



UNDERGROUND

DIGITAL:
WORKS

2013-14
annual report

About digital:works



Participation Through Creative Skills

digital:works is a group of artists and trainers who work with local communities, providing training and creative assistance, to produce arts and media projects.

We are committed to a participatory approach. Creative arts are an exciting way for people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with and learn more about others from their local community – especially if they are the ones shaping and leading the creative process.

Thanks to our breadth of experience and expertise, we can provide training and creative support in a wide range of media, from web development, video and digital animation, to textile and oral history projects.

Accessible Projects for All

Our commitment to participation means we place great emphasis on inclusivity.

Our projects actively involve people from all corners of the community – be they young or old, visually or hearing impaired, or someone for whom English is not the first language.

The skills required in taking part in our projects do not depend on advanced media literacy or prior experience with digital equipment.

Community Ownership

Our goal with all projects is to encourage and maintain participants' sense of ownership of both the process and the final product. This, we believe, is the guiding principle of true participation work.

Chair's Report

It has been a difficult year for digital:works with the illness of close friend and colleague, Joe Stevens and his sad passing in July 2014. David Rogers, Trustee and Treasurer of digital:works was best placed to see the Freetime and If Walls Could Talk projects to a successful conclusion which he did admirably.

Going Underground, an HLF funded oral history project, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the London Underground ran through the Summer term 2013. We worked with two primary schools and closely with the London Transport Museum where the finished film was launched.

In the Autumn term we worked with Servite School at Chelsea's Football in the Community scheme on a Westminster Archives project about sport and the First World War. The film consisted of interviews with actors in historical roles, historians and authors.

Towards the end of 2013 we began an oral history documentary about Southall and particularly the period 1976-1981 where the local community organised to fight fascism. The project was organised by The Asian Health Agency and we worked with local young people to make the film.

In Spring term 2014 we ran another HLF-funded project with Bevington School to look at the modern history of their local area through interviews with people that have lived there for some time. The filmed interviews were edited into the well-received Wild West 10 film and launched locally.

Work from previous years continues to have an impact and builds our good reputation. Our film about Hatton Garden from the previous year has been shown at various events and on the Community Channel.

Peter McKenna, *Chair*

Cover picture courtesy of London Transport Museum used in the Going Underground project

Review of the Year

digital:works has had another busy year, both in London and in the South West of the UK. We completed the Going Underground and Wild West 10 projects and carried out some commissions on Southall, Covent Garden and Sport in WWI in London and continued Free Time and new project If Walls Could Talk in Dorset.



Going Underground

digital:works developed an idea to celebrate London Underground's 150th anniversary and saw a successful application to Heritage Lottery Fund to carry out an oral history of workers on the underground system. Working with year 6 pupils in two different schools we trained them in oral history, interviewing, sound recording and camera skills. The young people visited the London Transport Museum and Acton Depot for research and to interview workers and enthusiasts. We also worked with Michael McMillan who ran a writing project with the young people at one of the schools and produced some excellent historical, life-writing and creative pieces for a booklet, exhibition and for the website.

The film was launched at the cinema at London Transport Museum in July 2013 and has been broadcast on the Community Channel.

Wild West 10 - Golborne Stories

Funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund and the Love Golborne Ward Fund, The Golborne Stories Project involved Year 5 children from Bevington Primary School working with digital:works to uncover and tell the stories of the people who live in the area and have experienced the many changes over the years.

With training and support from digital:works the children researched the history of the area then interviewed a variety of local residents who told their stories.

digital:works also set up a reminiscence group running in tandem with the school project. Many of the participants were interviewed for the film.

The film was launched locally at a venue under the Westway and shown at the Portobello Film Festival, broadcast on the Community Channel, and is available to watch on its accompanying website. Robert Elms dedicated a three hour radio show to the film and reminiscences of the area.





The Battle for Covent Garden

digital:works worked with a local school to record filmed oral history interviews with local people involved in the battle to save Covent Garden from developers in the 1970s. The project was run by the Covent Garden Community Association and funded by an All Our Stories grant from Heritage Lottery Fund.

War Game

digital:works have been involved with Westminster Council and Chelsea Football Foundation working with Servite RC Primary School to make a film based around Michael Foreman's wonderful book War Game.

The documentary film uses War Game as the basis for discussion around sport, and particularly football, and WWI. The film features Michael Foreman himself, Rick Glanvill, official Chelsea FC historian, Phil Vasilli,

Walter Tull's biographer, members of 'Pom Pom' Whiting's family and others telling stories of the Christmas Truce, the footballer of Loos and many more.



YOUNG REBELS

The Story of the Southall Youth Movement

A documentary film made by local young people looking at the history of their community from the 1960s to the 1980s with particular interest in the murder of Gurdeep Chaggar in 1976, the 1979 anti-fascist demonstrations and the death of Blair Peach and the 1981 burning down of the Hambrough Tavern. The film uses the Southall Youth Movement as a basis for telling the story of those years.

