**Project Summary**

Focussing around the Cromford Canal access and restoration project, as well as other areas in the Lower Derwent Valley, story-telling walks was a participatory arts project aiming to engage with families and young parents. The project worked with organisations involved with communities with sensory, physical and learning disabilities as well as the families of pre-school children with the aim to encourage people to use the canal paths in a safe way whilst engaging in the historic environment.

**Lead Organisation**

DerwentWISE – Scheme Office

**Partners**

- Christine MacMahon - story-teller
- Gordon MacLennan, Creeping Toad - story-teller
- Friends of the Cromford Canal
- Umbrella

**Location**

Cromford Canal

**Duration of project**

April 2015 – March 2018

Yrs 2-4

**Total cost of project**

£3,186.00

**Volunteer time In-kind time**

- £370.00

**Outputs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original target</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 BSL story-teller for 1 day event plus 3 separate walks = 4 activities</td>
<td>8 walks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 separate ‘toddlers’ plus 2 Little Chester walks = 5 activities</td>
<td>4 ‘toddlers’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Headlines/added value**

No. of participants – 145

Storytelling activity booklet – 1

Working with Accessible Derbyshire, Umbrella and Creeping Toad to tailor some of the walks for families with accessibility needs.

**Outcomes**

- B1 A *celebration* of the beauty, wildlife and fascinating history of the Lower Derwent Valley
- B2 An *increased public understanding* of the value of the landscape, and of the need for it to be conserved and restored
- B3 Increased *engagement and capacity among landowners and communities* to care for the landscape in the long term
- C5 Opportunities for people in *areas subject to deprivation*, and in *traditionally hard to reach groups*, to engage with all elements of
| **Any recommendations going forward** | Working with organisations on a 'user group' basis that already are established in the areas of accessibility needs enables the activities to be tailored to your target audience. These groups can provide real feedback so adjustments can be made. |