

Harbour Lights

Cumbria



Harbour Lights is a community project that ran from spring through to autumn of 2003 resulting in three unique artworks that were integrated with the £3.5 million coastal defence scheme in Maryport harbour.

Maryport is a geographically isolated town with high levels of unemployment that are three times the regional average in some wards. The town has been in receipt of an SRB4 programme called Regeneration Maryport of which the enhancement of the historic harbour areas has been a major part.

The aim of the project was to raise the profile of the contribution that art can

make to public spaces helping to create a distinctive quality and sense of place, encourage community participation in the regeneration process and establish a practice of working with professional artists as part of capital building programmes. It was funded by a grant of £27,450 from the Regional Arts Lottery Programme (RALP) and was also supported by Allerdale Borough Council and by Maryport Developments Ltd.

Arts consultant Christian Barnes was engaged to help deliver the project and the four artists who worked with community groups were artist Alan Ward, ceramicist Paul Scott, artist Tony Stallard and creative writing team Liar inc.



Photo: Allerdale Borough Council/
Jonathon Lynch

Harbour Lights is perceived as being a success following positive responses from the community and partner organisations. Working with a professional artist has stimulated a thirst for further arts programmes and has impacted on participants' confidence.

Noel Butters from Maryport Developments Ltd said, 'The whole project has raised confidence. Artists should be involved in all regeneration projects from this point.'

