



Making global connections

Bridges

Annual Report 2007/2008

www.shropshirebridges.org.uk

Tel: 01952 255526

Email: info@shropshirebridges.org.uk

Write to/visit

Bridges, The Studios, Mansell Road, Wellington
Telford TF1 1QQ

Registered Charity No. 1112128

Registered Limited Company No. 5486119

Our Aim

Bridges is a Shropshire based educational organisation that aims to support an understanding of the diverse world and communities in which we live and the issues that affect us all. We work to empower people, individually and collectively, to take a full and active role as responsible global citizens.

School Services

This year we continued to provide CPD sessions for staff and workshops for pupils from Key Stage 1 upwards. We ran 5 CPD sessions on Global Citizenship, including two for a Catholic schools conference and the Schools Multi-cultural Development Service. Pupil workshops included sessions on global solutions to recycling, water issues in Africa, local/global links, Human Rights and Fairtrade.

For the third year running we organised six participatory educational visits for 15 overseas post graduate fellows at Wolverhampton University, enabling around 550 pupils and students to hear about development issues in at least one of 12 different countries. One of the postgraduates this year from the Cameroon was so inspired by her visits that she is setting up a pilot scheme for Eco-schools in her country.

'A stimulating and interesting session. Thank you.' Participant CPD workshop, Redhill Primary School

'Thoroughly enjoyable and a great start to our Indian week!' Hanwood Primary School

'I will be booking for next year.' Sue Coppin, Head of Sixth Form, Shrewsbury High School for Girls

Global Village Project

This project aims to engage three Shropshire communities in rural areas with world issues by holding events with a global theme. This year was the first of three years working with the villages.

Four communities took part, holding events aimed at the whole community. Hinstock School hosted a Family Fairtrade Fun quiz, Maesbury held an African festival of African Food and Culture and Farlow and Bitterley hosted an evening of Southern African Gum Boot Dancing and food. Next year, the villagers' plans include an evening of Eastern European music and culture. Schools that have been involved in the project will be helping to share their learning through training events on community cohesion. A full year one project report is available on request.

The Global Village Project is part of a EC funded project involving partners across Europe and is also supported by the Walker Trust. For more information contact Davina.

"The event had a really good community feel...parents were really chuffed with the children's African dance performance".
Head teacher, Maesbury School



Festival Banner, Maesbury

Carbon Trading Project

This project worked with partners across Europe to develop innovative approaches to learning about climate change. Bridges took part in the consultation and development of an online Carbon Trading Game – which can be found at www.carbongame.org. The project ended in May and was funded by the EC Minerva programme. For more information contact Davina.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

	2007/08	2006/07
	£	£
Incoming Resources		
Donations and gifts	382	462
Core Grants	5000	15,000
Resource sales	1,327	1,101
Consultancy	6,904	4,970
Investment Income	1,430	835
Other income (projects)	52,832	67,312
Total Income	67,875	89,680
Total Expenditure	79,724	56,853
Net Income/Expenditure	(11,849)	32,441
Balance brought forward	56,268	23,441
Balance carried forward	44,419	56,268

CURRENT ASSETS

Stock	0.00	1,346
Debtors	6,559	4,835
Cash at bank and in hand	41,580	52,890
Creditors	(1,313)	(104)
	46,826	58,967
Less current liabilities & provisions	2,407	2,699
NET ASSETS	44,419	56,268

Chairperson's Overview

Bridges continues to offer a unique service to Shropshire and beyond, opening a window on the wider world in a county often accused of being primarily inwards looking. Projects, training and dissemination of resources have together given a wider view of the world to thousands of people over the last twelve months.

With an excellent team of staff and volunteers Bridges is well placed to continue and expand this work. The team has been successful in obtaining new grants from a variety of sources (the apparent income decline this year is actually a reflection of the timing of grant payments). However, sustainable funding remains an issue and we continue to seek funding partnerships with a range of organisations as well as the support of individuals and organisations through our 'Friends' scheme.

We may live in global times but what does that mean for a global citizen of Market Drayton or Clun? Bridges, as its names suggests, makes connections between local life and global politics, between world issues and local action, and I am proud to commend their work to you in this report.

