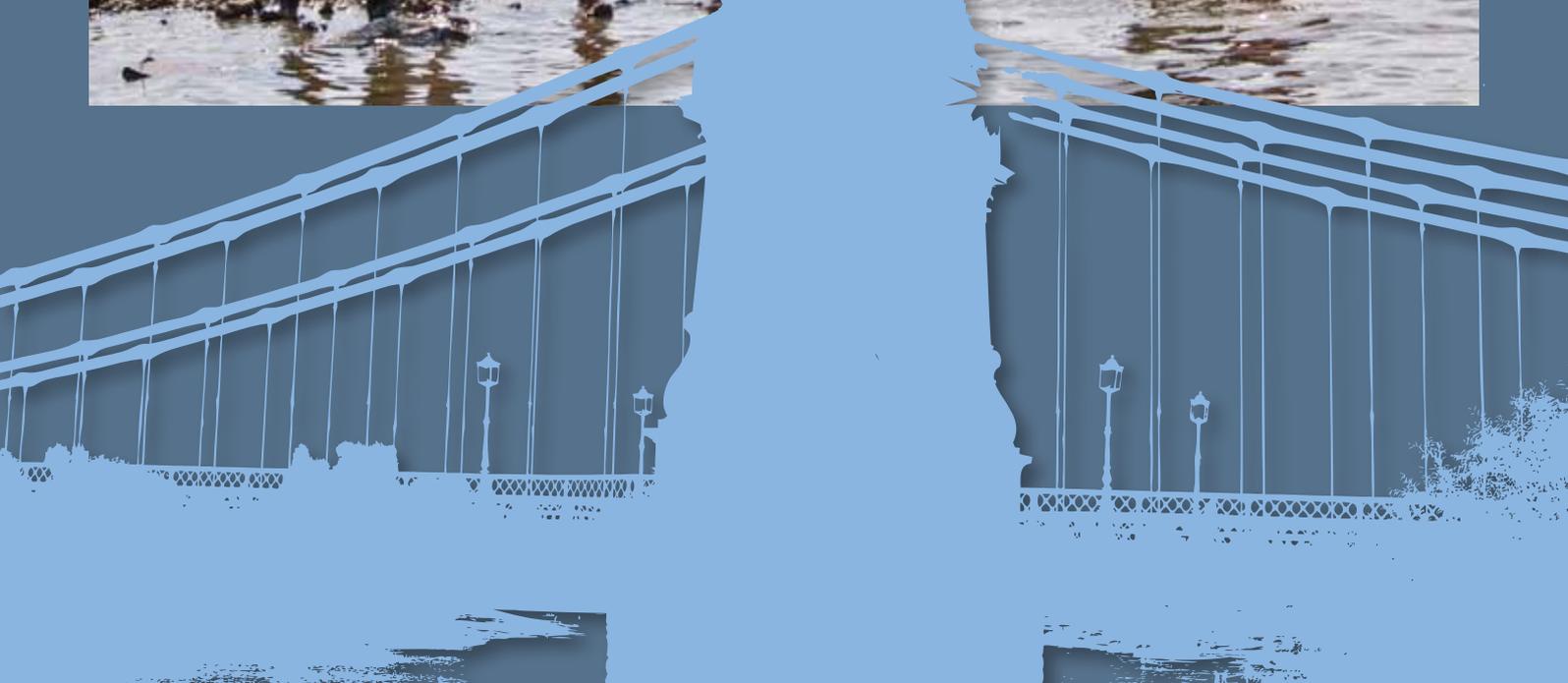


Hammersmith and Fulham Urban Studies Centre Annual Report 2015



About Urban Studies

Hammersmith and Fulham Urban Studies Centre is a voluntary organisation which was established in 1983. The Centre has an educational role, offering opportunities to children and young people to learn about all aspects of the local urban environment. The Urban Studies Centre helps young people to understand the process and impact of change in the urban environment. We aim to enable them to acquire skills, knowledge and confidence, through active learning to participate in the shaping of their local area.

The Centre's small team has extensive teaching experience with children, young people and adults. They are experienced in designing and developing learning materials relating to the local area for all age groups. Teacher training is also delivered to local teachers and environmental educators.

Both formal and informal programmes are delivered for groups from 5 - 18 years. We follow the National Curriculum with the local area as a focus, encompassing aspects of history, geography, science and citizenship. We support a creative curriculum by offering memorable experiences outside of the classroom and emphasise active learning grounded in young people's experience and perspective.



Finance

Our total income came to £104,553, including £21,861 in grant funding from London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. £82,671 was raised through grants to carry out specific projects, education fees and other income. Interest receivable for the year was £21.

