

REPORTS ON GRANTS AWARDED

A selection of recent grant recipients – June 2017

BASKETRY AND BEYOND

£4,700

A grant in 2105 allowed this not-for-profit group in Devon to teach basketry skills to children from a primary and a special needs school, and to demonstrate basketry production from sustainable and locally-available plants. The children explored the surrounding countryside, and many materials used were sourced from local willow. Following workshops over nine weeks, the children worked with their teacher to design and make woven, wearable basketry costumes. The course presented an intensive learning opportunity not only for the children, but also for workshop leaders and school staff. Although much was achieved in a relatively short time, more lessons would help establish basketry as an important addition to curriculum subjects - especially maths and sustainability. The group feels that it has made a valuable start and has established good relationships with the two schools. Children's comments included: "I loved it, I was very focused" (Hannah) and "brilliant weaving - I would like to do more" (Tom).

ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT TRUST (EDT Midlands Region)

£2,000



A grant in February 2016 supported participation in a new engineering-based training initiative for 16 and 17-year-olds. The Skills Camp pilot provided a quality intensive five-day STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) experience, solving a challenging, real-life engineering problem for a local employer such as Jaguar, Land Rover or GKN. The project replicated working in a commercial engineering project team – for example, one group of students designed an electric vehicle charger installation

enclosure for home garages. At the end of day three, students had agreed a design and plan to produce the prototype using available materials, and on day four they produced the prototype. The programme included careers guidance covering both apprentice and graduate pathways to engineering. This pilot was start of a bigger national programme, with Skills Camps in other parts of the UK.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

£7,544

A grant awarded in April 2016 allowed the LPO to run its Creative Classrooms programme in four south London primary schools. Seventy pupils at Key Stage 3 benefited from the project, run by the LPO composer and music educator with eight musicians. Its aims were to help develop general and specialist music skills for teachers and teaching assistants, to support a culture of music-making in schools, and to leave a firm foundation of musical resources to help that culture. At the end of the project, teachers' confidence levels had risen. Musicians also noticed an improvement in leading a music-based warm-up activity, and collaborating and communicating with a trained teacher on a project. The children improved in learning a new instrument or learning new notes on an existing instrument, in listening and performing with others, in keeping time, understanding the pulse of music and improving their sound.

BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP

£2,500



In August 2015, ECT gave a grant to support Music Maze, a series of eight day-long workshops for eight to 11-year-olds from across Birmingham. Each workshop explored different ways of composing based around a piece from an upcoming BCMG concert. The group shares a wide range of approaches to composing - two workshops involved young people composing for voice, one explored the idea of evolution through the development of a small musical cell of three notes. Another used the changing colour, shape and density of clouds to develop musical ideas. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive – the children liked trying out different instruments, playing with others, thinking differently about music, and the fact that each workshop was different.

FRIENDS OF WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM

£10,000

An ECT grant in October 2015 allowed the Friends to run a second Student Arborist placement. Their placement scheme offers countryside management students practical experience and training to complement their studies, preparing them for future careers as arborists. The two students started in July 2016 and are well on their way to receiving professional qualifications – they have been involved in a large project felling ash and cypress trees, operating forest machinery to maintain the arboretum, learning how to prevent the spread of pests and diseases, and gaining skills in propagation and improving their botanical knowledge. One student, who is part-way through university, will use this experience to inform his final year project.

TEESMOUTH FIELD CENTRE

£4,200

A grant in October 2015 allowed this charity, based at Hartlepool Power Station Visitor Centre, to provide environmental education activities for primary school groups on the river Tees and the national nature reserve at Teesmouth. Six schools participated, with pupils learning to use digital thermometers to record soil and air temperatures in two different habitats, and to record observations about plants and animals using digital photography. Visitor



Centre staff visited the schools, exploring their grounds to record habitats. At the centre, the children explored the beach, sand dune and rocky shore habitats, making a comparison between creatures found there and in the school grounds.

HERON CORN MILL

£6,650



This charity in Cumbria created a new learning and engagement programme for primary schools with a grant in October 2015. The charity wants to change attitudes to Engineering, Science and Technology, using this 900-year-old site as a classroom. Working with STEM Cumbria and Bright Spark, the mill devised challenging workshops to encourage pupils to become designers and makers from an early age. Workshop subjects

included Science from the Start, Gears and Pulleys, Hydropower and the Story of Grain. A teacher commented: "An excellent educational visit which I am sure will develop even further over time".