Kevin Lawrence, Chairperson

College and Sixth Form Services

Bridges have been delivering youth workshops at Shrewsbury College to help encourage young people to engage with controversial issues from racism, poverty, ethical travel and fair trade. Over thirty workshops have been delivered in total and further bookings have been secured for September 2008. The college will also be undertaking a diversity project in conjunction with Red Cross. Students will be involved in designing, delivering and evaluating a contribution for the 'Rock against Racism' event in June 2009.

Bridges also delivered series of workshops with sixth form groups in the county.

Personnel:

Staff

Davina Allen- Coordinator davina@shropshirebridges.org.uk	0.8 FTE Education
Sylvia Ruxton- Officer Sylvia@shropshirebridges.org.uk	0.6 FTE Education
Mana Kaur- manjit@shropshirebridges.org.uk	0.5 FTE Project Officer
Lisa Dixon -	0.3 FTE Administrator. (April 07-January 08)
Melanie Downes admin@shropshirebridges.org.uk	0.3FTE Administrator (from February 08)

Volunteers

Ann Wishart (January 07 – March 08)
Alan Martin (financial administration)
Penelope Stokes (community and schools work)
Roger & Bernice Jones (administration)

Trustees

Mr Kevin Lawrence – Chair (March 2008)
Mr Dag Saunders
Prof Lalage Bown
Mrs Hannah Adjepong
Mrs Ella Haruna (May 2008)
Dr Isabel Carter (May 2008)

Tackling Controversial Issues

Six secondary schools took part in this project to investigate using experiential education techniques to tackle controversial issues.

Bridges worked in partnership with Telford Learning Innovation Centre to develop an online resource to enable pupils to explore the refugee crisis in the Darfur Region of Sudan. The resource can be found at www.taw.org.uk/lic/projects/bridges. The simulation focused on developing students empathy and decision making skills. During the day, pupils took on the role of villagers in Sudan and, in the face of an imminent threat, were asked to decide if they would leave their homes to go to a refugee camp. The participating schools also received staff departmental training in how to approach controversial issues and support incorporating the new ideas and techniques into their long term plans. A document outlining the contribution experiential learning can make to the teaching of global citizenship can be downloaded from the Bridges website.

This one year project was completed in April 2008 and was funded by Oxfam. For more information contact Davina.



A family in a refugee camp in Darfur

The G8 Challenge

This project uses debate on global issues, with pupils representing developing countries, as a springboard for taking action. This year the 8 project schools continued with action following on from last year's mock G8 summit.

Three cluster meetings were held during which school council members from schools discussed what action they would concentrate on. All the schools wanted to be involved in raising money for mosquito nets for Africa. Supporting Fairtrade and cutting carbon were other key areas schools chose. School councils or special G8 groups then held fundraising events, wrote letters, ran assemblies, gave presentations to other pupils and parents, ran fair-trade stalls and in one school set up a fair-trade company to order and sell fair-trade products to staff and pupils, with any profit going to a fair-trade charity. Shropshire Radio covered three G8 events and the Shropshire Star and local newspapers also covered many of these stories.

In June 2008 the 'World of Difference' conference celebrating and sharing what had been achieved was held at Shire Hall which was attended by 80 pupils from 12 schools plus 30 staff, governors and parents, trustees, the county Geography advisor and Shrewsbury and Atcham's MP Daniel Kawczynski.

Both staff and pupils from project and non project schools were unanimously enthusiastic about the event.

'I really enjoyed today because it was inspiring and fun.' Angel, pupil

'Excellent presentations from schools and activities. We all learnt soooo much.' Lucia, Pupil.

For further information contact Sylvia. The G8 Challenge is a DFID funded 3 year project.

Global Food Chain Project

The Global Food Chain project aimed to encourage three primary schools in Shropshire to investigate food issues in the school and local community via video diaries which were then posted on the Global Food Chain website. The project ran from September 2007 to July 2008 and collected fifty video diaries documenting food investigations undertaken by Ladygrove and Hodnet Primary School.

"The children involved are showing great enthusiasm for the Global Food Chain project. They are demonstrating skills in speaking and listening and having lively, thought provoking debates on food issues" Wendy McDonald, Stoke-on-Tern.

