

Harlow DFAS Young Arts Report 2011

Betty Bethell once again organised the Young Arts Project 2011 with two local schools, namely Matching Green Primary and Sheering Primary.

Matching Green School (which has 69 children aged 4 – 11) had chosen the theme “Different Cultures – African and Aboriginal” and produced fascinating images in paint/chalk and charcoal on paper, slate and even the school’s brickwalls.

Sheering School (which has 96 children aged 4 – 11) had chosen “Weaving” as the overall theme. Each of the school’s classes produced high quality work with Class 1 weaving paper into drawn animals to form colourful bodies, Class 2 made delicate and shimmering butterflies/dragonflies, Class 3 wove ribbons and wool through hessian to represent a popular Tudor theme and Class 4 produced 50 Victorian Corn Dollies of exceptional standard.

In a break with tradition I formed this year a team of helpers with skills in the arts and we judged the work laid out for us by each school. These items were displayed at our July Summer Special Supper and admired by fellow members and guests as well as dignitaries from Essex County Council and the Chairman of Harlow Council.

The items were returned to the school a few days later when prizes were awarded to the children and monetary gifts given to the schools towards art materials. Expenditure totalled £193 for Matching Green and £232 for Sheering.

The Young Arts team are Val Ellis, Janet Gammage, Georgina Jeewan, Jim Peel, Kathy Smith and Angela Tribe, and not forgetting Phyllis Peel who kindly joined Jim and me at prize giving. My thanks go to them all for their support – the project could not be put on without them.

Finally HDFAS has supported Matching Green School for eight years and Sheering School for four years, and we have been privileged to be allowed into the schools to appreciate the imaginative work in many mediums which their teachers have encouraged in them. We wish them continuing success in future years.

However the Committee are exploring alternative ways to help an older child or children who show ability in the arts. Our town has been officially designated “Harlow Sculpture Town” and we may be able to assist a school in developing the ability of a child who shows talent in this field. We should be delighted to have the views of any member with ideas or suggestions on this next step in our continuing support of Arts for the Young.

Betty Bethell – Young Arts Representative