

who we are

Welcome to the second of our
CAST newsletters!



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These CAST newsletters bring you information on arts projects in Argyll & Bute schools, as well as news about resources, competitions, our own team activities, and anything else you tell us which may be of interest.

In the last few weeks, CAST has secured funding from the Scottish Executive, through the Scottish Arts Council, to expand their team. We will be joined in the next few months by a support worker and another cultural co-ordinator. This will enable us to offer an enhanced service to our schools and provide more opportunities for access to the arts.

Throughout this newsletter you can see what a wide range of art forms our current projects cover and we hope every one is a success.

We would like to invite you to get in touch anytime if you have any ideas or queries.

What on earth is
Michael Palin doing
chatting to pupils
from Mull?
Read on to find out!



what we do....

- ◆ **Create**
& co-ordinate arts projects that relate directly to the current curriculum.
- ◆ **Attract**
funding for a range of visits, performances and productions.
- ◆ **Source**
arts practitioners to deliver the projects to the highest standards.
- ◆ **Transmit**
information and knowledge about ideas and resources.

Don't forget to check the CAST web pages which have information and images about each past project.

cast on-line - <http://tinyurl.com/2692k5>

music

Kodaly Music Instruction



"The games have a pure human value: they increase the experiences of being social and joy of life. There is no better remedy for the precocity of the children of today. Our children, past the nursery school age, are inclined to regard play as not suiting them any longer. It should not be left at that. We should encourage the older ones so that they do not feel ashamed of enjoying it still. The longer the childhood is, the more harmonious and happier adult life will be."
Zoltan Kodály

To concert-goers today Zoltán Kodály comes, at best, a distant third in the list of well known Hungarian composers, behind Liszt and Bartók. Outside Hungary, performances of his patriotic choral masterpiece *Psalmus Hungaricus* are rare, while the *Peacock Variations*, the *Dances of Galánta* and of *Marosszék* and the *Háry János* suite tend to appear as colourful appetisers in weighty symphonic programmes. But in the field of music education, Kodály is a towering figure, hugely admired all over the globe.

Under this system, developed in the 19th century each note of the scale is given both a name and a hand signal. Even non-musicians who have never sung will recognise the names - Do, Re, Mi, Fa, So, La, Ti, Do - maybe thanks to the advocacy of Maria in *The Sound of Music*. Curwen had developed the tonic sol-fa system, but it was Kodály who saw in it a solution to the gathering cloud of music illiteracy that was darkening his home country. He was already dismayed by how little and badly music was being taught in schools, and saw education as a way to recover some national self-esteem.

It is fundamental to the Kodály method that music is taught through experience. He said that children should be able to 'hear what they see, and write what they hear'. Teachers, he added, should be musicians of the highest ability. By the end of a year the singing of intervals, the recognition of harmonies, and the ability to 'hear' music printed on the page becomes second nature. To sing a piece of music in sol-fa is, in effect, to analyse it.

CAST is running several Kodály training days for primary teachers throughout the region as part of the course calendar. Please refer to the calendar for full details.

The musical reasons for the success of Kodály's ideas e.g. in Hungary have been:

- music education is started in the very earliest years, as early as age 3 wherever possible.
- the curriculum is developed in an organized, sequential manner from the first grade onwards as well as in the nursery schools and kindergartens
- learning comes first through playful singing activity and pleasurable experience, later through conscious thought processes.

The learning process is, on the surface, slow because of constant repetition and review, but a great number of musical concepts are absorbed and techniques mastered which become a permanent foundation for future use. Folk songs and composed songs are used (carefully selected according to the age characteristics and musical developmental level!)

For a young child to learn to sing well, they must sing songs which:

- will not strain undeveloped vocal chords by too high or low a range. Kodály established the best range as a major 6th interval from D to B
- do not contain semitones, since these are much more difficult to sing
- have clear and uncomplicated rhythm
- are unaccompanied by piano, since the piano is a tempered instrument which can too often result in out of tune singing
- have texts of literary value and creative imagery so that they can be adapted to the child's world of play and fantasy games.

information

The Scran Trust

Scran is a registered charity - aims to provide educational access to digital materials representing our material culture and history. It is one of the largest educational online services in the UK supporting over 4,000 schools, libraries, colleges and universities.

They work in partnership with over 300 cultural institutions in Scotland and the rest of the UK. A number of institutions use our online solution - Scran-in-a-Box - to provide access to their own data. The learning resource service hosts over 336,500 images, movies and sounds from museums, galleries, archives and the media. It can be used as a superior form of clip art or for particular learning applications. Download images of tigers, Charlie Chaplin, Sean Connery, a Degas, a Dali, images of war or whaling, standing stones, a pint of beer, an integrated circuit, or line drawings of an acorn or an adrenal gland, or in fact almost anything you need.

For learning, there are Pathfinder Packs for instant use; and tools such as Navigator, Albums, Stuff, Create, Multicreate, Mini Website and Slides to let you discover, store, design, assemble and share your own learning resources.

A quick poster or worksheet is just a couple of clicks from any image and instant slides or a mini website are equally easy to produce from an Album.

The Scran Trust - a registered charity - was formed in 1996 and its founding partners were The National Museums Scotland, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, The Scottish Museums Council and, by invitation, the Scottish Consultative Council on the Curriculum.

In its first five years, it engaged in a wide ranging scheme of grant awards which allowed cultural organisations to digitise parts of their collections to be made available for educational purposes. This was Millennium Commission funded through the UK Lottery. It developed an advanced licensing system which was commended by many in which the institution retained ownership of the digitised assets but made these available under licence to Scran. There followed further large grant aid partner projects with NOF Digitise funding through the National Library of Scotland.

Scran is funded through grant aid from the Scottish Executive, subscriptions and sales of services.

Scran learning officers publish a free, monthly, plain text newsletter by email which details what's new, suggested activities and practical tips and tricks.

literature

Brainheart

Paraig MacNeil

"Brainheart" is a collection of fifty eulogies written by storyteller Paraig MacNeil which celebrates great innovators; from politicians and inventors to architects and musicians, all of Scottish heritage.