The project will continue as a stand alone project where schools will be able to upload video diaries and complete online blogs. Leaflets have been sent out to primary schools over the summer term to help promote the project via the Healthy Schools team in Telford and Wrekin and Sandwell, Birmingham.

For more information log on to www.globalfoodchain.co.uk or contact Mana.

The Global Food Chain project was funded by the Aggregates Levy Fund and Awards for All.

Global Citizenship Project

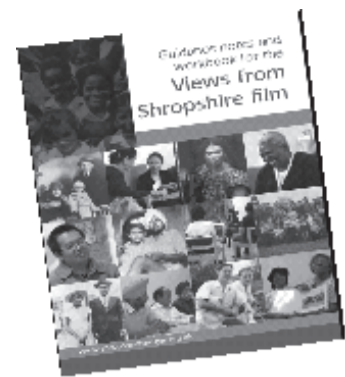
This three year project, to enable Shropshire schools to embed Global Citizenship into their curriculum, came to an end this year. A booklet 'The World in Shropshire' was produced, drawing on work done in the project schools, as well as using examples of good practice from Bridges' other project schools. There are four sections to this resource, giving teachers ways into tackling four areas of Global Citizenship work – recycling, fair-trade, world issues and diversity. The booklet is available for purchase as a hard copy from Bridges or as a free download from our website.

Evaluation of the project included visits to all the participating schools, a questionnaire and interviews with staff. The four schools who remained in the project throughout all felt that being involved in the project had helped them to incorporate Global Citizenship across the curriculum and wider school life. In Meole Brace Juniors Global Citizenship is built into planning and 'at the heart of what the school does'. Moorfield School felt that the project had helped the school look further outwards and that pupils now have a better grasp of issues affecting developing countries. At Adderley pupils are now more aware of global issues and enthusiastic about follow up work. All the schools had managed to achieve much of what they had set out to do on their initial action plan for each year. Two of the schools also benefited from linked funding for the project to take part in the G8 project. 'Staff and pupils are more confident at discussing global citizenship issues.' Headteacher, Mount Pleasant Junior School. The Global Citizenship Project was funded by Oxfam. For more information contact Sylvia.

Resources

Due to the increased availability of resources for educators on the internet, Bridges decided to cease selling resources this year. Since Easter we have been selling off our stock at cost price. Those involved in our projects will still be able to hire materials from our centre and our popular artefact boxes are still available for hire. We will sell resources produced by Bridges.

Views from Shropshire



'Views from Shropshire' is an oral history project exploring the journey of the first generation immigrants who have settled in Shropshire from different parts of the world. The aim of the project is to help raise awareness about cultural and ethnic diversity in Shropshire and to create a dialogue for communities to share their similarities and celebrate their differences. Key achievements to date include:

- Sixty-eight participants took part in one-to-one interviews and five reminiscence workshops. Thirty of the accounts have been archived and developed into a schools resource and the others have been developed into a community film and educational pack for youth and community groups, which is available from October 2008.

- A Partnership project has also been successfully delivered with Age Concern in which oral histories collected by the Hadley Castle Farm Group was used to inspire art work with young people.

From April 2008 to March 2009, Bridges was:

- Preparing for the 'Celebrating Diversity' event which took place in October @ The Hadley Learning Centre. The event showcased oral histories and celebrate diversity in the local community.
- Working in conjunction with curriculum advisors to produce a schools resource for Key stage two and three.
- Working developmentally with five groups to produce work inspired by the Views from Shropshire project. Groups include a Sure Start Parents and Children Group, Two older peoples Groups in conjunction with Age Concern and a young peoples group in conjunction with TCAT and the Shropshire Youth Association.
- Preparing to deliver teacher-training in February 2009.

For further information email manjit@shropshirebridges.org.uk

Views from Shropshire is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Picturing Our World

This project commenced in June 2008, and aims to explore the major development issues highlighted by the Millennium Development Goals through using participatory photography.

Shropshire groups and communities with their overseas partners will take photographs on themes such as education, health and the environment, in preparation for a series of exhibitions that will raise awareness of the issues around the county and further a field. Five groups have been recruited to take part in the project. More information about the project can be found on Bridges' website.

For more information contact Davina. This project is funded by DFID.