

Past on your doorstep – future in your hands - GROUNDWORK CASE STUDY

BACKGROUND

BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

This commission was a celebration of Groundwork's '**The Past on Your Doorstep, The Future in Your Hands**' project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This two year project enabled schools local to Chaddesden and Osmaston Parks in Derby to discover the rich heritage of their areas. Groundwork led educational parks visits, teachers' afternoons, and worked with local teachers to produce an Education Pack for the two parks.

The praxinoscope has been designed and made by sculptor Geraint Lloyd and uses the animation technique developed by the Victorians. Geraint also worked with Year 6 pupils at Chaddesden Park Junior and Year 5 pupils at Allenton Primary School, enabling each pupil to make their own Zoetrope (an earlier Victorian animation toy without mirrors). The animations for both the praxinoscope and the zoetropes depict stories relating to the heritage of the parks and their surroundings.

The pupils from these Key Schools also undertook a range of activities as part of the project, including visits to the parks, Derby Local Studies Library and Derby Industrial Museum, as well as a range of Groundwork-led classroom activities.

Can you attach other supporting documents electronically or on a CD i.e. adverts/briefs/original grant application YES

HISTORY OF THE SITE & POLITICAL CONTEXT

'The Past on Your Doorstep, The Future in Your Hands' is a national Groundwork project supported by The Heritage Lottery Fund. The project involved investigating the industrial and social heritage of the Osmaston and Chaddesden areas of Derby, with particular focus on the public park in each area. The project included several artistic elements aimed at promoting the very different past of the two areas as rural family estates with grand halls (now demolished), as well as the natural environment and recreation the parks are still able to offer.

Both parks have mature trees which would have been growing there well before the areas developed into industrial/residential areas. Pupils have considered the changes which have occurred during the life of certain trees, in particular land-use change and the demolition of historic buildings. Old maps show how both areas have changed over the last 100 years, moving from agricultural rural estates, to residential (Chaddesden) and industrial (Osmaston) areas within the Boundaries of Derby City.

AIMS OF THE PROJECT:

WHY WAS THE PROJECT CREATED?

The overall aim was to improve the prestige of these parks through raised awareness of the natural habitats and rich heritage on people's doorsteps. A general aim is to encourage people to reflect on how areas have developed in the past and consider their future attitude towards heritage, with particular focus on these parks.

The arts element of the project enabled the pupils to broaden their experiences, through the workshops with the artist. The final artwork enables the findings of the project to be shared with more people in an innovative way, as the praxinoscope has been exhibited at public events and is currently on tour around local libraries and museums.

WHY DESIGN THIS PARTICULAR ART PROJECT?

Through consultation with Heather Connelly, Groundwork East Midlands' Lead Artist, it was clear that the creative thinking needed to be left to the artists. Therefore a general brief was produced and advertised on appropriate websites.

The brief focused more on the approach to be taken, rather than the specifics of the artwork to be produced. This approach was to include the artist researching and mapping the sites creatively with assistance from Groundwork. In addition the artist was to work with the pupils (two classes from each of two schools, from Years 5 and 6, total four classes, approx.100 pupils in total) to design and create the piece of artwork for each area.

A variety of medium for the final pieces were suggested in the artists' proposals, including clay, textiles and mosaic. However the chosen artist's idea appealed due to its originality and the fact that the pupils could make their own piece of artwork (the zoetropes), as well as the final professional piece (the praxinoscope) being made. The children's workshops allowed them to develop a range of skills from careful cutting to animation using digital photography. The final piece is completely novel and has proved a draw at the celebration events due to its interactive nature.

THE PROJECT

PROCESS OF WHOLE PROGRAMME BRIEFLY FROM START TO FINISH IN SUMMARY

- *Identify focus for the project*
- *Write brief for project with Heather Connelly and advertise*
- *Shortlist artists, interview and select against experience required in brief and evidence*
- *Meet with selected artist & schools, visit site and share site (historical) information*
- *Decide on how to progress project to the brief, develop workshops etc*
- *Extend project to include performance & apply to AW07 for extra funding*
- *Artist delivers stages of project in close consultation with Groundwork and the schools*
- *Works presented at Chaddesden Carnival and the Springwatch event at Osmaston Park and touring the Key Schools, local libraries and museums*
- *Documentation & Evaluation of project*

PROCESS OF SELECTING ARTISTS

Groundwork and Heather Connelly selected the artist from responses to the advertised brief. The artists were short listed on the quality of their proposal of intent, quality of work and how it fitted in with the brief, experience and feasibility.