Composed in a style that Paraig calls 'metrical mirror,' the verses emulate heroic verse in a new voice that combines English with Scots in an authentic and engaging manner.

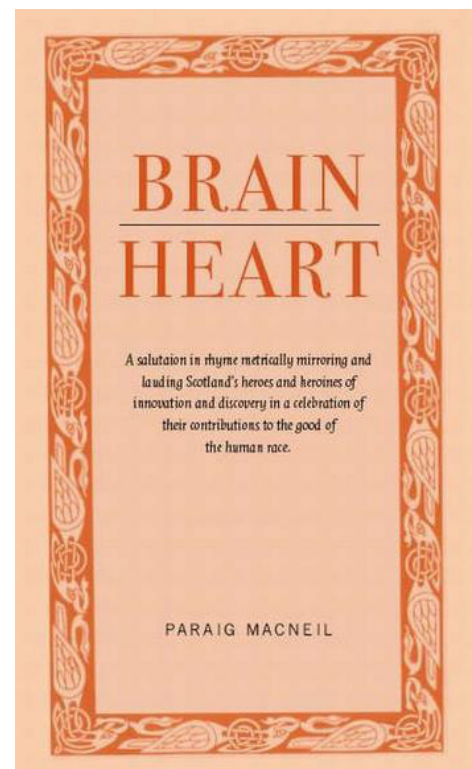
"Inspirational, witty, catchy, and amusing" (Margaret Bennett).

Product Details

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art & design

The big draw 2007

U pdate: we have double the number of schools signed up for this year's Big Draw and you can source free drawing activities for yourself at www.campaignfordrawing.org/Onlineactivities.htm



www.campaignfordrawing.org

Power Drawing, the Campaign's education programme, has been led by Eileen Adams. and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Department for Education and Skills and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

Thanks to renewed funding from the EFF, a professional development programme for teachers and other educators will be launched in 2007.



The Campaign for Drawing
www.thebigdraw.org

Drawing can develop skills of perception, communication and invention transferable to any subject and helpful in a variety of educational settings. Since 2001, 500 schools, 30 institutions of higher education and 80 museums and galleries have already participated in this action research programme. Eileen is currently working independently on two major books for teachers and learning assistants in schools and for curators, education officers, artists and administrators in the cultural sector, for publication in 2009.

The Drawing Research Network links researchers in a wide variety of higher education institutions who are investigating the nature, functions and values of drawing. Go to www.drawing.org.uk for events, contacts or information on joining the email discussion group .

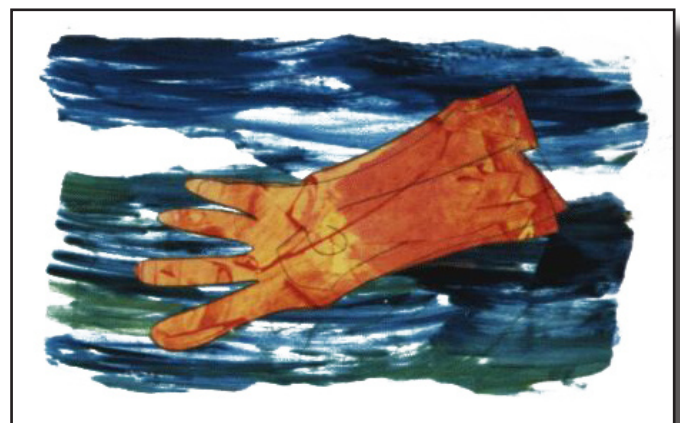
Coming soon: The Power Drawing Professional Development Programme for teachers and other educators to share evidence of the value of drawing as a tool for learning. More information to follow on the campaign for drawing website.

environmental art workshops

A rtist Jane Rose from Colonsay runs environmental art workshops created in association with An Tobar arts centre on Mull. This ongoing beach litter project/research promotes an awareness of pollution of the marine environment and related issues as well as bringing people in contact with contemporary art.

She recently ran sessions in Keills, Bowmore and Port Charlotte Primary Schools. The feedback from the schools was very positive and the children responded really well producing some good artwork and of course it raises lots of discussion about pollution etc. She hopes to visit other islands and locations in the future.

To contact Jane Rose telephone 01951 200344.



literature

Continuing Professional Development

The Scottish Storytelling Centre's training activities are grounded in a true philosophy of education. The aim is to 'bring out', affirm, encourage and develop people's latent potential. To achieve this, the Centre offers a wide range of opportunities for those wishing to develop their storytelling skills, whatever their age or ability, whether for fun or to bring new skills to their professional and community lives.

They create training events to suit the individual needs of your staff or group and these can be delivered in a venue of your choice or at the Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh (subject to a fee for use of the space and refreshments if required). Training is available in the form of half-day and full-day events, twilights, in-service days and weekend workshops. Please contact the Scottish Storytelling Centre for further details on developing a training package to meet your needs.

Training is led by professional storytellers who are highly experienced in working with all ages and groups, including children and adults with special needs. Training themes range from Telling to Tots for those working with the very young, to Reminiscence Tales for staff working with older people, and Storytelling in Organisations for those wishing to improve their own and their colleagues' communication and presentation skills. A wide

CAST is running a storytelling training day for primary and early years as part of the course calendar in Inveraray on Wednesday 28th November with Wendy Woolfson from the Scottish Storytelling Centre.

variety of people participate in the Centre's training programmes - parents, grandparents, managers, teachers, librarians, country park rangers, visitor attraction managers, tour guides, ministers and priests, social workers, care staff, and nurses. All professional storytellers chosen to lead workshops are selected according to their areas of expertise.

Contact www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk for more information.



art & design

Wasps

Wasps Artists' Studios is an award-winning charity which provides affordable studio space to support the careers of up to 750 artists working in Scotland today.

One of the leading studio providers in the UK,



Wasps provides a network of 17 studio buildings from the Scottish Borders to the Shetland Islands. On 7th and 8th October 2006, hundreds of artists in Wasps' Studios across Scotland opened their doors to welcome the public into their working studios.

