



TREE BUDDIES

Hillingdon Community Trust approved a grant of £4,500 in October 2007 to Green Corridor for its Tree Buddies project.

The Tree Buddies Project is aimed at Year 7 pupils, the first year of secondary school, and has two core objectives; to help children from immigrant families recently arrived in the UK to integrate into their schools and communities; and secondly to raise environmental awareness. The young people are paired up as 'Buddies' in their classes to begin learning about their local environment, and specifically trees. One of the first tasks for the pupils saw them participating in an art workshop, where they produced larger than life models of butterflies. The workshops took place either at their school, or at the Chiswick House Learning Centre and used willow tree branches and paper. In a second workshop, the pupils used drama and actions, instead of speech, to enable them to act out and describe a tree's life cycle.



To build on the lessons learnt in class, the young people then spent a day at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in West London, where they learnt about the different habitats that plants and trees live in around the world, such as desert, rain forest, tropical and temperate climate. In preparation for this outdoor activity, the pupils were asked to find a picture on the Internet of a tree or plant from their home country, or do some research into a tree that they found interesting and bring the information with them on the trip.

The workshops give the children the opportunity to learn "off-site" in an outside environment, this outdoor engagement has clearly been very beneficial in expanding the creativity and learning of all those taking part.

The comments from the children and school teachers from Rosedale College and Harlington Community School show how well received the project has been:

💧 I learnt a lot about trees

I learnt how to listen and work in a group

I learnt what happens to trees when you don't look after them

I learnt how to act in front of people in a group

I likes being a tree because it helped us understand how bad it is to chop a tree down

I learnt that you needed to work as a team

I learnt that when you cooperate it makes a good team

I learnt to work with people I don't normally socialise with more 💧



TRUST FUNDS TIME TRAVEL

Age Concern's Time Travellers project, which was funded for the first time in 2006/7 is intended to bring together children and older people and to provide an additional resource for the education system.

The volunteers help with reading, numeracy, arts, crafts, physical education and cooking in schools, and as a result of the project, volunteers have benefited from feeling a sense of satisfaction from contributing to the community, and of increased purpose to their lives. They are also given the opportunity to keep active, avoid isolation and increase their circle of friends through regular social events and meetings. School pupils benefit from a much needed opportunity to read on a one to one basis with an adult as well as receiving help with other areas of the National Curriculum. Teachers have pointed out that many of the children selected to read with the volunteers do not receive any help with their reading at home. At the same time children develop relationships with older people and learn to respect and understand them.



Local Time Traveller volunteers meet the Prince of Wales at Clarence House.

Comments about the project from users include:

"The extra input is invaluable to the children's attitude and confidence." (School)

"This makes individual reading to an adult possible for these children. They grow in confidence and enthusiasm". (School)

"I am made to feel very welcome at the school and it is personally a great joy to be there". (Volunteer)

MERRIFIELD HOUSE PLAY EQUIPMENT

Merrifield House, a respite care home for children with disabilities opened in Hayes in June 2007 received a grant of £5,000 from Hillingdon Community Trust to purchase specialist play equipment for young people with disabilities.

The new facility will help 25 families. The new play equipment partly financed by the Trust includes a special wheelchair swing and trim trail.



LIFE EDUCATION CENTRE'S NEW MOBILE CLASSROOM LAUNCHED

A £40,000 grant from Hillingdon Community Trust has helped to put a new mobile classroom on the road in the south of the Borough for the Life Education Centre Hillingdon.

The new mobile classroom visits primary schools to teach children about how to make healthy choices, providing learning ranging from cleaning teeth to the dangers of unhealthy living, including smoking, drug and alcohol abuse. The classroom replaces one bought in 1997 and it is hoped that the 18 primary schools in the Trust's area will all benefit from a visit each year.

Life Education Centre educators, who are usually qualified teachers, deliver the lessons in a lively and engaging way, helped by glove puppet, Harold the giraffe.



At the launch, which was hosted at Dr Triplets School in Hayes, was the mayor, Cllr Catherine Dann, and Deputy Lieutenant for Hillingdon, Edna Partridge. Life Education Centres Hillingdon Trustee, Nicholas Smith, commented,

'Our work is more important than ever, and fits in well with the Borough's healthy schools programme.'

Life Education Centres Hillingdon has also been funded to deliver its programme in schools in the Trust's area for the next three years.

HAYES & HARLINGTON DISTRICT SCOUTS AFLOAT

Hayes and Harlington District Scouts can paddle their own canoes (and kayaks) as a result of a grant from Hillingdon Community Trust.

The £16,020 for the Scout Groups has enabled them to buy 10 kayaks and 4 canoes along with equipment and trailers so that scouts can learn the basics of watercraft and work towards their British Canoeing Union star awards. As well as benefiting cubs and scouts, guides and the newly created police cadets in the southern wards of the Borough will benefit as the equipment will be available for their use.

Scout Leader, Derek Wheeler, commented,

'Hillingdon Community Trust's grant means that we have been able to buy a new fleet of kayaks which are safe, easy to handle and the right size for the children. We have also been able to buy safety equipment such as air bags, and a secure storage and transport facility.'



