



Development Education Centre

Bridges Bulletin

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Highlights from the 'Views from Shropshire' Exhibition held in conjunction with the Celebrating Partnership Event

October 2008



Photograph: 'Acoustic Live', Indian classical music performers at the 'Views from Shropshire' exhibition

Two hundred and fifty people attended the 'Views from Shropshire' exhibition hosted as part of the 'Celebrating Cultures' event at the Hadley Learning Centre, Telford.

The exhibition shared oral histories from diverse communities who have settled in Shropshire from Africa, Asia, Europe, South America and the West Indies. The exhibition included live musical performances and a special screening of the 'Views from Shropshire' film, based on five reminiscence workshops undertaken in the summer of 2007.

Guest speakers at the event included Krystyna Tomczak, who participated in an oral history interview. Krystyna commented "I had no idea there were so many people involved in this project and it was lovely to meet them. I particularly enjoyed seeing some of the art work and seeing how our experiences have been used to generate discussions with new migrant communities in Shropshire".

'Views from Shropshire' has collected sixty-eight oral history accounts which have been archived and developed into a book, schools resource, film and travelling exhibition.

The 'Views from Shropshire' film and book are available to now available to buy for £9.99. To purchase your copy contact Mana on 01952 255526 or email manjit@shropshirebridges.org.uk

All White Here? Diversity Training for Primary Schools

Our CPD Training for primary teachers continue this term with a workshop on appreciating diversity in a rural area. There will be practical activities for KS1 & 2, as well as accounts drawn from the experiences of local minority communities here in Shropshire. We are running the following half day workshops:-

Thursday 19th March - AM, at the Secret Hills Discovery Centre Craven Arms

Wednesday 25th March - AM, at the Qube, Oswestry.

Cost £65.00, accompanying governor/ TA free. Contact Sylvia for more information.

Staff Changes at Bridges

We're pleased to introduce our new Education Officer, Alison Thomas, who will be undertaking community and schools projects from January. Alison has a background in environmental management and overseas development and is experienced educating children of all ages. She will take over Davina Allen's project work whilst she is on Maternity Leave. During Davina's absence, Sylvia Ruxton will take over as Coordinator. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to two of our newest board members, Mr Ian Butterworth & Mrs Verena Waterhouse.

Global Re-Think – An Evening of Ideas and Reflection

How can my street help me to cut my Carbon Footprint? To what extent should we overseas development projects work with cultures with values different from our own? How can I raise funds for our overseas link?

These are some of the questions that challenged participants at the Global Rethink- an evening of inspirational ideas for a better world, held on the 20th November. The event was organised by Bridges.



Keynote speaker

Hamayoon Sultan For many, the highlight of the evening was

a Charity Dragons' Den – inspired by the TV programme of the same name. Five local good causes made their pitch for support and guidance from a panel of local 'Dragons' – all experts in their own field. Each good cause went away with the pledges of help. The Marches School South Africa link supporting four schools benefited from a generous donation from Nick Chavasse from NRG direct Mail and the promise of advice on incorporating the learning from the link into the curriculum from Richard Dawson of the Field Studies Council.



Students from the Grove School present their pitch to the experts in the 'Charity Dragons' Den'.

Davina Allen, Coordinator at Bridges commented: "It was great to see so many people there who are passionate about making the world a better place. There were a lot of really interesting debates going on around the room, from some heated exchanges on training women in traditionally male dominated societies to tips on how to share the recycling load with your neighbours".

At workshops participants were asked to 'Re-Think' their lifestyle, campaign or overseas link, and attendees made a pledge to end the conference on action they felt they could take. As well as promising to cut down on miles driven and recycle more, participants chose to consider the way they think too, with one person reflecting that

'learning is two ways and perhaps we can learn more from the 'South' (developing countries)

than them The Evaluation Tree – a huge success from us'.



Focus on Fairtrade

Fairtrade Fortnight (23rd February – 8th March) is a great time to look at issues around trade. Don't forget Bridges is the West Midlands Advisor on Fairtrade School Status and we can help your school get started with advice, assemblies, CPD sessions, workshops and an artefact box packed with fairtrade items and classroom activities. Ring Sylvia at Bridges for more details. See also the Fairtrade Foundation website www.fairtrade.org.uk for resources and a mixture of whacky and sensible ideas to promote fairtrade during the fortnight.



Local Pancakes, Global Toppings - Fairtrade Fortnight in Shropshire

Pancake Day (24th February), falls within Fairtrade Fortnight. To celebrate, a series of events and activities are planned around Shropshire, with local ingredients used in the pancakes and fairtrade toppings.

Take part with your own event – we're favouring pancakes with local eggs and milk and banana and chocolate sauce topping, but with Fairtrade sugar, jam and fruits all readily available, it should be easy to come up with some tasty recipes. For more information and ideas for events visit: www.shropshirefairtrade.org.uk.