The event will take place again on the 6th and 7th October 2007 is a great opportunity to meet artists, chat about their work and find out what inspires them. For the artists, it is a rare opportunity to get direct feedback about their artwork. You can look at the work of artists that took part last year alongside details of the locations to give you a flavour of this year's event. If in the meantime, you would like to receive updates in the lead up to the event, contact wasps at www.waspsstudios.org.uk

heritage

Hands On

Published in March 2007, Hands On is intended to help early years and primary school educators engage with object-based learning.

Produced by the Scottish Museums Council, in collaboration with Glasgow Museums, the publication is a step-by-step guide to working with everyday and museum objects to promote enjoyment and develop learning skills in young people.

Links are made throughout between object-based learning activities and the Curriculum for Excellence. Hands On is intended to encourage educators to forge links with museums and make the most of Scotland's fascinating heritage within the context of the new curriculum.

Electronic versions of Hands On

Three different electronic copies of Hands On have been produced to ensure we fully adhere to copyright regulations whilst offering full access to as broad a range of people as possible.

These electronic versions of the guide will offer enhanced functionality of the guide and enable more widespread distribution nationally.

It is envisaged that versions 1 & 2 of the guide would be ideal to use in a classroom setting with children, and would be especially suited to use on an electronic white board or equivalent.

The versions of the guide are:

1.Downloadable bookmarked pdf (non-printable)

This is a version in simple pdf format which can be opened using Adobe reader. The file size has been kept to 11MB which will mean that even those with a dial-up internet connection should be able to download the file in a reasonable time.

The file itself contains 'bookmarks' down the left hand side which will allow easy navigation of the guide and enable the user to jump to the required page rather than having to scroll through the whole guide.

This version can not, unfortunately, be printed. This is to ensure we are in line with our copyright agreements. However, a printable version of the resources required for lesson plans and activities can be downloaded (see version 3.).

2.Online bookmarked flash (non-printable)

This version is an enhanced version of the pdf and requires Flash Player 8 to run it. The most recent version of Flash Player can be downloaded from www.adobe.com/uk

The file size has also been kept to a minimum to ensure ease of use, but is larger than the simple pdf and offers enhanced functionality. This version can not be

CAST is running a 'Hands on' training day as part of the course calendar on Thursday 10th January with Marie Louise Smoor, one of the authors. We have several much sought after hard copies to give away!

downloaded, but should be used 'online'. Much like the pdf, this version has 'bookmarks' down the left of the page which enables ease of navigation. In addition, it carries the choice of a zoom facility. The zoom window can be dragged within the page or enlarged or shrunk as required. The pages in this version are designed to 'turn', much like a hard copy version.

This version also can not be printed, again for copyright reasons. Please see version 3. for a printable resource

3.Downloadable resources and activities (printable)

This version is also in simple pdf format and mirrors the format of the full guide. However, it carries a pared down amount of pages, omitting those not needing to be printed.

What it does contain is all the resources, question frameworks and activities a teacher or member of nursery staff will need to lead sessions in object based learning.

The pages have been lifted straight from the guide but have been renumbered, with their original page numbers indexed at the front. This will enable users to easily identify and find the page they are looking for.

The sole purpose of this version is to allow teachers and educators to print pages off to use in lessons or in museum-based activities. It can be used in conjunction with one of the non-printable versions (if using an electronic whiteboard or projector), or can be used on it's own if simply undertaking object activities. It is again kept to a minimum file size for ease of download and contains bookmarks for navigation.

http://handson.scottishmuseums.org.uk/

If you are interested in using this resource get in touch with SMC via email (katherined@scottishmuseums.org.uk) or by phone 0131 550 4112. This way, they can ensure they keep track of potential users and offer further help.



news



RSVP

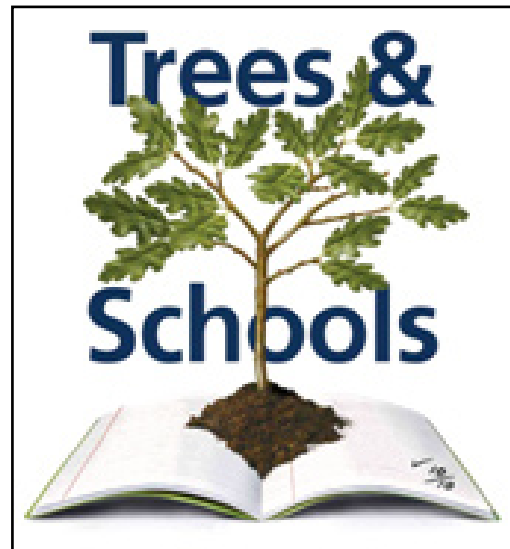
The RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme) arm of CSV (Community Service Volunteers) exists to encourage the growing number of those aged fifty plus to volunteer in their local area in Scotland. It taps into the wide range of skills and experience of mature people and harnesses them for the benefit of their local communities. The programme is volunteer led and inspired, with local co-ordinators and organisers recruiting teams of volunteers to address local concerns and community needs.

Hitherto, Scottish RSVP volunteers have mainly been involved in two activities - helping in primary schools and in the primary health care field. The programme of activities is growing all the time and volunteers are involved in an ever expanding range of activities.

RSVP has launched an exciting new initiative in Highland Schools. This involves volunteers assisting with curricular and extra-curricular activities. These include reading, music, arts, languages and projects in the school garden. Over 20 schools have already registered their interest. Involving RSVP volunteers in schools is a wonderful way to break down generational barriers as these days many children don't have close contact with grandparents and therefore miss out on the great benefit this can be.

PLANT A TREE WITH RSVP AND CSV'S ACTION 4 SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT.

RSVP has teamed up with Action 4 Sustainability, whose remit is to provide a one-stop shop for all Highland schools to integrate sustainable development into their learning. Partnership working will provide opportunities for school children, their parents and grandparents to work together on fun practical projects such as this one.



Future Projects

Linda Ann Skinner, Development Officer is currently developing opportunities in relation to the environment, recycling, and community care. She is also exploring the possibility of a project using Gaelic speaking volunteers.

