

Young Arts 2015

It's long been our aim to offer local youngsters a wide range of opportunities to explore their artistic creativity. At a time when financial constraints and curriculum pressures hamper the teaching of art in our schools, it seems even more important that we support both teachers and pupils by organising interesting, inspiring and, above all, enjoyable art based activities. In 2015, just as in other years, this is what Young Arts sought to do.

Perhaps the most disadvantaged children in our community are young carers. With their challenging situations uppermost in our minds, we joined forces with Surrey Young Carers and the Watts Gallery when we, at CDFAS, fully funded print-making workshops at the Gallery for groups of these youngsters.



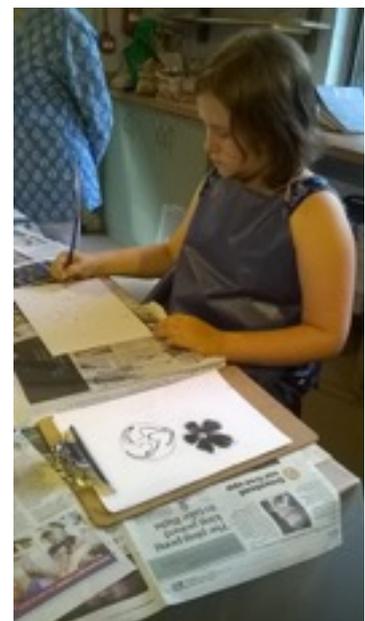
Some used guided tours of the galleries to gain inspiration for their prints, others visited the Watts Chapel and studied the symbolism of its intricate designs. So there was every opportunity for their imaginations to take flight before they returned to the Gallery's fully equipped workshops to learn printmaking techniques.

There is no doubt that the children gained from the experience and, as well as having fun, they were really proud of their achievements.



In thanking our society, a representative of Surrey Young Carers wrote;

“.....the young carers had a wonderful time and greatly appreciated the break. To be able to come away from their caring situation and have fun with their



peers can make a big difference. Adding art into the mix was very therapeutic for them.....”



If anyone doubts the delight the children felt at having created some wonderful prints, they need only look at the beaming face of the young carer opposite.

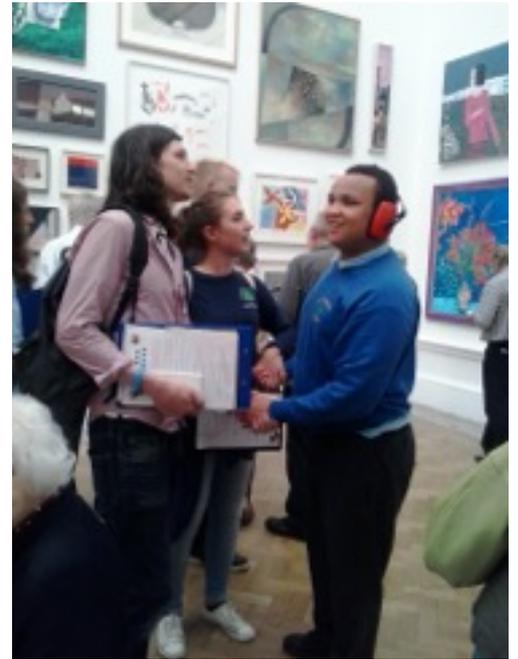


Other young people with whom our society has for many years enjoyed a special relationship, are the learners at St Joseph's Specialist School and College. Its dedicated staff are quick to point out the beneficial effects of artistic creativity and we are gratified to have funded a number of its projects. The art department really appreciates the support we give and values the association as much as we value their commitment. In 2015, a generous grant from CDFAS enabled their talented artist-in-residence to work one-to-one with some of their most artistically gifted learners.

Introducing them to the work of contemporary artist can be very inspiring.

