialise in producing community-focused parades and events, and making giant puppets, costumes, parade structures and lanterns. We run our own signature events in our home valley; the Hebden Bridge Handmade Parade - a daytime parade with a very strong narrative and over a thousand participants, and the Lamplighter Festival - a large lantern parade with a small but gorgeous light festival. Our Facebook page is [here](#) and our website is [here](#).

We also partner with other organisations to manage and run parades, events and workshops for other organisations, both nationally and internationally. All our events are organised as a conscious collaboration between professional artists producing their own work, and high-quality, accessible, community making and performing workshops. Our work with the community, place-making, and individual creativity is very much at the core of how (and why!) we work.

We work with a network of freelance makers, puppeteers, musicians, and performers to provide high quality and accessible community workshops to people of all backgrounds, and we ensure that these artists have the skills and experience to work with people that may have very particular needs, such as vulnerable children or adults with mental health issues. Our workshops are very much about people making their own work, and our artists design them carefully, allowing creativity without being threatening or restrictive.

We also build and hire giant puppets, site decor, and lantern sculptures and puppets, to festivals and parades around the country and internationally, and we take commissions for public and corporate clients. These will often go out with a small performance team of puppeteers and costumed stilters. We run masterclasses for professional artists and community leaders in giant lantern sculpture and giant puppet building (illuminated and/ or daytime), parade costume, and performance.

It's really important to us that the final shape of our events, and their theme and content are defined and led by the participants, it's an integral part of how we work. We spend time to identify and build relationships with key people in the community to ensure that what we do is appropriate, wanted, and needed.



## LAMPLIGHTER FESTIVAL

The first Lamplighter festival was held in Todmorden, in 2013. It followed the massive success of the Valley of Lights project, a valley-wide initiative that was organised by Totally Locally as a response to the floods of 2012. Lamplighter has grown over the years to be a very important part of Todmorden's year, and recognised as being one of the best of its kind in the country, people come from far and wide to both take part in the workshops, and see the event. Our artistic team is recognised as being leaders in our field, both nationally and internationally, and are mainly based in the Calder Valley.

Lamplighter is a grass roots, month-long community project. The final event- what people see- is an exciting, beautiful lantern parade and small illuminated festival, with artwork made by hundreds of local people, and it is the culmination of a lot of work. It is very much an event that is made by the people of the Calder Valley and we're very, very proud of it!

Handmade Parade run workshops leading up to the event – a considerable amount of outreach work with existing community groups; an intensive series of accessible, public workshops; and fire and light performance workshops with young people.

Our outreach work isn't as visible at the final event, but we see it as a hugely important part of Lamplighter. Its focus isn't the artwork, but the experience that the participants have during the workshops, and how that can make people's lives happier and healthier – the conversations had, and the friends made, are as much a part of Lamplighter as the lanterns. We also work with many, many volunteers from Todmorden during the project, and we value them very highly – the event wouldn't happen without them.





Some more pics!