SETPPOINT LONDON EAST

£10,000

This charity works to help children learn about and engage with Science, Engineering and Technology. An ECT grant in October 2015 contributed to its environmental and science hands-on workshops, developed to raise achievement in science for East London primary school pupils. Through its base at the Soanes Centre in Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, the charity uses the park as an outdoor classroom. It taught 297 workshops, reaching 7,073 pupils and accompanying teachers. Feedback has been very positive – the workshops have helped staff teach new topics and integrate them into other areas of the curriculum. The impact extends beyond the course content itself, to developing new ways of thinking, appreciating the environment and encouraging new ways to classify information and to ask questions.

RIVER AND ROWING MUSEUM

£8,500



A grant in October 2015 enabled this Henley-on-Thames museum to undertake its 'Tails of the Riverbank' project, for children in the Thames Valley to discover, explore and understand the natural environment. The grant supported visits by young people from disadvantaged areas, investment in new equipment for fieldwork, upgrading the museum's collection and developing an online resource to support school visits. Schools took part in a full-day workshop, identifying and grouping plants and animals, walking along the tow path to record river birds and their behaviour, sampling and recording the range of plants found in two habitats and

exploring museum displays relating to the river environment. The workshop was tailored closely to the National Curriculum to make it relevant and beneficial. One teacher wrote: "A great experience which has helped to deepen the children's understanding through real life experiences".

PAINSHILL PARK TRUST

£2,658

With 158 acres of natural and historic landscape, a crystal grotto, ancient ruins and a lake, the education programme at Painshill helps children discover, explore and learn in an inspiring and safe environment. A grant in February 2016 allowed the education team to purchase robust pond-dipping nets, meadow-sweeping nets and ID sheets, enhancing the resources available for



two of Painshill's most popular activities. Pond-dipping allowed the children to learn about the fresh water habitat with observations of a range of different creatures - on 'minibeast safaris', they discovered food chains, adaptations and life cycles and investigated habitats and invertebrates. The education manager commented: "ECT's donation enabled us to widen opportunities for children to explore the great outdoors."

DERSINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

£2,700

This school in Kings Lynn made great use of a grant awarded in June 2016 to transform Maths teaching. Using the Maths Inspire curriculum and resources, the school led a workshop with all children and their parents to show how the school teaches maths, including strategies for calculations under the new curriculum. There was strong support from parents, and all the children received a toolkit of resources and activities appropriate to their ability and age.

CEDAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

£2,200



A grant in December 2013 enabled this community interest company in Kirkby-in-Ashfield to run clubs for children to learn about wildlife, conservation and care. Over 50 youngsters took part, creating bird boxes and similar wildlife habitats to monitor and record wildlife. The children also helped produce information booklets and leaflets about their chosen animals, and learned how to ensure the conservation of local species. They visited the sanctuary to learn about local wildlife and its issues, and how to rehabilitate animals

and release them back to the wild. Teaching packs were produced based on the children's experiences. The company worked with a range of children, some of whom were excluded from school or needed one-to-one attention due to behavioural problems.

RIVERDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

£750

The outdoor environment at this school in Redcar offers children first-hand contact with the weather, seasons and the natural world. Due to tight financial constraints, many parents cannot provide adequate clothing for their children, which often prevents pupils from accessing the outdoor environment all year round. Thanks to a grant in September 2015, the school bought waterproofs so that the children can go outside in any weather. The school noted that the grant process was easy to follow and that the team at ECT were very helpful in offering advice as needed.



SOUND ARCHITECT

£2,000

This Sussex charity aims to encourage participation in the arts through creative experiences. With the support of a grant awarded in June 2015, Sound Architect worked with two East Sussex primary schools to understand, appreciate and deliver a performance of The Pirates of Penzance. Students worked with teachers and pianists on selected excerpts from the operetta. The programme introduced pupils to English musical theatre, demonstrating how the influence and relevance of Gilbert and Sullivan continues to resonate today, and pupils gained an all-round introduction to auditions, costumes, stage management, props, learning and performing. They also produced artwork on the theme of pirates, along with posters, invitations and props. Feedback comments include: "The children have benefited so much from this experience", "An excellent addition to the curriculum", and "It was a demanding script and challenged their abilities".

TIPTOE PRIMARY SCHOOL

£700



A grant in December 2015 allowed this small rural school in the New Forest to develop an overgrown area of its grounds into an outdoor classroom. Using new trowels and hand forks, the children planted and tended raised beds. To help them learn about wildlife, wild flower seeds were planted in the pond area and 30 saplings were planted. The children enjoy pond dipping and learning about the species living there – also, they have made use of outdoor weaving frames and tree-shaped chalkboards, and a visit from a local storyteller inspired the children to create their own stories and pictures. Now the school has an outdoor classroom, it has introduced an after-school nature club, which was heavily over-subscribed last term.