The project was run by The Asian Health Agency with funding from HLF's Young Roots programme.



FREETIME exhibition at Dorset County Museum

Working closely with the curatorial staff at Dorset County Museum enabled digital:works to access a vast range of 'leisure' memorabilia.

The exhibition captured the memories and stories of local people talking about hobbies and pastimes that are largely out of fashion today. The project archive is now housed at the Dorset History Centre in Dorchester for future generations to study.

The exhibition included games, toys and activities enjoyed by people over the past 60 years. With a variety of displays, and showcases, there was plenty to see and a lot to learn. Visitors could also listen to audio recordings of people talking about their hobbies and favourite free-time activities. Two screens showed how people enjoyed their leisure time from the 1950s to the present day. All supported by rarely seen photographs, text panels, a wide range of holiday workshop activities for children and a reconstruction of a 1950s milk bar.

Young people at Thomas Hardy School took the opportunity to update one of the most popular past times and build a go-cart. Whilst other students worked with two professional filmmakers to make a film about the Dorchester skatepark and the value of having a space to play freely, unsupervised by adults.

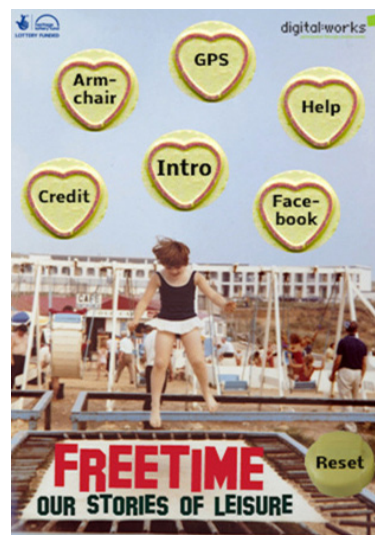


The exhibition at Dorset County Museum was a great success...

We are delighted to have been able to work in partnership with digital:works over the past two years to deliver the very successful Free Time exhibition.

Over that period we were visited by over 6,900 people, many of whom came specifically to visit the exhibition. The diversity of objects the project was able to bring together appealed to a wide variety of age groups, and the exhibition was a particular hit with grandparents – who really seemed to enjoy explaining some of the toys, games and activities of their youth, to their grandchildren!

Dr Jon Murden, Director Dorset County Museum



FREETIME app

This app contains recordings of interviews with local people in Weymouth and Dorchester as part of an oral history project that studied the changing nature of our leisure time.

You can use this app in Walking Mode (GPS) – You can

walk a route around Weymouth or Dorchester hear memories triggered by your GPS location or in Armchair Mode – You can choose this mode and browse the stories from your home wi-fi, or when the GPS signal is weak.

Available for download on both Android and Apple platforms.

If Walls Could Talk

The 'If Walls Could Talk' project was created to remember the old shops and businesses of the Park estate in Weymouth, Dorset, and discover what the area was like in the past.

We held a series of history sessions, bringing together local people with memories of the area and those interested in hearing them or undertaking research. A number of personal interviews were held with people unable to attend the group sessions. We undertook research at the local library and museum archives. Our Facebook page, website and local press articles also helped to engage people near and far, and a number of the memories and photos represented in the booklet we produced come from ex-Park estate residents now living in other parts of the country or even as far afield as Canada!

Alongside the booklet, we produced a 'tourist-style' map of the area, as it was in 1960, mapping out the old shops and businesses, and showing photos and memories relating to them. In August 2014, we held a series of guided tours around the Park area, pointing out the interesting buildings, and a 50s style tea party to celebrate the project and share what we had discovered. Around 40 people attended the guided tours, and 70 the party and exhibition. Since the project ended we have had a number of enquiries to come and talk at people's events or clubs, and have received a lot of praise from the local community.



Financial Report

The independent examination covered the year 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013.

Our total income for the period was £84,134 made up mainly from Restricted Funds (successful funding applications) consisting of £61,649 accounted for by instalments for Going Underground and FreeTime, full funding for Golborne Stories and If Walls Could Talk plus an instalment for 2014 Project Banging Out. Designated Income (commissions) amounted to £19,850. The balance is made up from investment income.

Our total expenditure to date is £74,362 which has mostly been spent directly on costs relating to the HLF funded projects (£58,780), the commissions (£14,000) and governance costs of £1,546 made up mainly of insurance costs, accountancy fees and some equipment.

The difference between income and expenditure over the year can be accounted for by projects being funded in one financial year while expenditure takes place in another.

We have no fixed assets as yet so are not affected by depreciation. We have no current liabilities.

Please contact us by email if you would like a copy of the full accounts.



Children interview Harvey Gould for the Going Underground project

Trustees

Peter McKenna (Chair)
David Rogers (Treasurer)
Sally Booth
Jenny Donaldson

Workers

Sav Kyriacou
Matthew Rosenberg
Joe Stevens

Thanks to Amy Hopwood and Helen Bredin

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