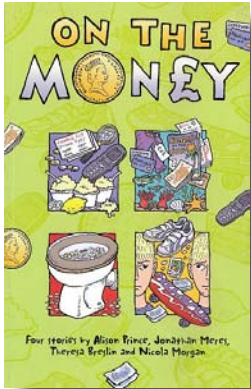
Contact

Linda Ann Skinner
Development Officer
T/F: 01463 713549
E: liskinner@csv.org.uk

current cast projects

Scottish Opera in Rothesay Academy

Scottish Opera have a project coming to Rothesay this in October as part of their small scale touring production (Opera Go Round). This year's production will be performing in the Pavilion Theatre, Rothesay on Tuesday 2nd October. The project involves secondary pupils and they are producing a workshop/performance study programme linked to the 2007 tour of Rossini's La Cenerentolla.



On the Money is a new book of four stories by Theresa Breslin, Jonathan Meres, Nicola Morgan and Alison Prince, exploring issues of financial responsibility for children. On the Money combines numeracy with literacy in an innovative way that hasn't previously been implemented in Scotland. The project goes beyond knowledge and skills and the focus of many existing resources for financial education, to encourage crucial attitudes, values and dispositions relevant to responsible and enterprising financial behaviour.

On the Money is a free resource that will be distributed to schools throughout Scotland. Standard Life, Learning and Teaching Scotland and Scottish Book Trust have worked in partnership to produce a book of stories for primary school children to help them become financially informed and aware and to aid their growth into financially capable adults.

The aim of the project is to develop the financial capability of primary school pupils as part of their general education. This will give pupils an opportunity to engage with key financial concepts, and to do this in a very creative and enjoyable way. Together they have developed a package of:

- Four stories, initially for primary school children, which incorporate issues to do with financial responsibility (such as entrepreneurship and money management, exploration of moral dilemmas to do with money and awareness of financial systems)
- Advice for teachers on how to use the stories to explore the issues with pupils, including dealing with sensitive issues in classes where

children come from very different economic and cultural backgrounds.

- An inclusive DVD resource that includes a British Sign Language video for the Deaf, audio tracks in English and Gaelic, and a presentation of the story illustrations as an aid to teachers who choose to read the stories aloud in the classroom

- A website which includes PDFs of each of the stories and of the complete book, a PDF of the support materials and downloadable audio files of each story in English and Gaelic.

In these teachers' notes to accompany the book you will find suggestions for using the stories in the classroom. Each story clearly contributes to the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence.

The notes are in three parts:

Part 1 - About the Project

Part 2 - Using the Stories

Part 3 - Acknowledgements and Contact Details

Learning and Teaching Scotland would welcome contributions from teachers and children on how they have used the stories.

If you would like a copy of On the Money, please contact:

Jim Lally,

Financial Education Unit Director
Learning and Teaching Scotland,
Dundee

Email: Jim Lally

J.Lally@LTScotland.org.uk

Tel: 08700 100 297

For information about the writers or children's literature please contact:

Scottish Book Trust

Email: Scottish Book Trust
info@scottishbooktrust.com

Tel: 0131 524 0160

www.scottishbooktrust.com

drama

APPROACHES TO INVESTIGATIVE AND DEvised DRAMA IN SCOTTISH SECONDARY SCHOOLS

This hmie publication focuses on the above in depth.

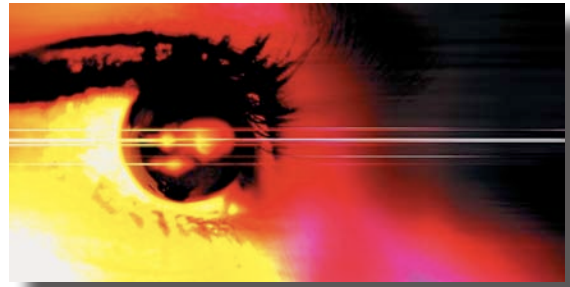
The teaching of drama in Scottish secondary schools focuses on:

- Creating
- Presenting
- Evaluating

In engaging with these elements, students at all stages are encouraged to develop their own dramas from ideas which are prompted by a variety of stimuli. From a wide range of starting points, students work through the process of creating a drama from first thoughts to presentation.

At Higher and Advanced Higher level the process is no different but, necessarily, the quality of the final product is more refined and complex as a result of students continuing to develop a higher level of skills and the progression achieved through each course of study.

Through the DVD production and accompanying printed materials, this publication offers approaches to teaching Devised Drama at Advanced Higher level and Investigative Drama at Higher level.



The aim of the DVD presentation is to provide viewers with illustrations of how teachers and pupils in two Scottish secondary schools set about responding to the creative challenges of developing Investigative Drama and Devised Drama.

A further chapter in the DVD aims to illustrate a professional theatre group's use of theatre arts with particular focus on lighting design. The aim of the printed material is to highlight key points and issues arising from the DVD presentation as well as to encourage reflection and evaluation. The aim of the appendices to the printed material is to illustrate processes which supported the pupils' creative responses.

To download the pdf of the publication go to www.hmie.gov.uk/documents and select 'investigating drama'

current cast projects

South Bank Soapbox project

Through CAST, the Southbank Centre in London have invited 13 schools to be part of Operation Soapbox, a national project to explore how we express ourselves and how new ideas form. Using the medium of the soapbox - the traditional vehicle for independent expression - young people nationwide are being asked to join a creative experiment with each other and with the public. Participating schools or classes receive a Soapbox Satellite - an ordinary looking box containing an extraordinary question or idea - as a catalyst for a year of exploration. What they do with the box and its cargo is up to them. They use it as a springboard for their own conversations, ideas and experiments. Then they send back their 'findings', in one form or another, by Summer 2008. The outcome will be an exhibition at the Southbank next summer and a constantly updated web site, showing the resulting uses of the boxes.

Competitions

Scottish Eco Prize for Creativity 2007
Call for entries that inspire
environmentally-friendly living



Now in its third year, the Scottish Eco Prize for Creativity has opened for entries for its 2007 award. A unique accolade, the Eco Prize is awarded for a creative work in Scotland that inspires greener lifestyles and environmentally-friendly living.