The Centre's major outgoings were staffing costs (including pension and employers costs) which came to £82,399. Premises and running costs came to £14,185. Direct expenditure on projects was £7,305. Costs associated with governance, independent examination and printing of annual accounts amounted to £3,830.

The Centre was left with a deficit of £3,166.

This year the Centre received additional funding from LB Hammersmith and Fulham (School Travel Project and Children's Parliament project), John Lyon's Charity (Tri-borough Outdoor Learning project), Capco (Earls Court Project), Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (School Food Growing Project), Hammersmith United Charities (Local Discovery Trails) and local schools.



Chair's Report

This year the Board of Trustees undertook a Strategic Planning Review, including updating our organisational aims and objectives. As a result of this process, we are currently developing a new three year business plan to take us forward into the future.

Our Tri-borough and Outdoor Learning project, supported by John Lyon's Charity, began this year. This project has enabled us to reach out to new schools in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the City of Westminster and develop a new outdoor learning programme. This is an important step towards embedding Urban Studies more firmly in the Tri-borough area and allows us to offer schools more opportunities for enquiry based outdoor learning in their local area.

We also began to facilitate a new Geography and History Network group for subject co-ordinators in primary schools within the Tri-borough area to assist teachers in sharing ideas, resources and teaching strategies, and help to improve their own practice.

Our World War One project, supported by Heritage Lottery Fund and marking WW1's centenary, found us working with St. Thomas of Canterbury Primary school. During the project, the children uncovered the story of local VC winner and ex pupil Thomas Dwyer, and discovered what life was like for residents in Fulham during the First World War.

We were pleased to welcome two new trustees onto the Board at our last AGM, Jill Carey and Sean Adamson, who are both local residents with expertise in the business world. We said goodbye to Mr. Krokheaukooma Kadoo, who retired from the Board with our thanks and gratitude for his valuable contribution to the Board over the years.

We also said goodbye to our education officer Hannah Stradling who has left London to move to Bristol with her family. Hannah's excellent work and her passion for sharing her knowledge about the environment with young people made her a real asset to the organisation and she will be much missed.

We look forward to launching our new Tales of The Thames Path project, supported by Heritage Lottery Fund this year, and celebrating 20 years of this wonderful national footpath. We will be working with 8 primary schools in Hammersmith and Fulham and Kensington and Chelsea engaging children with riverside heritage, with the help of partner organisations, and making a short film about their discoveries.

I would like to thank the staff for their excellent work, the Board of Trustees for their energy and commitment and all those who have helped us this year either by volunteering their time or with financial support.

Hilda McCafferty, Chair



Education Report

Local Studies Sessions

This year we worked with 41 schools in Hammersmith and Fulham and surrounding boroughs focusing on geography, history, science and citizenship. Map Detectives, World War One and Riverside Environments were particularly popular topics this year.

World War One

The Urban Studies Centre worked with St. Thomas of Canterbury's Year 5 on a project to discover what Hammersmith and Fulham was like during the First World War and to explore their school's links to local WW1 hero Edward Dwyer. The children visited many of the local places that have important links to World War One, including Fulham Palace and the Margravine Cemetery where they talked with professionals to discover First World War heritage. They made their own delicious trench stew and ate it in the greenhouses of Ravenscourt Park and designed some bold WW1 posters. At the end of the project they worked with a theatre professional to create a performance about Hammersmith and Fulham's First World War which they performed at a school assembly.



Tri-borough Outdoor Learning Project

Our Tri-borough Outdoor Learning project enables us to work with schools new to us in Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea. Through making some strong links with new schools, we have explored the learning opportunities local to them and created new educational sessions in areas such as Little Venice, Paddington, North Kensington, St John's Wood, Pimlico and Chelsea Harbour.

Children's Parliament on the Environment

This year we held the fourteenth Children's Parliament on the Environment. Ten primary schools took part in researching and presenting a wide range of topics including, We Like Clean Air (All Saints), Discovering Historic Brook green (Addison), The Portobello Project (Fox), Making Lunchtime Happier (Fulham), Protecting the Heart of Hammersmith Park (Pope John), Recycling Project (Queens Manor), Making the Thames Waterlicious (Servite) London's Changing Skyline (Sir John Lillie), Using our School Garden for Learning (Sullivan), Going 4 Cycling Gold (Wormholt).



Councillor Caroline Needham chaired the event at the Council Chamber of the Town Hall. Representatives of the council's departments and

a range of voluntary organisations took part. Certificates and prizes were awarded to schools taking part.

School Travel

The Centre worked with 10 schools on School Travel Projects, with the aim of improving safety, reducing pollution from car use on the journey to and from school and promoting healthy exercise. The schools were able to review their travel plans, which embodied the children's own strategies and solutions to traffic and transport issues.

