

# THE GATEHOUSE

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



# Animation Projects

## Cat – Eng Exchange Cultures

2nd - 8th August 2004

### Partners

This was an Animation partnership project between Bedford Creative Arts and L'associació Gabarrots.

### Description

Fifteen young people aged 12 to 23 came together in Bedford to produce a short animated film in just four days. The group was made up of people from Torelló in Catalonia and from Bedford in England.

### Funded

Bedford Borough Council and Agencia Nacional Espanila "Programa Juventud" Juventud con Europa.

**Numbers** 15



## KEY POINTS

- Developing and progressing young people's skills and interests in animation
- Developing team work and communication
- Exchange of skills and working methods
- Promoting Bedford's reputation for creativity and innovation

## Abbey Animation

21st & 28th April 2004

### Description

Final sessions were held with this group of young animators from Abbey Middle School to complete short films produced over the previous 10 weeks. These sessions were designed to support a programme of engaging activities outside the standard curriculum.

### Funded

Bedford Healthy Living Initiative

### Workers

Dave Deans and Heather Leckie with young volunteers from Bedford School

**Numbers** 15

## Bedford School Study Centre

May - June 2004 9 sessions

### Description

Overseas students helped BCA to develop its capacity to deliver workshops in Moho digital animation by participating in a creative research project. Six students worked together with our team to create an animated film using a combination of traditional and digital drawing techniques to explore the possibilities offered by this new program. The group produced a globe trotting, multi-lingual, effects laden masterpiece "Mike and Charlie's Angels". The research fed into new sessions offered that summer as part of Anim8 04.

### Funded

Bedford School Study Centre

### Workers

Dave Deans and Heather Leckie

**Numbers** 6

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# Anim8 04

### Introduction

Anim8 is a series of animation workshops that have been run annually each summer since 2001.

### Funded

Bedford Borough Council and The Bedford Charity

## Claymation workshops

10th – 19th August 2004

3 morning / 3 afternoon sessions

### Description

A series of four claymation workshops were run in the school summer holidays at 31 Castle Lane. The claymation workshops were aimed at young people aged six and above, most of whom had never tried animation before. Each workshop consisted of three 2½ hrs sessions, to create a story line, models and sets, and finally filming and some basic editing.

### Workers

Eva Muñoz Martí, Paul Nicholson and Irene Kharag (with several parents)

### Numbers

46

## KEY POINTS

- Really pushing children to achieve results
- Exploiting the creative potential of animation
- Arts activities with a contemporary resonance
- Talented workers with technical expertise

## Outreach (Pilgrims Way Scout Hut)

10th – 12th August 2004

3 sessions (one 2 hrs, two 4 hrs)

### Description

As part of the Anim8 outreach programme, we ran a series of taster workshops spread over three days at the scout hut. Some of the participants had tried animation several years ago at our first Anim8 summer scheme. The group produced three films, all very different in style, but of an impressive standard. The young people certainly benefited from having a longer stint with the filming set-up and they worked with great enthusiasm throughout.

### Workers

Paul Nicholson with volunteer Carolyn Mclean

### Numbers

9

## Moho Advanced Workshop

3 full days

24th – 26th August

### Description

The Moho Advanced Workshop was addressed to young people aged 13 to 21. The participants of this workshop used drawn characters and backgrounds which were scanned into a computer. These were then manipulated in an two dimensional animation program called Moho to create their film.

### Workers

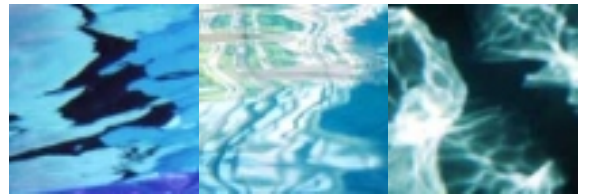
Dave Deans and Heather Leckie

### Numbers

7

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# Arts Club Network 2004

### Introduction

Arts Club Network was set up to develop creative play between parents and children. The aim of the project was to help parents sustain creative opportunities through a network of arts clubs in local communities. The project was funded for 3 years in 2003 to create arts clubs for young people aged between 6 – 13 years and parents who do not have access to other creative activities.