All creative forms from across the cultural and creative industries are eligible - from music, photography, design and sculpture to animation, literature and film. Entries are invited from individual creatives, from individual members of artistic groups and from creative companies. This award is an initiative of the Eco Trust. The award is designed to inspire winning entries with the flair and inventiveness to touch the lives of many people in Scotland and to celebrate positive and imaginative works.

The closing date for entries is 31st August 2007.

There are two awards: £1,000 for Established Talent, which includes established individual artists and creative company entries, and £1,000 for Emerging Talent. Details of the Prize and how to enter are available at www.eco-prize.org.uk

In 2007, the Prize is supported by its principal funder Sust., the Lighthouse on sustainability, its contributory funder, Loch Fyne Oysters Trust and by the Russell Trust. It is run in association with leading environmental group, Friends of the Earth Scotland, and with The Lighthouse, Scotland's National Centre for Architecture, Design and City - the hub for the creative industries in Scotland.

Don't forget that PhotoArch is a built environment photographic competition for primary school-aged children throughout Scotland. It aims to provide young people with the opportunity to express their thoughts, experiences and perspectives on the heritage, buildings and archaeology around them. The winning entries from PhotoArch go on to appear in the International Heritage Photographic Experience and the winners and their school will receive a digital camera each. Deadline for confirming participation by schools 29th September.

Deadline for submitting entries 27th October. For more information and application forms etc.

<http://photoarch.the-radiator.com/>

news

www.scottishcorpus.ac.uk/



The SCOTS project is the first large-scale project of its kind for Scotland. It provides a large electronic corpus of both written and spoken texts for the languages of Scotland. It has been online since November 2004, and, after regular updates and additions, it reached a total of 4 million words of text in May 2007. It is hoped that SCOTS will allow those interested in Scotland's linguistic diversity, and in Scottish culture and identity, to investigate the languages of Scotland in new ways, and address the gap which presently exists in our knowledge of these. It will also preserve information on these languages for future generations.

art & design

Notes on writing a design brief.

These helpful hints were prepared by Jon Stevenson Product Design Tutor at Glasgow College of Building and Printing, to accompany the Arne Jacobsen exhibition at the Lighthouse, Glasgow.

The majority of project work carried out by design students is delivered to them in the form of a brief. The idea of using this format comes from the real world client-designer relationship where the brief outlines and defines the contractual aspects being entered into. In this professional context there are three types

1 Closed Brief - the client knows exactly what they want, they understand the problem or opportunity, they know the solution and they know how they want the designer to get there.

2 Open Brief - here the client does not understand the problem or opportunity, how the solution is to be achieved and what roles the designer will perform.

3 Ideal Brief - this is where the client can explain the problem or opportunity can outline the limitation but gives the designer the opportunities to find solutions.

The last type of brief encourages exploration and creative solutions. Solutions, which the first brief would direct you to and the second may never allow you to reach.

Chair Design - An Example

Brief 1 - Design a chair in the style of Charles Rennie Mackintosh

Brief 2 - Design an object to support the body

Brief 3 - Design an object to sit on and relax

The Outcomes

1 Typical chair in the style of Charles Rennie Mackintosh

2 A chair, a bed or even a surgical bandage

3 Chair, beanbag or even a garden swing

What the last brief seeks to do is give the designer a chance to explore what the chair is for and also the experience it gives to the user.

The Anatomy of a Brief

A brief can be broken into three distinct parts:

Introduction

Here the project is put in context, defining where or why the problem or opportunity arose and supplying any background information.

The Brief

Here the area in which the design activity is to take place is outlined. A number of design companies talk about designing the experience the product will give the user. i.e. a relaxing chair. The brief will also contain the limitations that are to be put on the solution, for example the chair must be stackable. It should include the market area it is aimed at, a children's chair would require different characteristics from that of an adult's. If the chair is aimed at the luxury end of the market the type and cost materials will have less of an impact on the final design than if it were aimed at the economy end of the market.

The Deliverables

This is an important area outlining what the client wants to see from the designer. This should address not only what is to be delivered but also the quantity and timescale. This can be directed by how much time is to be spent on particular areas of the design process. Deliverables could include type of research to be undertaken, whether a scale model is to be produced and the format the work has to be delivered in.

joke!

Kate comes home from her first day at school. Her Mother asks, "What did you learn today?" Dismayed, Kate replies, "Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow."!

literature

THE SANTA MARIA

KENNETH STEVEN

“Michael woke up with a jump. He had been dreaming about a Spanish galleon laden with treasure, and he had been just about to lift the lid off a giant trunk when a sword flashed above him.”

So begins *The Santa Maria*, a real adventure story. A Hebridean boy lives with his grandfather. All his life he has heard whispers of a Spanish galleon that is supposed to have gone down off the island's coast, and stories too of its promised treasure. Much of the story is concerned with daily life - island characters and how they interact with the children. The story culminates in a great storm, and the hunt for *The Santa Maria* begins in earnest.

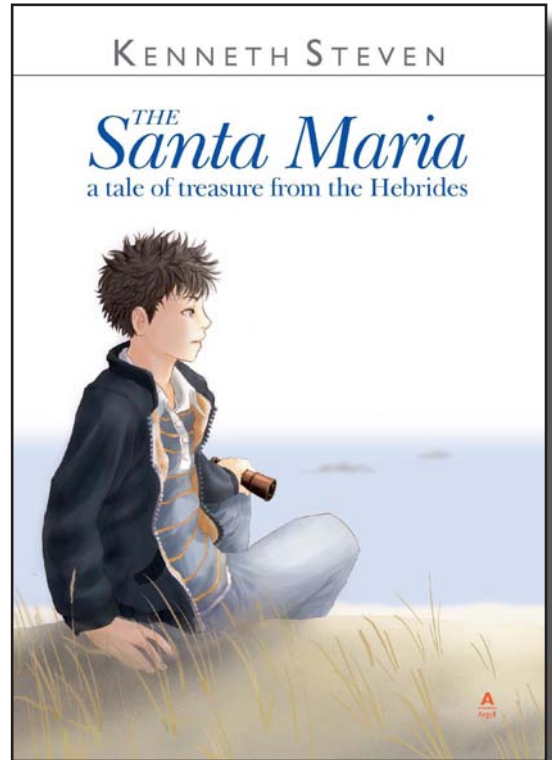
Aimed at 8-12 year olds, *The Santa Maria* gives readers a real sense of what living on an island is like. It deals with issues of bullying, but most of all imparts a sense of adventure.

