



digital:works

annual report 2014-15

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

The reporting year of April 2014 to March 2015 began with the concluding part of our Wild West 10 – Golborne Stories film project that was launched early May 2014 and our partnership film project looking at the Southall Youth Movement with The Asian Health Agency launched in July 2015 after a lengthy editing process.

Our major project of the year was Banging Out – Fleet Street Remembered where we worked with two primary schools throughout the summer term looking at the print trade in Fleet Street and its eventual move to Wapping and elsewhere.

We also worked on a Crayford Community Archive project looking at the 300th anniversary of the Longitude Act. This was with a young dance troupe and they made a film consisting of interviews with historians and museum curators as well as actors in role. They also created a dance that we filmed on the meridian line in Greenwich.

We had a busy period come the new year with three projects overlapping. The first was Tailored Stories our film about Savile Row. We worked with the Museum of London and fashion students from Kensington and Chelsea College and London College of Fashion. The second was a sister project to Golborne Stories, this time looking at the area west of Ladbroke Grove and we worked with a local school, Barlby Primary. The third project was a commission from Westminster Archives to work with a primary school to make a film about the First World War looking specifically at Australian's links to the local area. The school children interviewed historians, authors and actors in roles.

During this period we had also successfully applied to Heritage Lottery Fund for another major project about Thames Lightermen.

Our reputation and networks continue to grow with partnerships developing and often lead to us being commissioned to undertake projects.

Our films continue to be shown on the Community Channel and get excellent viewing figures.

Peter McKenna, Chair

Review of the Year

digital:works has had another busy year. We completed two projects from the previous year - Golborne Stories and Southall Youth Movement; carried out a major project about the print trade in Fleet Street and worked on four new projects looking at Longitude, Savile Row, the Ladbroke Grove area and Australians in Westminster during WW1.



YOUNG REBELS

The Story of the Southall Youth Movement

This was 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.



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 film can be seen on the project's website: www.golbornestories.org.uk/

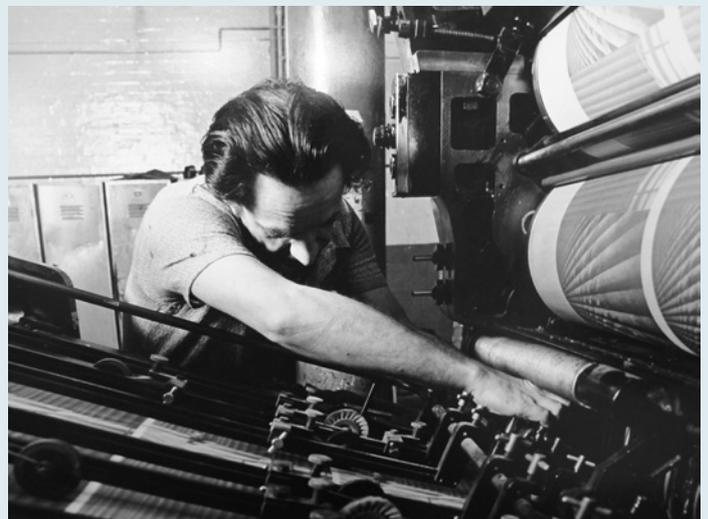


Banging Out - Fleet Stret Remembered

digital:works worked with two primary schools near Fleet Street to chart the history of printing in the area from around 1500, when William Caxton's apprentice set up a printing shop in Shoe Lane, until the digital revolution saw presses move east to Wapping and elsewhere in the 1980s and 90s. This project put former print workers at the forefront of this history and allowed them to tell their story in their own words.

The children worked with Westminster Archives and St Bride Library and met former printers to explore the history. They then did intensive workshops in film making and oral history before going on to conduct and film oral history interviews with former print workers from Fleet Street. They also did workshops in Letterpress and historical and creative writing for a booklet and exhibition.

A documentary film based on these oral history interviews was launched at St Brides in the summer of 2014. The film forms part of an



exhibition which, along with the children's writing, has been shown at libraries and archives around London as well as in schools. This website hosts the young people's work including their final edited film and their writing, both historical and creative.