### Funded

BBC Children in Need

### Shortstown

23rd May - 21st June 2004

1 afternoon, 4 after school sessions

### Partners

Five local parents and project worker Paul Nicholson

### Description

This group's latest sessions began with an underwater photography session at Alexander Pool that was enjoyed by all the families involved. The young people used underwater disposable cameras to capture a variety of effects and they became the first group to use our new digital SLR camera (from the safety of the poolside!). The following four sessions at RAW Club enabled the group to produce photomontages plus designs using water patterns on the laptop. These images became a banner design that went on show at this year's River Festival and Shortstown Fun Day.

### Numbers

11

### Faraday Square / Gostwick Road

9th, 18th, 27th June 2004

1 evening, 3 afternoon sessions

### Description

BCA worker Paul Nicholson, youth worker Eve Sidelnyk and a local parent set up the initial session at Faraday Square to give the young people a chance to use digital cameras. The follow-up sessions involved a trip alongside the brook that leads to Elstow and a number of young people took photographs of reflections in the water. A selection of these images went on display at Bedford River Festival.

### Numbers

12

### Kempston

2 sessions

3rd, 17th June 2004

### Description

This group met at Kempston Youth Centre and was supported by a local parent. The group went for a two-hour walk along by the river, using digital cameras to capture a variety of images of water. The group selected their photographs of reflections, ripples, bubbles and splashes to design montages on laptops in the follow-up session. Their designs were printed, then ironed onto fabric and the resulting banner went on display at Bedford River Festival.

### Numbers

5

## KEY POINTS

- Supporting opportunities for parents and children to be creative together
- Builds partnerships with local schools, Street Rangers, Police and local people
- Sustainable creative engagement at grass roots level
- Linking local groups to the River Festival

# THE GATEHOUSE

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# Arts Club Network 2005

### Funded

BBC Children in Need

## Project 229, Kempston

27th Nov 04 - 29th Jan 05

4 two hour sessions

### Partners

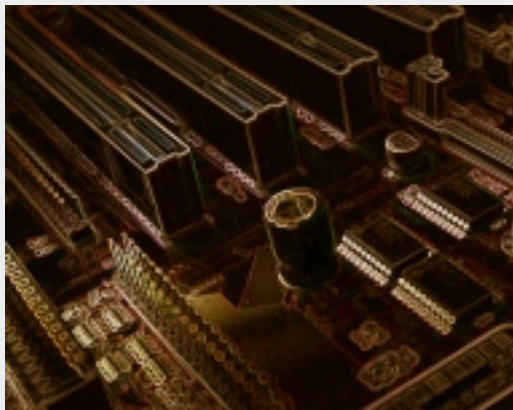
Local parents and project worker Paul Nicholson

### Description

These Saturday morning sessions were tasters for what will hopefully develop into a regular Arts Club Network group in Kempston. Project 229 has proved to be an excellent venue for these workshops, which involved photographing close-ups of computer parts to decorate the walls of their cyber café. The initial group, including one interested parent, enjoyed the chance to use the digital cameras and manipulate their images in Adobe PhotoShop. In the following sessions, they also made a start on some plasticine detective characters, which were animated for use on Project 229's website. In the January sessions, several new parents turned up and their younger children had great fun making their first short claymation

### Numbers

11 plus 4 parents



## Shortstown

4th & 11th January 2005

Two workshops at RAW Club

### Partners

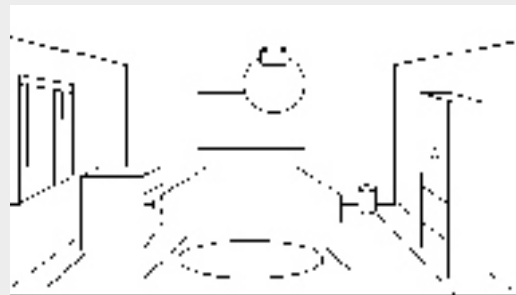
Local parents and project worker Paul Nicholson

### Description

This group of young people met to produce artwork for use at a Safety Day in Shortstown. They worked on enlarged drawings of rooms (with hazards) using BCA's new portable overhead projector. In pairs, they designed and made models of rooms in shoeboxes and showed great ingenuity in their work. This artwork became an interactive display for the 'Life's Hazards' event at Shortstown Lower School.

