

Find Your  
**TALENT**



# **Final Report**

## **February – July 2009**

**Working with local children and young people to raise awareness of their natural connections between rural and urban environments.**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Background Information**

The Braunstone's Beacon was a six-month programme aimed at making children and young people, aged three to sixteen years aware of their natural connections between the County's rural and their own urban environments.

The programme was based in St. Peter's Church and Hall in Braunstone and awarded a Find Your Talent fund in November 2008, with the programme team commencing in February 2009.

The programme completed on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2009, with the final report due by 5<sup>th</sup> August and the final salary claim to be made upon final payment received by Find Your Talent.

The Braunstone's Beacon team comprised of a Project Manager, a Community Worker and a Youth Worker. Staff from the Braunstone Community Association and Creative Braunstone advised and supported the programme.

### **1.2. Braunstone's Beacon Programme Partners**

The programme was marketed through various Children's Centres, Play Groups, Church Groups, Youth Councils and Local Youth Groups, all which are based within the local community.

Beacon Hill Country Park of Leicestershire County Council and Braunstone Park of Leicester City Council, contributed to the part-planning of the outdoor activities and providing environmental expertise.

Arts in Education developed a partnership with the programme, offering the Arts Award qualifications to all children and young people that chose to gain this qualification. The contribution of covering the costs of entry fees from Arts in Education allowed them to extend this qualification to the area of Braunstone.

### 1.3. Interim Report Summary

An interim report was submitted to the Find Your Talent funders on 31st March 2009. The summary below indicates the programme achievements made by March 2009 and outlines 'next steps' that would commence during Easter, April 2009 – the first contact time with the participants of the programme.

It was planned to deliver the comparisons between the rural and urban environments through creative play and informal learning, both indoors and outdoors. In order to devise the programme of activities a consultation meeting was held, identifying ways of engaging the children and young people and the issues they face in relation to using outdoor spaces; locally or rurally.

The questionnaire conducted at the consultation was aimed at the children and young people's attitudes towards wildlife, countryside and creativity. The positive responses led to a series of activities that would take place during the Easter holidays, summer half-term and during June 2009. Core strands within the programme included:

- Visits to rural and urban parks and open spaces;
- Outdoor creative and discovery sessions;
- Informal learning and creative play of natural crafts, arts and photography;
- Skills development ;
- Encourage participation from the community of Braunstone to provide new opportunities and direction to lead to positivity and celebration of their own urban and rural environments.

The Braunstone's Beacon project was publicised and marketed through local community newsletters and the Leicester Mercury. Social networking sites, Facebook and Beebo were created as well as a way for the children and young people to be informed of activity dates and to upload photographs. An email account was also set up for the programme.

Working with the Creative Braunstone Network, a local community art group, and distributing fliers and posters, helped the programme to generate more interest from local organisations and individuals.

Braunstone's Beacon's 'next steps' stated in the interim report were to:

- Continue to **work in partnership** with other organisations to access information;
- **Deliver eight days of art and heritage workshops** within the core strands of the programme;

- Continue to **market and advertise** activities to raise the profile of the Braunstone's Beacon programme to lead to an understanding of the Find Your Talent programme;
- **Celebrate the creative work** produced during the course of the programme by holding an exhibition.

## 2. PROJECT AIMS: as outlined in the funding application form

- Programme of activities delivered through creative play and informal learning, tutoring by local experts, local artists and youth workers. Emphasise on imaginative play with natural materials to focus on celebrating natural heritage and learn about the rural environment;
- Aim to make children and young people aware of their natural connections and comparisons between the county's historical country parks as well as their local green spaces in their neighbourhood;
- Discovery sessions to learn more about natural history;
- Realise the potential of environment and nature as a tool for personal development;
- To make visual comparisons through visual art, multimedia and photography to heighten awareness of natural environments between city and rural locations;
- Recognise the need for social, cultural and biological diversity and co-habiting with other living things and the built environment;
- Educate the children and young people on working together to contribute towards their personal development, sharing of knowledge, and building on communication to bring out positive outcomes.








Overall, Braunstone's Beacon aimed to benefit the children and young people in the area, by providing cultural discovery and creative activities through a portfolio of environment, wildlife and art.