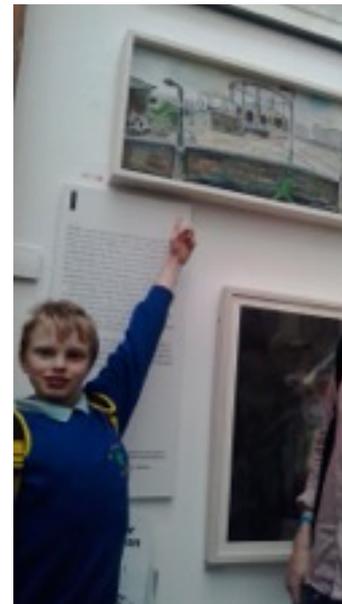


A few years ago, again with the help of a CDFAS donation, work began at St Joseph's on an Art in Nature Trail in its wooded grounds.



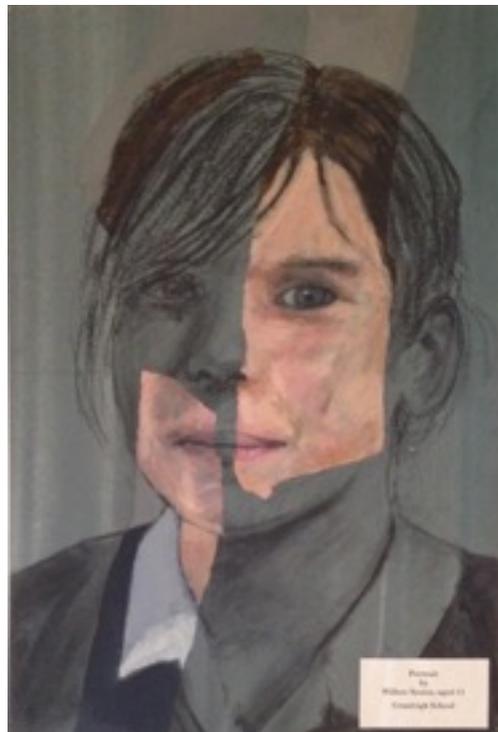
2015's artist-in-residence continued the work, encouraging learners to use natural objects in order to create ephemeral "sculptures" amongst the trees.

The natural world also provides inspiration for an impressive output of paintings and ceramics.



Due to our society's generous funding of the wide variety of Young Arts' projects and workshops we organise, we're gradually building ever closer ties with our local schools. We're very aware of the busy lives teachers lead. Simply dealing with a packed curriculum means it would be easy for them merely to do their jobs, without undertaking the extra schemes we offer. That they are so ready to take advantage of them is a testament to their wish to encourage greater participation in the creative life of their pupils.

In acknowledgement of that, we approached the Arts Centre with the idea of displaying a different painting each month, on a rota basis, from all seven Cranleigh schools. We're so grateful that the Arts Centre immediately agreed, offering us a prime location in its foyer. The result you can see for yourselves. It's a real celebration of the artistic talent of our youngsters.



Here's a selection of the paintings displayed so far. Each month there's a different one to see.

Christmas is particularly exciting for children. It can be a time when they are at their most creative; the ideal time to make some really imaginative decorations. With this in mind we funded three workshops for years 4, 5 & 6 at St Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Primary School.



The children approached the tasks at hand with tremendous enthusiasm. Soon snow globe pictures, Christmas tree baubles and Santa advent calendars were under production - and some very happy children were eager to show off the decorations they had made.

There was even a long snowman frieze in the making.

It was all in all a very messy business, and the classrooms were soon littered with card, crepe paper, glue, glitter and dough.

The teachers, too, entered into the Christmas spirit and the results were certainly worth the temporary chaos.

Fortunately the cleaning staff were very understanding as well; just pleased to see what fun the children had had and what delightful festive decorations they had made.



A group of images to illustrate the busy, festive fun at St Cuthbert Mayne's Christmas Decoration workshops, fully funded by Cranleigh Decorative and Fine Arts Society.



All the work that we, at Young Arts, undertake is only possible because of the unfailing support of our committee and the goodwill of our membership.

We are also fortunate that our new CDFAS Chairman, Pat Butler, is as determined as her predecessor to champion the Young Arts' cause. For all that we are very grateful.

Pat Morgan & Jan Fricker

The Young Arts Team