### Numbers

16 plus 2 parents



## KEY POINTS

- Supporting parents to learn skills and run sessions
- Taking equipment into community settings
- Adding value to a new community venue

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### Case Studies

#### **Creative Media courses Renaissance Employment Centre**

##### **Introduction**

Our connection with Renaissance Employment Project started with European Social Fund funding an Access Media project in 2003. The initial workshops provided places for 6 people. The aim was to encourage creative development through the use of photography workshops. All participants produced an album.

##### **Funded**

Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC) through Renaissance Employment Centre.

##### **Workers**

BCA's project worker Joanna Clark with staff and volunteers from Renaissance Employment

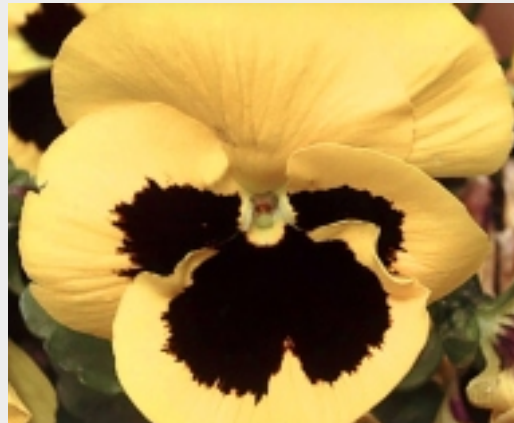
##### **Numbers**

24

#### **Basic course** September 2004 - March 2005

##### **Description**

Four basic photography courses aimed at familiarising participants with cameras and equipment purchased by Renaissance Employment Project. Each course ran for eight sessions and focused on portraits, environment and nature and documentary photography. Albums were made along with material for displaying in the Renaissance Centre.



#### **Advanced course** December 2004 - May 2005

##### **Description**

Built in progression was ensured by providing three advanced photography courses each offering eight sessions looking at digital camera use and printing equipment based at Renaissance Centre. This progression element led onto actual dark room activities at BCA Gallery and the production of black and white prints. Participants created a photograph for framing.



Case study continued in depth on second page...

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## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

### Case Studies

**‘This course has made me realise I am very good at computers. I could consider work again in this area’**

#### Partners

BCA worker Joanna Clark & Renaissance Employment Project Leader Denise Davies

#### Results

The initial sessions had proved very popular and participants had gained much from their involvement in developing digital and I.T. skills. BCA team supported the second funding application by providing advice to obtain a practical, user - friendly kit of photographic equipment. This ensured the creative work would continue and be sustained after the second round of workshops ended.

#### Learning

The development over the last two years has seen the initial four photographic beginners workshops feed into three advanced sessions. The positive outcomes are that participants have gained confidence, knowledge and communication skills and there is the possibility of progressing and working towards a post-advanced workshop and a volunteering course. This increased capacity for the participants is that they now have the opportunity, based on their personal development, to consider whether they would like to teach people on future photographic workshops either through Renaissance or at Bedford Creative Arts. This sustains photographic interest through their technical understanding of the equipment and the basic principles around photography. It also ensures ongoing creative interest is promoted to new participants.

#### Reflection

Partnership working with the Renaissance team right from the very beginning has been about working together to ensure the best outcome for participants. It is this shared focus on respecting and meeting the needs of clients that has supported a lasting relationship based on mutual respect and a desire to learn from each other. This was clearly demonstrated when the Renaissance team submitted their own funding application to the Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities for a further 9 months of BCA photographic workshops.