Kenneth Steven is the author of many books for children and adults. He lives in the village of Dunkeld and undertakes events at festivals, in schools and through the library service. In 2005 he made two radio programmes with the BBC; a series on the Sami people of Arctic Scandinavia, and a single programme on the story of the 50th anniversary of the evacuation of St Kilda. He is visiting several schools in Argyll in this Autumn.

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email argyll.publishing@virgin.net
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£5.99 PAPERBACK



current cast projects

Journeys in Mid Argyll

14 Mid Argyll primary schools are to undertake a series of half day journeys at the start of September which will explore the areas natural and cultural heritage within the local forest landscape. The schools chose between themes of 'artistic' and 'environmental' with two different specialists leading the trips. The journeys will be aided by a resource pack, containing relevant activities, stories, pictures, maps, poems etc. which relate directly to the schools' chosen journey and have been distributed to all primaries in the area to encourage a wider and sustained knowledge of local heritage. A follow-up exhibition is planned for the end of September in Lochgilphead to show the pupils responses to the experience.

current cast projects

Artist in Schools Residency Oct - Nov 2007

The aim of this Residency is to create a unique opportunity for school pupils in Argyll and Bute to work with professional artists. The participating artists will devise art projects that are delivered over two days on site at Cove Park and continued over two days at the young peoples school. With this experience we hope to introduce young people to contemporary art, to challenge them to question what they think about art and to offer space to work in new ways in an unusual context. The teachers we are working with have confirmed that the opportunity for students to work directly with artists is invaluable. This builds upon classroom experience and allows the young people to work on innovative projects that enhance the units already being taught.

There will be four artists involved in the programme this year
Janice McNab, Valerie Olleon, John Shankie and Katy West.

news

Scottish Arts Council Young Scot Action Fund

Are your pupils bursting with artistic ideas but just need a bit of cash to get going?
The Scottish Arts Council and Young Scot have teamed up to offer you the opportunity to follow your artistic dreams and fund your creative talents!

Do your pupils need a grant to:-

- Travel to an audition
- Publicise a youth orchestra performance
- Hire space to choreograph new work
- Purchase props for a show
- Buy some gig equipment
- Help to fund their own exhibition?

If they have any artistic, creative or cultural idea that you would like some help with, then this fund may be able to help. It is called the Scottish Arts Council Young Scot Action Fund and it is able to award £200 to individuals or £750 to groups of young people aged 12 to 26.

You can download the application form, which is in pdf format by going to www.youngscot.org/actionfund

You can email Young Scot for a hard copy of the form or if you'd rather ring, then their number is (0131) 313 2488.

The Grants Committee meets every eight weeks and can only look at applications for projects and ideas that start after the next meeting. The best way to check the date of the next meeting is to ring (0131) 313 2488 and ask.

What projects have been funded so far?

The Scottish Arts Council Young Scot Action Fund has now been running for over two years and in that time they have given out 162 grants totalling over £35,000 to individuals and groups from all over Scotland.

You can access films about five of the projects that have been funded over the past few years by clicking on the Action Fund Short Films link on the web page.



news

IMAGINATE'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS

The Performing Arts and The Curriculum For Excellence:
Developing Successful Learners and Confident Individuals

Imagine is hosting a range of professional development opportunities for teachers and other education professionals as part of next year's Bank of Scotland Children's International Theatre Festival. These events will give you the opportunity to see performances and explore ways to encourage children's reflections, feelings and judgments, and in doing so supporting them to think creatively and independently. Workshops include: writing a theatre review, using visual arts to reflect on the experience, developing children's thinking skills and sharing good practice.

The ideas and activities will support you in meeting the 'developing successful learners' and 'developing confident individuals' capacities of the new Curriculum for Excellence.

Participants in previous teacher training days run by Imagine stated:

"I found the whole day very inspiring and beneficial. [It was] good to have time to observe, think and debate. I would thoroughly recommend it to all teachers."

"This whole series from Imagine has been brilliant and has had major impacts on my teaching this session."

About Imagine.....

Imagine is an arts agency that promotes and develops the performing arts for children and young people in Scotland. As the organisation

behind the UK's largest theatre festival for children and young people, the Bank of Scotland Children's International Theatre Festival, they have, over the last fifteen years, provided opportunities for children throughout Scotland to experience the finest theatre from around the globe.

It is their aim that Scottish children and young people, aged up to 18, have regular access to a diverse range of high quality, performing arts activity, from home and abroad, that will entertain, enrich, teach and inspire them.

Imagine has created a programme of events and projects that presents high quality performing arts from around the world and supports the talent and infrastructure of the performing arts for children and young people's sector in Scotland. This programme is tailored to meet and respond to the needs and aspirations of established or aspiring artists and producers, teachers and other practitioners.

For more information on Imagine visit the website at www.imagine.org.uk

current cast projects

Argyll Rhapsody Photography Workshops

CAST is holding a series of photography workshops in secondary schools throughout the region. The schools were given digital cameras before the summer break and the participants in the project will work with professional photographer Colin McPherson and train their eyes on the world around them to record their lives in Argyll & Bute. The final images will be used as part of 'An Argyll Rhapsody' performances at the end of November.

www.colinmcpherson.co.uk



news

Giant is a professional children's arts development organisation based in Glasgow. The company was founded in 1989 to deliver Children and Young People's events as part of Glasgow 1990 City of Culture. Since then the company has produced its own work as well as programming different events for other people. Over the years, the style of the work they produce has changed to be more inclusive: from the venues they work in, to the style of work they deliver. This involves research and development of different ways of working, particularly within our two main areas of artform development: Visual Arts and Theatre Arts.

What are inclusive arts?