During the project the children research the traffic and environment around their school and discuss the impact of this. They have the opportunity to talk with representatives of Hammersmith and Fulham's Environment Department, including Road Safety officers, Air Quality Officer, the School Travel Plan Advisor, the Park Police and Sustrans Bike- it Officer. The children survey the whole school community's travel habits to establish levels of car use. They are then able to appreciate what the issues are and come up with their own action plan for reducing car use.

Children's Choice Conference

In the summer we organised a children's conference in partnership with our colleagues from Epic CIC. Children representing 12 schools in Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham came together to take part in a range of workshops and discussions on the theme of Education. They learned some new skills and shared their views on local services with adult professionals. Epic Youth and Participation Team, the Children's Safeguarding Board, the Design Museum, Holland Park Ecology Service, the Tri borough Library Service and Hammersmith Community Gardens provided some thought provoking and enjoyable workshops.



Local Discovery Trails

We added two new trails to our existing Local Discovery Trails collection. Pope John Primary School created their own trail of Hammersmith Park, exploring the heritage of White City and learning about how the park is maintained. They met with the parks police and friends of the park and offered their suggestions for improvements. Addison Primary School went on a history trail of Brook Green to discover some of its interesting architecture and heritage including the old Post Office Savings Bank and the opening of Springvale Estate.

Earls Court Projects

We worked with Servite school Year 2 as they became Urban Pioneers to uncover the secrets of their local streets, visit the Earls



Court Exhibition Centre and find out about the stories of the fascinating personalities of the area by visiting Brompton Cemetery. Fulham Boys School Year 7 looked at the history of Earls Court, together with examining the progress of the development and the issues around it. They visited the construction site and sales suite before creating their own diorama models of the existing Earls Court area.

Word Detectives Project

The Word Detectives Project, supported by The Ironmongers' Company enabled us to develop a programme of outdoor literacy sessions for children aged 5-8 years. The sessions took place in local parks and school grounds and proved to be a great way to learn English in a fun and active way in an outdoor setting.



Events

Empty Classroom Day: Ninety children from St. James Junior School and

Avonmore Primary School joined forces for empty classroom day, a whole day of active educational activities in Marcus Garvey Park. Key Stage Two children surveyed the park and interviewed local residents, and representatives from the parks police, the Friends of Marcus Garvey Park and the parks department to give them their solutions for improving their local park for everyone. Key Stage One children played some active learning games, found out about the biodiversity of the park and sowed some seeds to take home.

Green Day at Queens Manor Primary school: The whole school was involved in green activities on Green Day! Activities we ran included a garden wildlife mystery trail for Early Years children, environmental games and crafts for Key Stage One, and riverside ecology walks for Key Stage Two children.

Picnic in the park: Families from Fulham joined in the fun in South park and some of the children supported local birdlife by painting bird boxes to go up in the park.

Read in the Park: In partnership with Hammersmith and Fulham Community Gardens, The Doorstep Library Network, Thank U and our local library service, we ran this lively summer event in Normand Park. Families enjoyed story telling from local authors, reading together on picnic blankets and taking part in crafts, games and gardening.

Healthy Living at Phoenix Farm Harvest Festival: Children from local schools flocked to the farm to try fruits and vegetables and delicious home made food, meet the chickens and rabbits and take part in some enjoyable healthy activities.

North End Road Seasonal Festival: We made plenty of new friends whilst helping local people create seasonal green wreaths and enjoying the wonderful atmosphere at this festive local event

Adult and Family Walks: Our friendly walkers enjoyed healthy walks to explore the local area. Walks included Hammersmith and Fulham's World War One, the hidden green spaces of Kensington and Fulham and following the route of the lost river of Counters Creek, where we finished up at Fulham Wharf Jetty with a cup of tea to admire the wonderful views.

Young Friends of Parks: The Young Friends groups continued to support their local parks this year. Hammersmith Park's Young Friends group from Pope John Primary school were pleased to discover that some posters they created about littering have actually helped to keep the park tidy!

Training (CPD): This year we delivered training to both London Environmental Education Forum members and Hammersmith Community Gardens Association about the changes in the new primary science curriculum. We also ran a training day focused on geography fieldwork skills for the University of Roehampton's trainee teachers and started facilitating a new network group for geography and history co-ordinators in the Tri-borough area.

Moya O'Hara, Director

"I like learning outside - its much more fun!"

Year 1 student Queens Manor Primary School, Green Day

"I liked collecting sticks to make words"

Year 2 student Sullivan Primary School, Word Detectives

"Leaders pitched everything at the children's level. A great day. Well Done!"

Teacher, the London Oratory School, Children's Choice Conference

"We actually got to do in real life what it is the teacher is trying to explain"

Year 4 student St. Augustine Primary School

"Going out and exploring the riverside opened up so much of what local geography can be and its importance"

Student Teacher - University of Roehampton





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