

## MARKET ESTATE & CALEDONIAN PARK HOARDING PROJECT



Free Form Arts Trust was commissioned by Southern Housing, Higgins and the Caledonian Park user group to work with children from Hungerford School to create the artwork for this hoarding surrounding the site during the building works.

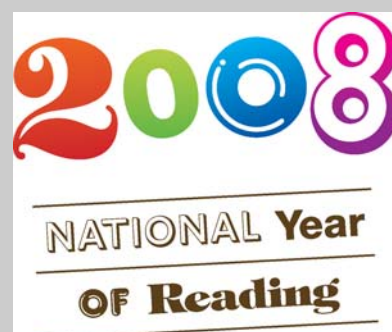
Through a series of art workshops, the children explored Victorians and the history and biodiversity of Caledonian Market. Free Form Arts and the children used artefacts from our collection.

*"I must say having these costumes from the ELS made this project come alive for the children and ourselves."* Shahed Ahmed, Project Manager, Free Form Arts Trust

**We are very pleased that so many of you made bids to the Extended Schools grant for promoting NYR work in schools.** We had some very imaginative and exciting bids about ways of creating a reading environment in schools and developing book corners. We hope to have an event to showcase some of the work in the autumn term and to display your good ideas. If you need any help with your planning then do contact the library staff.

The NYR campaign will start properly in April with a national campaign about library membership. Your local libraries will be running supporting events.

We will keep you up-to-date with events and activities that will be happening in Islington.



**BOOK CLUBS** Many schools run book clubs or are thinking of starting them as part of the National Year of Reading. Here is what Ashmount and Canonbury Primary School say about theirs - in the next issue we will look at secondary school examples.

**Liz Stock, Canonbury Primary School:**

We decided to start two book clubs for Year 5 in May 2007 to encourage our able, but less enthusiastic, readers to read more challenging books and to clock up some reading miles. We also wanted them to be able to discuss their own ideas about the books with their peers.

Our meetings take place once or twice every half term for an hour in the school library. We have drinks and chocolate biscuits and sit on bean bags in an informal setting.

The children in both groups are enthusiastic and interested in the books and keen to put their points of view. We discuss the main themes and ideas in the books, the characters, the way the books are produced and designed, what they liked and disliked and any broader issues that the books raise.

**Ashmount Primary School: There are currently 2 book clubs running at our school which are run by Jo Asiedu and Rebecca Stacey. Children from the targeted year groups are free to join but some identified children are invited.**

**Chatter Books**

This is a book club for any children in years 5 and 6. There are different themes each week, which are advertised on a display. The children are then free to choose when they come. We have had wolf stories where they picked their favourite storybook *Wolf*. We have written poetry for a national competition and read our favourite poems to each other. We have focused on authors such as Betsy Byars. The children sign out for books they borrow from the book club and are always very keen to suggest themes and bring in their own books.

**Book Worms**

This club is for pupils in years 3 and 4 and is held once a week at lunchtime. The children have been involved in a variety of activities including interviewing each other and staff about their favourite children's books. We have also discussed reading preferences, habits,

They each give the books a star rating (five being the highest accolade).

The books are bought from the school budget and will be used in future for book clubs and as guided reading sets. This year we have continued with the book clubs into year 6 and have started two groups for Year 5 (led by a year 5 teacher).

Some of the titles we have discussed:

*The boy in the striped*

*pyjamas* by John Boyne

*Keep* by Mal Peet

*The other side of truth* by

Beverly Naidoo

*Flush* by Carl Hiaasen

*Recruit* by Robert

Muchamore



We have just made a bid for £500 for the National year of Reading.

barriers to reading and how they might be overcome. Other tasks have included listing favourite authors and types of books.

During sessions children choose from a range of books, which have been pre-selected to encourage interaction with the text. Each week they report back on what they have read and make a recommendation to other members of the group. New books are then chosen. The group's current favourites include *Clarice Bean* and *Fairytale news* because of the interesting and unusual ways in which the texts have been presented. The children are free to attend sessions when they choose but are encouraged to attend regularly.

Many of the children are so keen to talk about the books they are reading as part of the book club, at home and in class. I am often approached by Book Worms who can't wait to tell me how exciting, funny or brilliant their current book is. Word about a good book is spread quickly and many children who are yet to attend a session have asked if they can also borrow books.