The new kayaks will mean that training is much more professional and safer for children. During the winter training sessions will take place at Hayes Swimming Pool and in summer on the Grand Union Canal.

Christine Little, Director of HCT commented,

'The Trust found this project attractive because kayaking and canoeing can have a big impact on personal development and personal confidence. It is a great way of offering a new challenge and we hope of encouraging more young people to engage in the activity.'

YIEWSLEY & WEST DRAYTON ARTS CENTRE

A small grant of £3,500 was used for a new fridge and refurbishment works in the toilet and kitchen areas of Southlands Art Centre.

The building refurbishments have provided bright, hygienic and easy to clean areas and the upgraded toilets improve the use of the centre by disabled people and partially sighted groups who regularly use the centre.

Over 30 groups use the centre every week.

COMMUNITY CANCER CARE CENTRE BOOSTED BY HCT FUNDING

A £5,000 grant to the Community Cancer Care Centre in Yiewsley has enabled the Centre to carry out alterations to its premises to improve the training area for community and volunteering staff and for facilities and workshops to enable cancer patients to cope with their illness.

The alterations mean that the centre is a much more attractive environment to work and visit. A new storage area for fundraising items has been created as has a quiet room away from the main part of the centre, access to computers and a training area. This small grant has given the Centre a real boost and enabled it to provide much improved facilities for cancer sufferers and their families as well as volunteers at the centre. C & S who carried out the building work sponsored the centre further by providing furniture for the centre and painting the rooms.

A second grant of £7,200 will enable the Centre to deliver and develop facilities and workshops for cancer patients to improve their ability to cope.



RESOURCE CD FOR THE VOLUNTARY GROUPS

Groundwork Thames Valley is pleased to announce a new resource funded by HCT that will be available to voluntary and community groups in operating in Hillingdon Community Trust area.

A CD-ROM, ***"Useful resources for the voluntary sector"***, allows organisations without fast internet connections to access and download a wide variety of key policy documents such as financial templates, business plan templates.



The CD also features links to web sites that voluntary and community organisations could access to improve their capacity.

The resource CD will be available from Groundwork Please contact Dr Antonipillai Kingsley for a copy on 01895 839 859 or 07879 423 157.

RECENT GRANTS AWARDED BY THE TRUST

The Board made the following grant awards in March and May

ORGANISATION AND PROJECT	AMOUNT AWARDED
London Borough of Hillingdon 3 sports wall panels with touch sensitive lights and electronic score board at Hayes Stadium Sports Centre	£5,995
Hillingdon & Ealing Citizens Advice Bureau To improve the public's access to reliable information and advice on all CAB enquiry areas	£6,180
Hayes Bowls Club To build a site safe chalet to provide changing facilities for lady members.	£5,050
Rosedale Park Bowls Club To purchase a buggy to enable disabled people to take part in the sport of bowls.	£2,650
Sahan Society Centre Provide essential skills for Somali and Afghan women to enable them to acquire employment and further training and empower them and improve their standard of living.	£16,398
Age Concern & Townfield Community Centre Steering Group Capital contribution towards refurbishment and 2 storey extension at Townfield Community Centre to create a multi-purpose community building.	£100,000
Life Education Centre Subsidise visits to all primary schools in the Trust area and to subsidise workbooks for parent and child participation.	£75,990 Over 3 yrs
Homestart Hillingdon To train community volunteers to support local families thereby increasing both volunteers' and parents' confidence and potential for education/training.	£72,625 Over 3 yrs
Friends of Meadow High School To purchase specialist fitness equipment.	£7,500
Hillingdon Samaritans To increase the number of Samaritan volunteers in the six wards through distribution of information leaflets and providing open/ induction evenings and a training programme.	£3,000

ORGANISATION AND PROJECT	AMOUNT AWARDED
2nd West Drayton Scouts Professional project management of volunteers who will carry out refurbishment of 2nd West Drayton Scout hut to a reasonable standard to enable scout and community activities to continue.	£7,500
Horn of Africa Youth Association To develop and run youth activities.	£78,000 Over 3 yrs
Harmondsworth Primary School To create an area where children are able to grow and care for plants.	£22,000

DEADLINES FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

Deadlines for grant applications to the Trust for the rest of 2008 are as follows:

Thursday 4th September 2008 (Board meeting 1st October)

Thursday 6th November 2008 (Board meeting 3rd December)

GRANT APPLICATIONS

We are occasionally asked why we request information on grants received by an organisation in earlier years and thought an explanation might be useful.

We recognise that this question does make more work for groups applying for a grant but it does provide useful information to the board in considering a grant application. Information on other funders that have supported an organisation gives a useful indication of the success of the organisation in attracting external funding and may be useful in helping us to request feedback from them (with the organisation's agreement) and of assessing the viability of the organisation.

A second area that some groups find confusing when completing our forms is deciding which of our funding categories is the most appropriate for their project. If you are concerned about this, we are always delighted to offer advice over the phone. We allow groups to categorise their project themselves, but we are aware that some projects could fit into more than one area. The funding category is not one that forms part of our assessment of a grant. We keep records of projects funded in each category but do not allocate a specific amount of funding to a specific category.

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