#### KEY POINTS

- Sharing creative practice
- Shared focus on the creative needs of participants
- A willingness to learn from each other
- Shared ethos of mutual respect for all
- Success in moving participants on from a familiar environment
- Shared aim to develop clients' personal & technical skills
- Succeeding in progressing individual development
- Recognising positive results & being pro-active to sustain this

**‘thank you for introducing me to a pastime that inspires me both technically and creatively’**

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# Case Studies

## Bedford Prison

19th - 30th April 2004

### Introduction

Bedford Creative Arts, along with other arts based organisations, is able to reach and work with a diverse range of people. BCA's focus is on contemporary visual art and helps to situate people in the 'here and now' of everyday living. Our approach is non judgmental and based on the principles of equality and inclusion. Bedford Prison was a target for BCA. NLDC funding enabled us to work with the education team at Bedford Prison and their Writer in Residence.

### Partners

BCA Project Worker, Paul Nicholson, Bedford Prison Education Team and their Writer in Residence.

### Description

The activity offered had to respect the high security of working in a closed unit. A bespoke combination of very high tech computers and very low tech cut and collage techniques were employed to create animations on a water theme. The workshops provided the opportunity for inmates to learn how to film, edit and add sound to their respective pieces of work. All work was shown at the Bedford River Festival.

### Learning

Workshops provided the space to explore creative, emotional and cultural aspects. Working as part of a creative team was a first for the inmates. The course was met with enthusiasm and their commitment to the tasks set demonstrated personal development and the fundamental role the arts play in developing expression. Progressing technical abilities including the ability to time manage, plan and complete work to a high standard for public exhibition allowed the men to gain transferable skills.

### Results

One inmate chose photography as the subject for his literacy course. The inmates demonstrated a huge amount of trust in both the BCA worker and in being open to new experiences. As a result they developed at a personal level and in producing material for display. All had their material shown at the Bedford River Festival.

**Numbers** 12

### Reflection

This programme of work demonstrates the strength of using the arts to break down barriers and to access excluded people. An important part of securing this success was having a pro-active contact within the prison. The Writer in Residence was able to promote the project directly to prisoners, bring different people together and had a shared agenda re the arts. She therefore understood the role the arts play in developing expression. She was able to help BCA workers who had limited experience regarding prison culture.

### Funded

Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities, NLDC

## KEY POINTS

- The media arts is relevant to everyday living
- The arts can break down barriers to other learning
- The project develops personal, creative and emotional expression
- Values and promotes equality and inclusion
- Builds and complements the work of other educational partners
- Pride in high quality results
- Seeing a project through to completion

# THE GATEHOUSE

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### KEY POINTS

- Participants' progression built in
- Creative interest sustained
- Personal growth and supported peer learning
- An end product created by participants
- Alliances with other organisations

# Creative Access

### Introduction

Creative Access reached individuals who were not accessing mainstream learning and provided photography workshops. The sessions included progression in technical and communication skills from introductory to intermediate levels. Advanced workshops had a mix of participants from different groups and ensured that participants met new group members as well as gaining more advanced skills.

### Partners

Headway, Goldington Family Centre, James Kingham Project - alcohol services in the community, Bedford Housing Link, NACRO.

### Worker

Joanna Clark

### Headway

26th May 2004

6 weeks

### Description

The group enjoyed the opportunity to attend an activity away from their usual organisation and to further their photographic interests. Participants had limited mobility and a lot of time was spent working together to find the best cameras and supports to use.

### Numbers

6

### James Kingham Project

21st July 2004

6 sessions

### Description

A very motivated group and full of ideas to try out in their basic introduction to photography. Further sessions continued in the autumn. One parent progressed to other projects and became an enthusiastic member of BCA Gallery photography group.

### Numbers

3

### Funded

Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC), through the Learning Partnership.

### Tuesday and Thursday Photography Groups

29th April 2004

8 weeks

### Description

The members of the two groups were participants in the previous year's ESF courses. They have become very keen on photography. Most of them have acquired their own cameras and are all competent darkroom users. They created images of water using toners and double printing methods to manipulate their prints. The resulting prints and two large cyanotype banners that they made were displayed at Bedford River Festival.

### Numbers

7

### Goldington Family Centre

17th June 2004

3 weeks

### Description

A group of mothers went through basic photographic techniques while their children were in the centre's nursery. Paying for children's portraits commercially is either expensive or if cheap, badly done. The group decided to concentrate on simple techniques so they could do their own portraits of their children. They also wanted to record their children's play and Sports Days so we worked on capturing movement successfully.