There were nearly thirty applicants.

4 artists were invited to interview. Artists were asked to present their ideas and concepts for project. Standard questions were asked to all interviewees.

Rosalind Allen & Heather Connelly met to discuss and go through all applicants and interview candidates. Geraint Lloyd was selected due to innovative approach, experience of working with schools, organisation and quality of art work offered.

CRB check & references were followed up before the contract was issued

KEY ART PROJECT (S) IN BRIEF –

Site Visit - Tuesday 13th February

Rosalind from Groundwork met with Geraint at Chaddesden and Osmaston Parks, then shared historical information and photographs.

Meeting at Key Schools - Wednesday 28th February and Tuesday 8th May

Rosalind and Geraint met with the contact Year 5 teacher from Allenton Primary School in February to organise dates and discuss activities for arts workshops. Due to the restraints of Year 6 SATs, it was agreed to deliver the arts project at Chaddesden Park Junior after the tests in May. Therefore the planning meeting between Geraint, Rosalind and the two teachers was held on the 8th May.

Delivery of Workshops in Key Schools – April - May

The workshops at Allenton Primary followed the pattern of Geraint working one day per week with the school, with a half day with each class, giving a total of 6 days. At Chaddesden the project was squeezed into the last week of May, with the teachers introducing the theme and basics of animation the previous week. This made the project more intensive, especially as the classes generally worked for whole days with Geraint.

The general order of activities was as follows:

- *Step by step creation of the zoetrope, using templates and with continuous guidance from Geraint;*
- *Creation of colourful backdrop image of Osmaston Hall and white screen for animations (Allenton only);*
- *Design and production of animations using the white backdrops, prepared and handmade images and digital cameras. Pupils at Allenton also used clay to make models for the animations.*
- *Exhibition of completed Zoetropes and slide show of digital images to show the animations. At*

Allenton this was for the two classes and all animations were shown using the projector, whilst at Chaddesden, all the pupils in the school viewed the Zoetropes, then saw a sample of the animations on screen during the 'Show and Tell' assembly.

Creation of Praxinoscope – March to May

Geraint completed the structure of the praxinoscope by mid-April. The themes of the five animations for each area were agreed in close consultation with Rosalind from Groundwork.

Exhibition at Celebration Events in the Parks – June

The praxinoscope and a selection of zoetropes from the relevant school were exhibited at the project's celebration events on the parks. The Chaddesden event was on the 10th June, as part of 'Chaddesden, The Big I' (formerly Chaddesden Carnival), whilst the BBC Springwatch Event at Osmaston Park on the 24th June was the venue for the Osmaston Celebration. The praxinoscope proved invaluable at capturing the attention of people of all ages. Geraint was present at both events.

A theatre company also provided informative and comical entertainment through three site specific promenade performances at these celebrations. The script and characters were developed to incorporate many of the historical findings of the project, and provide an environmental message.

Teachers Afternoon and Exhibition – 3 July

The praxinoscope and all 100 zoetropes were exhibited during this event. Local people who had shared their memories of the areas and the families of pupils who made the zoetropes were invited from 3.45 p.m..

Touring Exhibition of Praxinoscope – June to date

The praxinoscope has so far been exhibited at Chaddesden Library, Chaddesden Park Junior School and Allenton Primary School. It is currently (July) at Derby Central Library and is due to be exhibited at Alvaston Library in August. The feedback from Chaddesden Library was excellent, with an estimated 60 people 'having a go' and taking a keen interest. The schools also found the children enjoyed trying out the praxinoscope, whilst learning about their areas' heritage.

Other places the praxinoscope is likely to tour include Derby Local Studies Library and some of Derby's Museums.

