

YOUNG ARTS 2016

Young Arts representative, Cheryl Kellaway, reports on what has been going on in 2016

Hello everyone!

At the start of the year I started to explore how Welwyn Garden DFAS can sponsor and support Young Arts in Welwyn Garden City.

Early this year I visited Peartree Junior School and met Pooja Chandarana who is their Art Co-ordinator. She made me feel very welcome and showed me round the school. All the classrooms were full of bright, interesting art work and Pooja's class had just completed sketches of the Eiffel Tower which is part of their project on Europe.

I also visited Welwyn Garden library and met Jo Brown who is responsible for special projects for the Library Service. This year she is organising the annual Reading Challenge, and we discussed ways in which we could support this project by focussing on the art work and illustrations in books, we hope to run two summer workshops.

March 2016

On the 18th March I returned to Peartree School to spend the afternoon in the year 3 classroom helping with their current art project. We spent an active time painting mountains using water colours and merging colours together to make bright scenes.



Pooja has been looking at some of the DFAS's Young Arts projects and is keen to create a mosaic for the school building. I have been doing some research and contacting mosaic artists to find out costs and how Welwyn Garden DFAS can support what would be a great experience for all the children.

It is not a cheap project so more on my progress later.

April 2016

It is only the middle of the month and so far it has been a very productive time for Young Arts. I have looked at a number of mosaic artists and their websites, starting by reading the NADFAS Review and looking at other Young Arts Mosaic projects and then general research.

Some artists were clearly going to be too expensive, others lived too far away so that would incur extra expense. So it was finally narrowed down to three artists, two who lived in Hertfordshire and one in London.

At this stage I am going to speak to each of them and then discuss with Pooja and Peartree school which artist we should commission.

This should be a very exciting project with all the children being involved in creating their own whole school mosaic.

Also, and to take place this year, I met with representatives of Welwyn Garden Library to confirm our participation in the Reading Challenge they will be running this summer. We will run two workshops on the 26th July and the 17th August on children in art and illustrations. I will be running the workshops and Welwyn Garden DFAS will be supplying the art materials.

This will be a challenge for me as well, but hopefully my many years as a teacher will stand me in good stead as I prepare the workshops.

On April 22nd, I visited Peartree School and Pooja and I discussed which artist to commission. One had ruled herself out as she felt the distance from her home to the school was too far.

We looked carefully at the websites and the mosaics displayed there. We were based in the computer room and as members of staff wandered in we asked their opinions as well. This led to some lively discussion as we each had different favourites.

Then some year 5 children came in, they were clearly thrilled when we told them that they would have an opportunity to make a mosaic such as the ones on the screen. They thought they were all "cool". It was lovely to see their enthusiasm as this is what makes the project so worthwhile, the participation and experience for the children.

Pooja will make a final decision and let me know so that a firm booking can be made. Before I left she showed me two possible sites that the head teacher had suggested for the mosaic.



May 2016

Good News!

Jane Visick, a local mosaic artist has accepted the commission to create a whole school mosaic at Peartree Primary School. She will liaise with Pooja, myself and the school and we are all looking forward to March next year when the project will take place.

On the 6th May I spent another pleasant afternoon at Peartree School, this time helping the year three class make papyrus paper as part of their Egyptian topic. Predictably this was a messy, sticky afternoon as we wove strips of paper over each other to make our version of Papyrus paper. Young Arts is such fun!



On the 17th June, I visited Peartree again and had a chance to see the pictures which the children had drawn on their papyrus.

Pooja and I also met Jane Visick our mosaic artist. We had an excellent discussion about our planned mosaic and we are all looking forward to March 2017 for the project to begin!

Meanwhile planning for the two workshops at Welwyn Garden library is well advanced, the first workshop is on the 26th July and I will be meeting Briony at the library to discuss arrangements.

Watch this space!

26th July



Well the day of the workshop has arrived and it is fully booked! I arrived bright and early and Briony and Amber had done a marvellous job preparing the room as we had planned. It was just down to me now.

The children were great, enthusiastic and enquiring and there were lots of hands up answering questions.

Together we looked at John Millais "The Boyhood of Raleigh" searching for the clues

that Millais had scattered round the painting depicting Raleigh's later adventures such as the toy ship, exotic birds, and an anchor.



We talked about painters and illustrators and looked at sketches by Judith Kerr (The Tiger Who Came To Tea), and then the illustrations by Quentin Blake for Roald Dahl, concentrating on "The BFG".

The author of this report, Young Arts representative, Cheryl Kellaway, showing the children some of the Judith Kerr sketches

Then it was an opportunity for the children to work on illustrating some poems. They used pastels and coloured pencils and we had some fantastic results.

There will be a display in the junior library as well as pictures on Hertfordshire Libraries Facebook page for those interested in seeing many more of the pictures.

The second workshop is to be held on the 17th August, also fully booked.



Advertising the event, with our logo displayed



One eager student, the room is set out and we're ready to go!

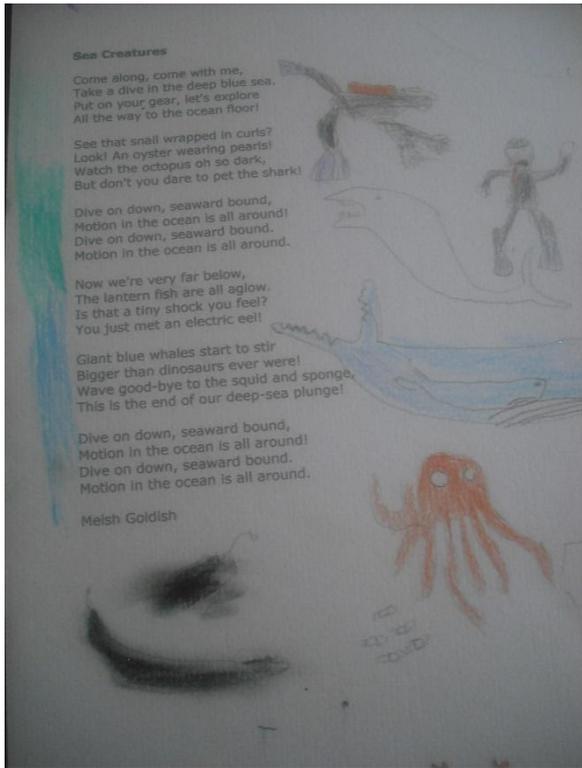


Some useful information



Working hard!

What was so nice, was the children coming up at the end of the workshop to say thank-you and leaving with their illustrated poems completed in pastels and coloured pencils.



Some super drawings.....

