



Making global connections

# Bridges

## Annual Report 2008/2009

### 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.

### Personnel

#### Staff

**Davina Allen** 0.8 FTE Education Coordinator  
([davina@shropshirebridges.org.uk](mailto:davina@shropshirebridges.org.uk))  
Maternity leave January 2009 – October 2009

**Sylvia Ruxton** 0.7 FTE Acting Education Coordinator  
January 2009 – October 2009  
([sylvia@shropshirebridges.org.uk](mailto:sylvia@shropshirebridges.org.uk))

**Mana Kaur** 0.8 FTE Project Officer  
(till March 2009)

**Alison Thomas** 0.5 FTE Education Officer  
January 2009  
([alison@shropshirebridges.org.uk](mailto:alison@shropshirebridges.org.uk))

**Melanie Downes** 0.3 FTE Administrator  
([admin@shropshirebridges.org.uk](mailto:admin@shropshirebridges.org.uk))

#### Volunteers

**Alan Martin** (financial administration)  
**Penelope Stokes** (community and schools work)  
**Roger & Bernice Jones** (administration)  
**Jessica Wallington** (Fairtrade till June 2009)

#### Trustees

**Mr Kevin Lawrence** – Chair (March 2008)  
**Mr Dag Saunders** (resigned 25 June 2009)  
**Prof Lalage Bown**  
**Mrs Hannah Adjepong**  
**Mrs Ella Haruna** (resigned 25 June 2009)  
**Dr Isabel Carter**  
**Mrs Verena Waterhouse** (11 December 2008)  
**Mr Ian Butterworth** (11 December 2008)  
**Mr John Stokes** (25 June 2009)

### G8 Challenge

This three year project ended in March 2009. The final phase of the project involved evaluation and dissemination. Three of the eight schools were interviewed as part of the final evaluation and a report drawn up. A DVD of clips from the June 2008 conference was created, including new clips showing follow up action in one of the schools. These clips are now available as free downloads from Bridges' website, as an encouragement and inspiration for school council members. This project was selected to be used as a case study in a new publication by the DEA.

### Chairperson's Overview

Bridges has developed a deserved reputation for delivering high quality development education both in Shropshire and beyond. Whether helping schools to achieve fair trade status, communities to understand their global (and local) interdependence or groups to grapple with issues of diversity, the team at Bridges has offered a global perspective to thousands of people in the last year.

Thanks to successful funding bids and other generous support, we have seen increased activity and have put in place good systems for project evaluation for our new and existing work; but what we want to see is change. We aim to help our local community to understand its global connections and responsibilities and we want individuals to start thinking as global as well as local citizens. Over the coming year we will be placing increasing emphasis on community cohesion projects, helping whole communities to work together to bring local and global change.

This may sound too lofty an ideal, but our work so far has demonstrated that global change can begin locally and we have an excellent team of staff and volunteers committed to the work. As well as thanking them can I also thank my fellow trustees for their support and encouragement of the work over the last year and all of you, reading this, whose involvement, financial support and enthusiasm makes what Bridges does possible.

In this, my last annual report before I stand down as Chair of trustees, having been involved since Bridges was 'born' in 2001, please indulge me as I end by encouraging you to continue, as I will, to be involved. Whether as teachers, pupils, communities or supporters, please continue to support the valuable work that Bridges does.

Kevin Lawrence

### Celebrating Diversity BritishRedCross

This was a one year project with Shrewsbury College to help students engage with issues around diversity. Bridges worked in partnership with the Red Cross to train up students to become peer mentors and deliver workshops on stereotypes, racism to other students. Two peer mentoring groups were trained and delivered over 15 sessions to fellow students. Some of the peer mentors went to Italy with the Red Cross as a result of their experience and the peer mentors were also filmed for a documentary on peer mentoring. Bridges also trained up 11 Child Care students and English as Second Language students to take part in a Love Music Hate Racism event at the college. Students prepared activities around diversity for children and spoke to visitors about Bridges' Views from Shropshire exhibition and the diverse ethnic groups of Shropshire. For more details contact Sylvia.



### School and college services

This year Bridges was busier than ever and went further afield with its school services. Apart from delivering workshops in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, 4 sessions were delivered in Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Walsall. An additional 40 schools in Staffordshire now receive our newsletter and school services information.

For the first time, we organised and delivered a programme of CPD sessions for primary teachers at 2 venues. Five out of six sessions took place, with all participants evaluating the workshops very positively. Bridges also delivered a workshop on diversity for 25 primary and secondary teachers at a SEAL conference. At a primary school cluster day in Newport Bridges delivered two sessions for 65 teachers.