THE MERSEY FOREST

£10,000

An ECT grant in October 2015 allowed this charity in Warrington - one of the UK's largest community forests - to employ an education co-ordinator to deliver Forest School programmes to schools in deprived areas of Liverpool. The co-ordinator worked with five

schools to prepare sites for Forest School training and sessions. School staff trained as Forest School leaders after attending the charity's taster courses, and pupils are benefiting from the Forest School sessions as the schools develop their outdoor curriculum. The programme also offered a training opportunity for high school students to work alongside a qualified Forest School leader at the primary school. At some schools, parents joined a Forest School session to help them understand how their children learn and play in a natural setting. 113 people attended training events over the year, 33 of whom will gain Open College Network accreditation. ECT support enabled Forest School to be developed at a much higher level, offering future sustainability and new partnerships.

ICA

£3,000

As a result of a grant in June 2015, the ICA was able to create Young ICA - a programme of youth-led creative activities and professional development opportunities culminating in a summer festival. The ICA works with partners to attract young people aged 16-24 from diverse and under-represented backgrounds. The partners supported the ICA in a series of workshops and events to showcase young people's talents, writing a blog for the ICA website, presenting an original soundscape to convey the experience of young black men in SE1 and a workshop on zine-making. A one-day festival explored and responded to all aspects of contemporary culture, allowing over 750 youngsters to curate and participate in a range of art workshops, talks and screenings.

NATIONAL FOREST/SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CLUSTER GROUP

£10,000

An award in April 2016 allowed this group of countryside organisations to develop an educational woodland craft project for local teachers and education providers, offering skills to deliver woodland art & craft sessions for young people. The group also piloted taster activity sessions to develop new educational woodland art and craft learning resources. Teachers' comments included: "Good ideas for ways to use natural objects and the environment to create pieces of music ... a wide range of activities that would be easily adapted for school" – and: "Before the session I was unsure how Maths can be taught outside. It has opened my eyes to these opportunities".



UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND

£2,400

A grant in August 2015 contributed to the FabLab activity, supporting local schoolchildren in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Four 'roots and shoots' sessions were held for city centre primary schools - groups took part in hands-on activities involving design, laser cutting, printing and electronics, exposing the children to an array of equipment not available in the classroom. School feedback comments included: "As a result of the day, many of the group are now thinking about jobs specifically relating to, or within, STEM industries," and "children used complex programmes on the laptops that required high levels of focus, skill and concentration and persevered until the required outcome was reached."

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

£8,500



The Real World Science programme helps young people and teachers around the UK to enjoy learning about science. It is a national partnership of eight museums, collaborating to unlock the potential of their natural history collections to engage young people and teachers in science learning outside the classroom. Students take part in interactive workshops and debates, meet research scientists and curators and enjoy behind-the-scenes collections access, looking at topics ranging from microfossils to

human evolution. The project will gain a high-profile ambassador in 2018 when the Natural History Museum's famous Diplodocus skeleton cast, 'Dippy' will embark on a tour to eight venues across the UK, inspiring in children a passion for science and the natural world. An ECT grant allowed the museum to develop and expand the scope of the programme in 2016/2017 to give more students access to informal science learning throughout the UK. The programme reached 33,681 young people, 103 teachers and 257 trainee teachers.

TANGERE ARTS

£7,000

A grant in April 2016 enabled this charity to create a range of interactive workshops in the East Midlands and Hampshire, around a play based on Robert Browning's Pied Piper. An underlying aspect of the show was to celebrate disability by modernising the issues brought up in the Browning poem, examining what would happen if the 'lame boy' excluded from the escape from Hamelin had returned and grown up there. The project allowed young people to question how the story relates to their current and potential future situation. Thanks to the showcasing of this project, it will go on to rural areas of Wales, funded by Arts Council Wales and local authorities.

MULTI-STORY MUSIC

£3,000

A grant in February 2016 allowed this charity to run a schools tour and choir performance with five primary schools in Peckham. The project trained 181 participants during in-school workshops to perform music by Bach, Handel and the charity's founder Kate Whitley, as a massed choir with professional orchestra. Feedback from the children included: "It was amazing performing with the orchestra. We got to perform on stage with an enormous audience." The project also delivered workshops and performances by the Multi-Story Orchestra to 1,250 primary schoolchildren. Kate Whitley is becoming known as a composer - her BBC-commissioned piece for two choirs and orchestra was performed in Cardiff on International Women's Day with the BBC Welsh National Orchestra.



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SELKIRK HIGH SCHOOL

£3,000



This school in the Scottish Borders runs a course linked with textile heritage, allowing students of all academic abilities to work together and become aware of future opportunities in the field. Students learn sewing skills and fabric crafts, working closely with local textile companies as well as organising and running a fashion show of the clothes they create. A grant in February 2016 allowed the school to expand the course to work with local primary schools, as well as demonstrating to students how advanced technology is used in the textile industry. The students worked on computer-aided design to advertise the fashion show, and organised a photo-shoot of their creations.