### Numbers

5

# THE GATEHOUSE

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# Community Activities

### **Faldo Road Community House mural** 3 afternoons 5th, 13th, 16th April 2004

#### Description

Open workshops for local people to participate in a mural design for the community house. Sessions at Scott Hall and Jubilation Centre involved several young people working on ideas for their panels. Also see Jubilee Park Fun Day.

#### Funded

London Road Action Group

#### Workers

Paul Nicholson and a volunteer

#### Numbers

15

### **Sustrans mural Queen's Park** May 2004 onwards (painting 29th August – 19th Sept)

#### Description

A variety of meetings, consultations and workshops took place to develop ideas and designs for this mural by the river in Queen's Park. Working in collaboration with BTCV, the mural finally got the go ahead in mid-August, with painting starting at the end of the school summer holidays. Also see Queen's Park Fun Day and Spurgeon's Child Care (Queen's Park).

#### Funded

Bedford Healthy Living Initiative

#### Workers

Paul Nicholson and Irene Kharag

#### Numbers

40

#### Introduction

BCA has traditionally supported community mural projects where there has been a local demand. We see these projects as an opportunity to build local relationships and develop other creative programmes of work. These projects represent our final work in this area as BCA's current focus is to develop creative communities through film, photography and animation.

### **Sure Start mural Shortstown** 3 sessions 29th Oct - Nov 2004

#### Description

This project involved a design for the inner fence around the temporary Sure Start building at RAF Cardington. As the fence had been painted blue and stands near to the old airship sheds, a theme of hot air balloons was decided upon. We made a range of stencils of different patterned balloons and the R101, to enable even the youngest children from the toddlers' group to play their part. The Saturday morning sponge-painting sessions proved to be very popular with the parents and toddlers, as well as some of the older Arts Club Network regulars.

#### Funded

BBC Children in Need

#### Workers

Paul Nicholson with Sure Start workers

#### Numbers

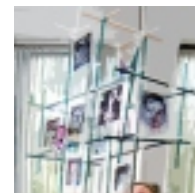
50 plus parents

## KEY POINTS

- Supported other creative community projects
- Developed partnerships with local community groups
- Provided the opportunity to work in a rural environment

# THE GATEHOUSE

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# Community Projects

### **Goldington Youth Mix banner** 2 evening sessions (Church Lane Community Centre) 7th & 20th June 2004

#### Description

These two sessions at the youth club enabled a number of new young people to add their names to the graffiti-style banner design that will hang in the main room. The banner has now been hemmed and has eyelets, ready for hanging.

#### Funded

Bedford Healthy Living Initiative

#### Workers

Paul Nicholson

#### Numbers

9

### **Elms Farm Local History project** November 2004 2 meetings

#### Description

We were invited to give advice on this interesting project in Goldington after the local street ranger picked up on the residents' idea of researching their area's history. Although it is a relatively new estate, the group's desire to involve the local community, including young people, prompted us to regard this project as one with a lot of potential for future involvement. It could also develop links forged with the young people involved in the earlier banner project, before that group disbanded.

#### Funded

Bedford Borough Council

#### Workers

Paul Nicholson

#### Numbers

30

### **Bedford Children's University** 16th - 20th August 2004

#### Description

Two project workers ran the photography and digital imaging sessions for the Children's University week. The group consisted of fourteen children ranging from 9 to 13 years old who had shown a strong interest or talent in the area. The children made their own pinhole cameras and took photographs with them. They learnt how to develop the pinhole negatives in the darkroom and then make prints from them. Students then moved into the digital darkroom. Initially working from scans of the work produced earlier, then using the college's photographic library. The group worked on the basics of digital imaging and progressed on an individual level through to collage and manipulation. At the end of the week the group created a display with the books they had made in the first half of the week. Using garden sticks, wire, string and ink jet acetate they created hanging displays of their digital work.

#### Funded

Bedford Education Business Partnership

#### Workers

Joanna Clark and David Deans

#### Numbers

14

### KEY POINTS

- Brings communities together
- Flexible and participatory
- Nurturing young creative talent
- Developing imagination