50 sessions were completed in 23 schools and colleges. One session on Diversity was given for the West Midlands Consortium for student teachers. Of the evaluation forms returned by schools, (over 90%), 100% thought their session was well organised and that it was effective or very effective in improving their knowledge of the subject.

*'Perfectly pitched assembly and the year 6 pupils were actively engaged'* Year 6 Teacher Oxon Primary School.

*'The simulation game really motivated pupils and got them thinking.'* KS2 Teacher John Wilkinson Primary School.

*'Many thanks for an excellent morning's work!'* Meole Brace School.

### Dimensions of Poverty

This three year project, funded by the Department for International Development, was given the go ahead in April. The project aims to enable 6 diverse groups around Shropshire to examine their views on poverty and to review them in the light of the views of people from developing countries seen through a variety of media such as art and photos.

For more information contact Davina.

### SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

	2008/09 £	2007/08 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Donations and gifts	391	382
Grants	0.00	5,000
Resource sales	303	1,327
Consultancy	6,628	6,904
Investment Income	287	1,430
Other income (projects)	78,805	52,832
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>86,414</b>	<b>67,875</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>82,961</b>	<b>79,724</b>
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<b>Net Income/Expenditure</b>	<b>3,453</b>	<b>(11,849)</b>
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>44,419</b>	<b>56,268</b>
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>47,872</b>	<b>44,419</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Stock	0.00	0.00
Debtors	7,668	6,559
Cash at bank and in hand	41,5934	41,580
Creditors	(1,730)	(1,313)
	-----	-----
	47,872	46,826
Less current liabilities & provisions	0.00	2,407
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<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>47,874</b>	<b>44,419</b>

For more information about our current projects, services and activities visit [www.shropshirebridges.org.uk](http://www.shropshirebridges.org.uk)

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# Self Help Africa

## Self Help Africa

In January Self Help Africa commissioned Bridges to produce resources for primary and secondary schools around global issues and linking with initiatives such as Healthy Schools. Bridges consulted with local teachers before embarking on devising and writing the resources, which were then reviewed and trialled by teachers. These resources will all be available on line by September 2009.

*'The water harvesting activity fits in brilliantly with the Year 5 Science and DT units and the children really enjoyed making them.'* James Heath, Teacher, Broseley C.E. Primary School  
For more details contact Sylvia.



## CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION

### Developing Cross Cultural Curriculum

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation has funded a one year project to help schools develop activities to enhance cross-cultural work in Citizenship and Humanities. The project aims to bring cross-cultural awareness and understanding to the new KS3 Citizenship and Humanities curriculum in three rural secondary schools through a link with the 'Pathways into Education' team of overseas trained educators. Five people from a variety of countries are participating in the project.

### Bankable achievements so far:

The participants, with guidance from Bridges, have developed and delivered 10 different case studies (5 on identity and 5 case studies on culture and countries). As a result, the presentation skills of the participants have been improved and they have all gained confidence in delivering activities in English. The case studies are a resource that will be used in future years at the project schools and by other schools.

The students at the project schools have had the opportunity to meet and get to know someone whom they would not have met in their own community. So far, approximately 450 students, mostly in year 7 and 8, have benefited from hearing about life in another culture and learning about what life in Britain is like from a different perspective.

This project has been a rare opportunity for these people to talk about their past. All the participants commented that they appreciated being able to talk about their culture and about things important to them.

Many of the teachers who have been directly involved with the project have expressed surprise at how much they have learned about different cultures. Bringing in people from different backgrounds and placing them in a predominantly white staff room has given other staff members, not directly associated with the project the opportunity to talk to someone from beyond their community.

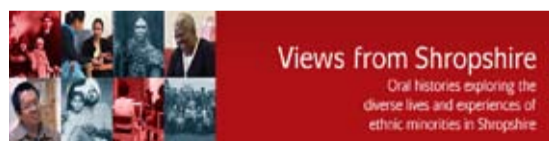
This project has given us the opportunity to understand better the obstacles for non British people in this country; some of the OTTs have had huge obstacles to working and using their skills. Gaining an insight into other people's stories has made us more determined to do more cross cultural work and to focus our diversity strand within the organisation: to create more understanding and tolerance.