ST NICHOLAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

£1,100

The reading co-ordinator at this Blackpool school wanted to raise the profile of reading among pupils, especially with boys. With the reading budget, the co-ordinator purchased a summer house to create a reading/sensory area in the playground. An ECT grant in April 2016 enabled the school to buy a wide variety of books to suit boys and girls aged four to 11, as well as wooden alphabet letters, vinyl alphabet letter signs, wind chimes and musical instruments. The response has been phenomenal - the school is already seeing an improvement in reading, and in numbers of children wanting to bring books to school to share.

MODERN ART OXFORD

£2,900

In April 2016 the ECT gave a grant to support a five-day summer workshop by Modern Art Oxford and Pegasus Theatre, exploring the potential of storytelling to bring Oxford's heritage to life. Students participated in specialist workshops covering research, character development, storyboarding, script-writing and stage make-up. Each student developed a character inspired by the gargoyles of Oxford, by fragments of photographs and research into May Day rituals, and they performed a monologue to camera.



The group also collected footage and photos at various locations across the city. This was edited, together with individual performances, into an original film.

WILLIAM DE FERRERS SCHOOL

£1,200

A grant in December 2015 allowed the art department of this academy for 11-18-year-olds in Essex to re-establish a book collection, helping students make informed and independent decisions, take risks with their artwork and achieve high expectations with A Levels through in-depth reading and information gathering. Year 13 students have valued having books to refer to and have learned to research relevant information using the resources. One student used a book on John Virtue's London paintings as a starting

point, using his loose gestural style to inform her final piece, while four other students referred to books on David Hockney and Clive Head paintings. Year 7 students benefited from the Vincent Van Gogh drawings book, while GCSE students looked at George Shaw as their inspiration for works in paint and collage.

REWRITE

£1,050



This creative arts organisation in Southwark brings together young people from different backgrounds through drama and creative writing. A grant in October 2015 allowed the Free Writers project to work with young people with very low levels of literacy to find confidence in themselves as writers and creative individuals. Rewrite provided 29 two-hour weekly creative writing sessions, delivered by a published author or performance poet with four volunteers. Primarily the group worked on collaborative

scriptwriting as well as experimenting with poetry. Participants performed their work publicly on two occasions with a significant improvement in enunciation and confidence in speaking. The group also improved its ability to listen to each other's writing and performance and in giving feedback. The year-long project culminated in the production of a printed anthology of participants' writing.

EGLOSKERRY PRIMARY SCHOOL

£2,500

This school in north Cornwall values the arts, particularly performance. During modernisation 13 years ago, the education authority provided infrastructure for stage lighting and sound but did not supply sound and lighting equipment. Previously the school hired equipment, but cannot afford to do this due to budget constraints. A grant in April 2016 for sound and lighting equipment allowed the school to expand its drama activities and to undertake increasingly sophisticated projects. It shows the children what is possible and inspires them to continue to take part, and be aware of opportunities for careers in live performance.

TOWER HAMLETS EDUCATION BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

£3,150

This education charity provides a bridge between students and employers, delivering programmes in all 90 Tower Hamlets primary, secondary and special needs schools. A grant in April 2016 brought record levels of participation in the Number Partners Challenge, which is open to all primary schools. Activities are based on problem solving, mental maths, team work and logic. Over four weeks, special challenge activities are sent to the schools and business volunteers assigned to each team to help children complete as much of the challenge as possible in the time. The top ten teams are invited to a grand finale hosted by supporting businesses. The challenge allows children to discover the pleasures of Maths, as well as developing skills and confidence to grasp the basics.

GLADE PRIMARY SCHOOL**£771**

This Essex school which has a large field, a nature garden with a pond and a woodland area, has an on-going woodland project using the resources for Science, Maths and Art. A grant in October 2015 provided tools and equipment to help children understand how things grow, and how nature depends on the land and what it has to offer. Key Stage 1 and 2 children wandered in the woodland area to find what was living there – they were encouraged to understand what grows there, and learned to identify types of trees and bushes and the fruits and seeds they produce. Back in the classroom, teachers have been able to undertake their own experiments and the project has had a significant impact on children's written work.

BRIDGEWATER SCHOOL**£2,500**

This Newcastle primary school has incorporated the acclaimed Reggio Emilia approach to education. An ECT grant in April 2016 supported a project based around the arts and the environment. Six classes worked with different professional artists to produce artworks using a variety of media, such as recycled material to make a sculpture, painting, drawing, textiles, silk painting and water colours. The theme was 'Newcastle past and present'. Each child was encouraged to investigate, explore and reflect by asking questions and making observations. The project provided continuing professional development for staff, who learned skills and techniques from the artists while developing their application of the Reggio Emilia approach.