OUTCOMES

1. **The Praxinoscope** is an interactive tool which enables people to learn about the areas' heritage in an unusual way. The innovative nature of the artwork intrigues viewers, and those who see it in action cannot fail to be impressed.
2. **The 10 animations** (5 for each area) show a range of interesting heritage features for each area. These have been saved digitally, so can be used independently of the praxinoscope.
3. **100 zoetropes** produced by the pupils at the Key Schools, which the pupils were allowed to take home after exhibition.
4. **Approximately 30 animations**, saved digitally, created by the pupils for use in their Zoetropes
5. **A definite sense of renewed interest, enthusiasm and pride in the areas**, partly due to the high quality of the project, and innovative nature of the artwork.
6. **Raised awareness** of the important heritage of the areas, and this will continue thanks to the praxinoscope.

KEY EVALUATION FINDINGS **successful & unsuccessful**

The Project

Groundwork's *The Past on Your Doorstep, The Future in Your Hands* project had already proved popular and beneficial to the schools involved. The inclusion of the arts element meant that the status of the whole project was raised into a different sphere, allowing a wider audience to be reached, generating enthusiasm and local pride for the area, and promoting the project's achievements.

The success of the project was possible for several reasons:

- Selection of the right artist for this commission, who was appropriate for several reasons:
 - Excellent organisational abilities – well planned workshops, with structure and clear behavioural boundaries. The classes were split into teams with a ready prepared box of resources for the activity.
 - Ability to communicate clearly with the pupils and enthuse them in the task set;
 - Pride in his work, which meant nothing but the best would do;
 - Artistic and technical ability;
 - Dedication.
- Groundwork's research material was used by the artist to develop the project;
- Regular communication between Groundwork and the artist;
- Commitment from the schools, allowing flexibility in delivery;
- The arts element was the culmination of a wider project, giving it a real purpose and meaning for the pupils involved;
- Appropriate budget, ensuring a comprehensive project could be undertaken.

The project was so successful, few difficulties were encountered. Even the fact that the artist lived over an hour's journey away did not disadvantage the project, due to his commitment, plus careful planning of meetings.

The schools were both very impressed by the artist, for the above reasons, but did express disappointment that only this one year group would be able to benefit from the project, due to the cost of the artist. However, it was always the plan to only do this one off arts project.

RECOMMENDATIONS & ADVICE:

It seems that correct selection of the artist may be paramount to a successful project. This partly depends on the artists applying for the commission in the first place, which in turn is affected by good fortune and probably the value of the commission. However, the selection process itself is

also key. It is helpful to have someone with experience of arts projects to assist in short listing (in this case Heather Connelly). Heather's input into interview questions and delivery was also very helpful, as was the presence of Groundwork Officer who is to work closely with the artist.

FACT SHEET

Title of project	<i>The Past on your Doorstep – The Future in your hands</i>
Artists	<i>Geraint Lloyd & Raised Eyebrow</i>
Commissioner	<i>Groundwork Derby & Derbyshire</i>
Date advertised, deadline	<i>December 2007, Jan 2007</i>
Date Artist appointed	<i>February 2007</i>
Date project commenced	<i>March 2007</i>
Date project completed	<i>June 2007</i>
Location	<i>Derby</i>
Total Budget	<i>£4,600, excluding Groundwork staff time and £3,690 for the Acting</i>
Funding Sources	<i>Heritage Lottery Fund, AW07 (for enhancement of the acting)</i>
Groundwork Project Manager	<i>Rosalind Allen</i>
Evaluation/case study compiled by	<i>Rosalind Allen & Heather Connelly</i>
Contacts for Future	<i>Rosalind Allen Tel: 01773 539433 rallen@groundwork.org.uk Geraint Lloyd miranda.gerry@ntlworld.com</i>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

BREAKDOWN OF COSTS FOR THE PROJECT

Funding for project & sources

Heritage Lottery
AW07
CRP

(not including artists fees or design costs)

£1000 for materials including:

For workshops to make zoetropes: plywood, wall paper, pencils, felt tip pens, scissors, rolls of paper and black plastic, glue, masking tape, wood for bases. For the animations – white hardboard for the backdrop, clay and copies of images.

For the praxinoscope: plywood sheets to be fashioned into half cylinders, Perspex for the front and rear panels, metal for the mechanism and handle, photographic paper for the animations.

IMAGES:

See separate documents