School books are supplemented by a collection on loan from the Education Library Service.

***Please let us know if you have a model you would like to share***

## CONGRATULATIONS TO JACK PETCHEY AWARD WINNER: CATHERINE COX

### Catherine, Librarian at St Aloysius

**College writes:** A meeting was held with our Student Council who voted for 6 pupils and 1 member of staff to be nominated for the Jack Petchey award. The winning pupils each received £300 for the school. I won £1000 for the school for Outstanding Leader, which was presented at a presentation evening. It was given to me for my contribution and resources over the last year (I started here in January 2007).

I feel privileged that I was chosen for this award. I am going to spend the money on our new library which will be part of the Building Schools for the Future rebuild.



[www.objectlessons.org](http://www.objectlessons.org)

History activity sheets free to download

You may be familiar with our activity sheets supporting history topics often included in Artefacts loan boxes. These sheets have just been updated with many new interesting websites to support lesson planning and research. They can be downloaded free from the objectlessons website in the 'teachers resources' section. We will also be including them in your loan boxes when relevant. At the moment topics covered are Romans, Tudors and Stuarts, Victorians and World War II and Britain since the 1930s.



Daniel Girmay, one of the ELS Students,  
with Pam at the Awards Ceremony

**BAFTA**, in the heart of London, opened its doors for the annual celebration event for Islington Career Start. In a real red carpet moment, young people were treated to a glitzy awards evening to celebrate their fantastic achievements in the jobs and work experience they have accessed through the scheme. The event also gave recognition to Cambridge Education @ Islington, among other employers, who have provided opportunities and support to young people involved in the scheme.

To find out more about Islington Career Start and how your team can support the scheme, please contact Nikki Smith on 020 7527 1820 or email [nikki.smith@islington.gov.uk](mailto:nikki.smith@islington.gov.uk)

**Meg Rosoff**, last year's winner of the Carnegie book award, came to Barnsbury to meet the students who took part in last year's Shadowing programme. Meg talked in the most engaging way about her career and life as a writer and students were fascinated to hear her life story. She talked at length about 'fate', the subject of the winning title *Just in Case* and students were able to gain real insights into her views. This year's Carnegie shortlist will be announced on 18 April and the winner on 27 June.



If you want to take part in Carnegie shadowing with your students then contact us or your school librarian. It is a challenging and stimulating event which really promotes reading.

## **TEXT FAREWELL TO JIM DUNK**

**I have to wish the TEXT project and all of our school clients in Islington a fond farewell. I have made this decision for personal reasons, after over two years co-ordinating and participating in the project.**

I will take with me many fond memories of my time with TEXT, including an evening at Holloway School, sharing poems with students and their parents. They had been working with Roger Robinson and writing poems about their own lives, some of them written *with* their parents. Then there was the amazing experience of writing a twenty-minute play with Year Four pupils at William Tyndale, encapsulating several thousand years of Egyptian history.

A Reception class pupil who inspired a group poem by answering the question, "What is your favourite food?" "Fish", he said.

**It is with reluctance and much regret that**

When asked what it was he liked about fish, he replied, "Chips!" And a poem was born!

A collaboration of TEXT writers with students and tutors from the London Film School led to a frenetic but amazing five days in Highbury Fields School. During this time the whole of Year Nine scripted, produced and filmed five short movies.

These and many more memories will go with me when I leave and I would like to thank the students and staff of the schools with which I have worked for providing these special moments. It has also been a privilege to work closely with the Islington Education Library Service. The breadth of knowledge, creativity and enthusiasm of the staff is inspirational and I wish them every success in their new home.

One final word of thanks to the Cripplegate Foundation, which has funded my work and the TEXT project in the Cripplegate area.

And so, farewell! I wish you all happy writing and the joy and power of the spoken and written word!

Jim Dunk

**LIBRARY RELOCATION** As you have probably heard, the library service will be relocated this summer as part of the sale of the Barnsbury site. We are working towards a removal date of 30 June to minimise the disruption to the summer collections from schools. Our new site is still (as I write) to be confirmed but it will definitely not be part of the new Professional Development Centre in Highbury Station Road. As a result, we have set up a small relocation group to consider the implications for all users of the service. We will be considering our opening hours, the library presence at Barnsbury and other ideas for making the new site as accessible as possible. If you have any thoughts on this do contact one of us in the library.

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