They define 'inclusive arts' as art forms which enable all children, irrespective of their background or ability, to engage in the creative process in the same space and at the same time as their peers. This involves a more intense use of all the senses and includes: devising shows which enable a high level of inter-action to take place between the performer and the audience; developing sensory lighting in shows and employing multi-sensory techniques in visual arts workshops; using aromatherapy both in performance and workshops; integrating Makaton communication system in performance and as an aid in workshops, and finally developing the content, timing and structure of the programme to embrace the diversity of the audience.

Who they work with

Their priority is to work with all children aged 3-11. Some of their creative adventures are just for children, sometimes they are for all the family. They also work with people who work with children, for example teachers, playworkers, carers etc through the training programme.

Where they work

Giant has worked in all sorts of places. Sometimes They work in schools, museums, galleries, arts centres, community centre and even on buses, it depends on the project!

Recently, Giant has worked in Glasgow, Renfrewshire, North Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, Leicester, Highlands and Islands, Dundee, Aberdeen and the Borders (to name a few areas!). The location varies according to the work they are doing and the people they are doing it with. The theatre productions tour across Scotland (and beyond).

Training

Training is a core part of our programme of work. They have been facilitating inclusive arts training for over four years to those interested in working creatively with children and young people.



They have just launched the Inclusive Arts Training Programme bringing together the expertise of Giant and Creative Therapies to deliver a wide range of training initiatives for those interested in using the arts to develop their own skills and work with their client groups.

Feedback from participants about previous training includes:

"I felt it was a good chance for the team to come together and the facilitation skills of the tutor were excellent."

"I gained personally and professionally from the training."

"I feel inspired."

"It was great to have my thinking challenged."

If you have any questions or you would like to find out more about training then please contact: Cathie Smith, Training Manager
Giant, Centre for Inclusive Arts,
100 Beith Street, Glasgow, G11 6DQ, Scotland
Tel: 0141 334 2000 Fax: 0141 357 4100

Email: info@giantproductions.org

Web: www.giantproductions.org

news

The Tall Ship at Glasgow Harbour

Step aboard for a voyage of discovery!
Interactive Guided Tours.

Learn the Ropes P1-3

Pupils dress like a Captain's Mate, discover what sailors ate for breakfast, climb into a sailor's bunk and ring the ship's bell.

A Sailor's Life for Me P4-7

Pupils discover what life was like at sea for Victorian sailors. Try writing in the Captain's logbook, handle Victorian objects, take hold of the wheel and investigate overcrowded living quarters in the deckhouse.

Workshops

Buried Treasure! P1-3

Available November 2007

Children hear tales of swashbuckling pirates before digging for buried treasure in 'desert island' sand trays!

After plundering their loot, pupils must decide how to divide their treasure according to the Pirate Articles!

Ghastly Grub! P4-5

Available November 2007

What did you eat for breakfast? Did you have to tap the weevils from your hardtack?

Have you remembered to drink your ration of lime juice to keep the dreaded scurvy at bay?

Shipwrecked P6-7

Available January 2008

Pupils take on the role of marine archaeologists as they uncover shipwreck artefacts from 'seabed' sand trays.

Using primary and secondary sources, they will have to work in teams to discover the stories of ships and souls lost at sea.

Science Shows

Sun, Sea and Sextants P5-7

24th-26th October 2007 Booking Essential.

Pupils join in the fun of finding our position on a chart, heaving the log and other activities.

The show has links to maths, science, history and geography curricula.



Pirates! All Hands on Deck Pre 5-P2

5th-7th February 2008 Booking Essential.

Science Circus - a Glasgow Science Centre outreach activity. Glasgow Science Centre brings their fun curriculum linked puppet show to The Tall Ship!

Explore the forces of pushing and pulling, floating and sinking.

<http://www.glasgowsciencecentre.org/outreachearlyyears.aspx>

Call for more information or to book phone: 0141 222 2513

Lisa Massey

Museum Education Officer

The Tall Ship at Glasgow Harbour

e: <mailto:museum@thetallship.com>

museum@thetallship.com

w: <http://www.thetallship.com>

current cast projects

corryvreckan

In October 2007, the performance wing of YDance will tour a new production aimed children aged 7 and over. Corryvreckan will be based around the facts and legends surrounding the Corryvreckan Whirlpool - one of the most dangerous whirlpools in the world - which is situated off the coast of Jura. Corryvreckan will be choreographed by YDance Artistic Director Andy Howitt, to new music composed by Alasdair Nicolson. The performance will be accompanied by workshop sessions, and an education pack which will cover links to Scottish history, geography, geology and science.

literature

The BRAW website is the only site completely devoted to Scottish children's books.

Here are just some of the features you can find on the site: You can search the database of over 800 contemporary Scottish children's books, browse the author and illustrator listings to find out more about your favourite children's authors and illustrators resident in Scotland, take part in the online bookclub (and you could win a free signed copy of this month's bookclub book), find fun stuff to do on the kids pages, read about great reading and writing initiatives taking place across Scotland and lots, lots more.

BRAW is receiving sponsorship from the Royal Mail and funding from the Scottish Arts Council to run what used to be the Scottish Arts Council children's book of the year, set up in 1999 to recognise excellence in Scottish children's books. Former recipients of the award include Alison Prince and Elizabeth Laird.

Under BRAW's administration, the awards will now be in three age group categories, early years (0-7 years), younger children (8-11 years) and older readers (12-16 years). Books published in these age group categories between January and December 2006 by authors and illustrators resident in Scotland are eligible for the 2007 awards.

The winners of the awards in each category will now be entirely voted for by kids.

BRAW is seeking to encourage teachers, librarians and booksellers to set up reading groups of children in each age group category in schools, libraries and bookshops across Scotland.

The groups will read the shortlisted titles during the autumn 2007 term, between August and November this year, and will be able to vote online or by post for their favourites. The winners in each category will be announced at a special awards ceremony in Edinburgh in November 2007.

For information, please have a look at the Royal Mail Awards GUIDELINES.

Any school, library or bookshop in the UK or abroad can take part in judging the awards.