## Our Community, Our Environment

This one year project involved three local primary schools engaging with their communities on action relating to an environmental issue. Buildwas and Shortwood Schools chose to look at waste and recycling and Apley Wood School addressed deforestation and their local wood. Each school learned more about the global implications of their subject and created an exhibition with input from Bridges. Parents and other local people were invited to an exhibition event at each school and each exhibition was then taken to a local church. Pledges were made by children and adults to improve the environment and action taken. At Shortwood School the local Methodist church's Green Team shared their expertise with pupils and parents. Pupils interviewed local shopkeepers about their recycling habits. Buildwas School took many types of action on waste, from holding a Swap Shop whereby pupils could swap toys and books, potato planting in old car tyres, families taking action to cut down on waste in the home and pupils designing signs for the local parish council to put up in the park. At Apley Wood 60 pupils plus parents and volunteers from Friends of Apley Wood planted snowdrops. A photograph competition was held for pupils and adults to encourage people to use and appreciate their local wood. There were 100 entries and the competition was judged by an award winning wildlife photographer. The photo exhibition was then on view in Wellington library. *'This project has been very effective in helping our pupils engage in the issue of deforestation. This project has helped us build a creative curriculum, both educational and enjoyable. It has also improved links with parents and local community members through taking part in the exhibition and very successful photo competition.'* Catherine Flavell, Teacher Apley Wood School.  
This project was funded by the Aggregates Sustainability Levy Fund.

### Fairtrade Schools

This was the second year of our work as Fairtrade Advisor on Fairtrade Schools for the West Midlands. This involved giving advice to schools wanting support in becoming a Fairtrade schools, as well as promoting the scheme and collecting data about schools who had registered in the region. Two volunteers helped in this work and stories from schools at different stages in the process were collected and put on Bridges' website. Bridges ran subsidised CPD sessions for teachers plus a workshop for Fairtrade Foundation at one of its conferences. They promoted the Fairtrade School scheme at a sustainability conference in Sandwell as well as school cluster meetings. The two years of funding through the Fairtrade Foundation came to an end in June 2009.



### Views from Shropshire

This was our final year for our Oral History Project that was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The aim of the project was to celebrate Shropshire's multi cultural heritage by producing a book, community film and exhibition together with a schools resource that could be used to explore the issues of diversity and community cohesion. The Development of the Views from Shropshire website allows you to now:-

- Download free lesson plans, key stage 2/3
- Download a free copy of the book
- Watch the Views from Shropshire Film
- View Historical Photographs
- Listen to some of the Oral Histories
- Book the views from Shropshire Exhibition

Visit the Views from Shropshire website for more information :  
[www.shropshirebridges.org.uk/views\\_from\\_shropshire](http://www.shropshirebridges.org.uk/views_from_shropshire)

## Global Village Project

The Global Village project brings a global dimension to rural communities by celebrating or holding events with a global theme. This project is part of a wider E.U project aiming to bring global and development issues to 'hard to reach' communities. The project also benefits from additional funding from the Walker Trust. Over the past two years nine events have taken place in four Shropshire communities.

### Hinstock Balkan Adventure January – May 2009

The Téa Hodzic Trio played to a capacity audience of nearly 100 on January 21<sup>st</sup> 2009. The event attracted a wide cross section of the community. In May 09, Bridges took a Women's Choir from Bosnia to Hinstock. The group gave wonderful dance demonstrations and workshops for the school children before performing to the whole school and community at the end of the day in full national costume representing the different cultures in Bosnia.

### Bitterley Community Garden Celebration 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009

This year at Bitterley, the Global Village project was able to add a global dimension to celebrations to open a community garden. The centrepiece of the garden is a beautiful cob oven crafted by members of the community – this provided our global link, with half the world using similar ovens to cook.

### Farlow Festival 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2009

The Farlow community was keen to hold another festival this year featuring a Local and Global Food Fest exploring Fairtrade, coupled with an art exhibition linking local artists with art projects in the school.

The festival was a great success, with approximately 150 people taking part over the weekend. The project has brought together key community members and built a good foundation of community cohesion.

### Maesbury meets the USA 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009

This year in Maesbury the school has developed a link with a school in Los Angeles. The Global Village project enhanced that link by looking at Native American culture, art and environmental stewardship.

### Picturing Our World

This project aims to raise awareness about the major development issues of our time highlighted by the Millennium Development Goals through participatory photography.

Bridges is working with 7 groups and their overseas partners:

Broseley Primary School, Friends of Conakry Refugee School are looking at Universal Primary Education with the Conakry Refugee School in Guinea. Buntingsdale Infant School is looking at water as part of environmental sustainability MDG with their partner in Kenya, The Innis Education Centre.

Thomas Adams is looking at the eradication of poverty and hunger with their Kenyan partner.

Sutherland College is exploring at environmental sustainability.

Wrekin College is looking at health with their partner in Malawi;

St John's Catholic School, Bridgnorth, is concentrating on the need for Universal Primary Education with their partners in India at the Dr Ambedkar School.

Exhibitions of the local and overseas exhibitions are planned from October 2009.