The project was funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and the film can be seen on the project's website: www.bangingout.org.uk/



Tailored Stories: An Oral History of Savile Row

Students from fashion courses at Kensington and Chelsea College and the London College of Fashion worked with digital:works to explore the history of tailoring in the Savile Row area in London's West End. With support from the Museum of London the students undertook research and then went on to interview 25 people working in various aspects of the trade. These interviews have been given to archives for public access. Some of the interviews have been edited along with film of them using their skills to make an informative and beautiful documentary film about the people working in the area.

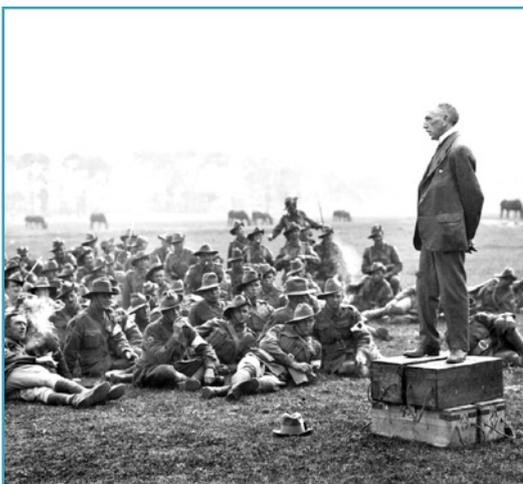
This project celebrates the history and skills of the men and women in the industry with candid stories of pride and hardship, working conditions, conflict and camaraderie and brushes with the famous and powerful. Most of all, this project puts those who have made the area synonymous with the highest quality craftsmanship at the centre of this history as well as delving into neighbouring Soho.

The film was launched at the London College of Fashion and can be viewed on the project's website:

www.tailoredstories.org.uk/

It has over 13,000 views in the first 5 months of going live.

The project was funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and Kensington & Chelsea College.



Home from Home: Anzac's in Westminster

We worked with Westminster Cathedral Primary School to make a film about ANZACs in Westminster during WW1. The film is told through a variety of historical figures related to Westminster, Australia, Gallipoli and the First World War. This includes Billy Hughes who was born just around the corner from the school, attended a nearby school and was Australia's Prime Minister at the time of Gallipoli. We worked with actors and historians/authors to tell the stories. The project was organised by Westminster Archives.

The film can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/129962691>

More Hot for No.5 - Stories from North West Kensington

The North-West Ken Stories Project involves Year 5 children from Barlby 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 that have taken place over the years.

With training and support from digital:works the children researched the history of the area with the help of the RBKCs Local Studies archive. After the research element, the children made a documentary film about NW Kensington and its history which included interviews with a variety of local residents who told their stories of the area.



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 funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and RBK&Cs City Living Local Life Fund shown locally at a big launch event and at local schools and film festivals. It is available to watch on the project's website:
www.nwkenstories.org.uk/

All at Sea - The Search for Longitude

In the summer of 2014, 13 young people from the Enpointe school of dance followed up their summer sea themed show, 'Beneath the Blue' by making a film about Crayford's famous Admiral



Sir Cloudesley Shovell's shipwreck and the subsequent search for an accurate reckoning of Longitude by clockmaker, John Harrison. With the help of digital:works the girls filmed at Westminster Abbey and Royal Museums Greenwich and discovered how Shovell's death instigated the famous Longitude act of 1714.

You can view the film here:
www.shovell1714.crayfordhistory.co.uk/

Financial Report

The independent examination covered the year 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015.

Our total income for the period was £50,946 made up mainly from Restricted Funds (successful funding applications) consisting of £40,047 accounted for by Fleet Street, Savile Row, Golborne and North West Kensington projects. Designated Income (commissions) amounted to £8,900. The balance is made up from voluntary and investment income.

Our total expenditure to date is £80,240 which has mostly been spent directly on costs relating to the HLF funded projects (£60,053), the commissions (£18,900) and governance costs of £1,287 made up mainly of insurance costs and accountancy fees.

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.

Trustees

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

Workers

Sav Kyriacou
Matthew Rosenberg

Thanks to Helen Bredin, Aashish Ghadvi, Ken Macdonald and Lindsay Starbuck



Some of the results from the printing workshop at St Brides for the Banging Out - Fleet Street Remembered project.

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