If you would like to receive more information about the awards, or are interested in getting involved in judging the shortlists, please contact:



BRAW
Scottish Book Trust
Sandeman House
Trunk's Close
55 High Street
Edinburgh
EH1 1SR
Tel: 0131 524 0160
Email: royalmailawards@braw.org.uk

The winners of the 2006 Royal Mail Awards for Scottish Children's Books were announced recently.

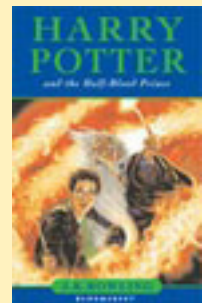
The winner of the 0-7 Early Years category is:

Little Lost Cowboy by Simon Puttock and Caroline Jayne Church



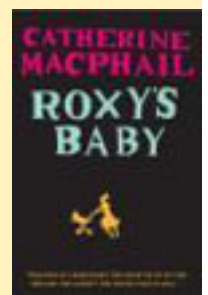
The winner of the 8-12 Younger Readers category is:

Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince by J K Rowling



The winner of the 13-16 Older Readers category is:

Roxy's Baby by Catherine MacPhail



Michael Palin opens John Murray Archive

Writer, traveller and actor Michael Palin officially opened the John Murray Archive Exhibition on 26th June 2007 at the National Library of Scotland. Pupils and staff from Ulva and Dervaig were specially invited to attend and meet Michael. They had taken part in the 'Handbooks for Travellers' project (see below) which had been set up by NLS with help from CAST. Subtitled 'Ideas that shaped the world', the interactive exhibition is now open to the public and state-of-the-art display technology helps visitors learn about great ideas and achievements from the 19th century and the people behind them. The exhibition highlights 11 historical figures included in the publishing archive. Among the featured Murray authors are travellers such as missionary David Livingstone and scientist Charles Darwin. Michael Palin himself has journeyed round the globe, and has documented his experiences in books and popular television programmes. The former Monty Python star describes the archive as 'a gold mine for anyone who loves the magic of travel.' It is, he says, 'a uniquely rich collection, bringing together travellers who were poets, politicians, scientists, missionaries, archaeologists and adventurers who all share the gift of being able to write.'



Handbooks for Travellers Project

'A fantastic experience for both pupils and staff. The project provided an opportunity to find out many fascinating things about our local area and then see our work being celebrated by the National Library of Scotland and used by visitors to Mull. We all had a lot of fun creating our mediascapes and would like to carry on learning more about our island and letting other people see and enjoy our work.' Heather Waller, Ulva Primary



John Murray published Handbooks for Travellers in the nineteenth century. Much like 'Rough Guides' today, these books provided tourists with all the information they needed when visiting a particular area including suggested sites to visit. To coincide with the opening of the John Murray Archive, the National Library of Scotland undertook an exciting and innovative multimedia project with Ulva and Dervaig Primary Schools. The project aimed to bring together two schools to create a real contribution to modern tourism in their area by creating an interactive guide for visitors building upon the tradition of guides like Murray's Handbooks and modern internet and printed

publications. Through participation in the project pupils developed their skills and understanding of new technologies, understanding of their local community, (both its heritage and contemporary contexts) and appreciation of role of tourist industry in society. The project brought a number of benefits to Ulva and Dervaig. The project also provided training for a teacher at each school in using the software used to develop 'mediascapes' and gave each school two PDAs, thus providing the skills and equipment to utilise this cutting-edge learning technology in the future.

NLS invited two schools from Mull to create a Mediascape guide of their locality (a composition of sounds and images placed in a geographical area). The guides reflect the pupils' personal experiences of their area and introduce interesting sites/stories within it.

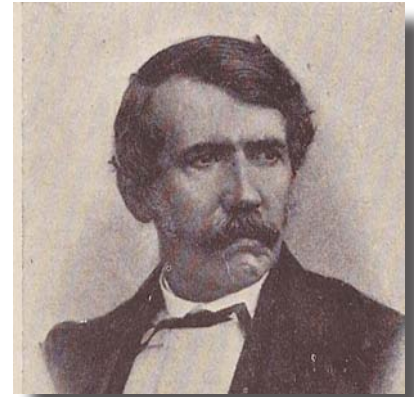
Each school worked to select appropriate local features and designed their mediascape, then collected images and sounds to populate it. Finally, they placed their images and sounds on relevant points on a digital map to make a guided tour. Modern handheld technologies enable us to interact with the environment in new ways, and it is this capability which was utilised in the project.

heritage

John Murray Archive History Detectives

The Teacher Resource Pack

The first in a series of Teachers' Packs for schools, this resource includes a series of activities focussing on historical study skills and the Victorians. It can be used as a stand alone resource or to support visits to the John Murray Archive Exhibition.



www.nls.uk/jma/learning/schools/resources/history_detectives_resource_pack.pdf

This resource, whilst developing knowledge and understanding about the past and about characters from the 19th Century, has a main focus on investigating ways in which the past is preserved and remembered. The Pack provides easy-to-implement activities for pupils studying at Levels C and D of the current 5-14 Environmental Studies Curriculum and also provides advice on how the pack can be used for planning aspects of A Curriculum for Excellence as it becomes progressively implemented in Scottish schools

There are 4 key topics covered in the pack, namely:

- Establishes the concept of pupils as 'history detectives' who use their detective skills to find out information from the past
- Encourages pupils to think about the contents of an archive and introduces pupils to the concept of source materials within an archive e.g. letters, images, objects
- Encourages pupils to make simple personal or class archives.

In relation to materials in the John Murray Archive relating to Isabella Bird Bishop, the Victorian traveller, and David Livingstone, the African missionary and explorer, pupils are encouraged to:

- EXAMINE archive material relating to them
- COLLECT EVIDENCE from archive material about them
- USE EVIDENCE about them to draw conclusions

The lesson plans are specifically designed to allow teachers to become 'the instant expert' before teaching lessons, and each provides background information, learning outcomes, resource lists, and of course, discussion ideas and practical activities too! We hope both you and your pupils enjoy all aspects of the History Detectives study!



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