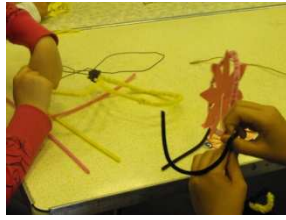
With free opportunities for all activities and visits to the country and city parks it was hoped that Braunstone's Beacon would allow for all children and young people residents of Braunstone and the wider community to get involved in culture and creativity.

### 3. PROGRAMME DELIVERY

To deliver the aims / outcomes as outlined in Section 2, Braunstone's Beacon identified activities to address this purpose.

Activities delivered by Braunstone's Beacon with children and young people:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Working with... (visual/audio etc.)</b>	<b>Details/Outcomes</b>
<p>Beacon Hill Country Park Visit 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009</p> <p>Attended: 22 Duration: 4 hours</p>  	<p>Visual; audio; natural crafts; photography; discovery.</p>   	<p>Day trip to discover about natural rural environment, wildlife and different sounds and textures.</p> <p>The group were encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce visual sketches of what they saw around them and what interested them; e.g. wildlife, scenery, flowers/trees etc.</li> <li>• Record sounds heard using a digital Dictaphone</li> <li>• Explore texture through nature weaving using natural found materials like twigs, plants etc.</li> <li>• Take photographs for the duration of the trip</li> <li>• Explore the country park's different areas through supervised imaginative play</li> </ul> <p>For over half the group, it was their first visit to Beacon Hill with a high level of interest in textures and photography.</p> <p>High quality work to make future comparisons with.</p> <p>Requests made for further information about trees/flowers and history about the country park.</p>
<p>Art Session 15<sup>th</sup> April 2009</p> <p>Attended: 10 Duration: 4 hours</p>	<p>Recyclable materials; Eggs.</p>	<p>Art workshops of 4 hours to extend creative knowledge gained from trip to Beacon Hill, combining nature studies with craft.</p> <p>Morning workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Batik Eggs using dyes from wax and ink to celebrate Easter.</li> </ul> <p>Tactile play in mixing colours</p>



made from inks and crepe paper diluted in warm water, feeling and peeling wax from egg.

- Inspired from the nature weavings created at Beacon Hill the group transferred newly learnt skills to make mobiles using recyclable wire, found paper and other craft materials.

The workshop provided the opportunity to learn about art/craft techniques from an expert in the field.

Art session was 'new' and 'interesting' as both the group and the youth worker had not done this type of activity before.

Batik Eggs formed part of the final celebration creative outcome of the Braunstone's Beacon programme. Tactile play and inspirational play allowed the group to use their imagination and senses, to develop new types of art and crafts.

All the group were proud of their mobiles and 'wanted to take them home to show their mum/dad', 'hang it in their room'.

Braunstone Park Visit  
16<sup>th</sup> April 2009

Attended: 10  
Duration: 4 hours



Leaf/tree ID; mini-beast hunt; visual; audio; nature sun prints; photography.

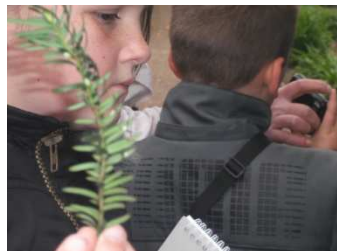


Day trip to discover about natural rural environment, wildlife and different sounds and textures in comparison to Beacon Hill visit.

To pull comparisons the activities remained the constant; so the group were encouraged to carry out the same visuals, approach to audio recordings and photography.

For the whole group, Braunstone Park was their local park to visit on a regular basis, so an emphasis was made on increasing levels of interest towards requests made for further information about trees/flowers when at Beacon Hill.

- Working with the park ranger, wildlife activity sheets were used to identify mini-beasts and



insects in wooded areas. Learning how to identify trees by matching the image of a leaf on the tree to the one on their sheets.

- The group were encouraged to record their findings in their sketch books.
- To further engage the group, a bird song chart was used to identify the birds found at the city park.
- High level of interest led to quality work produced. Comparisons were made almost immediately with references made to: urban sounds of cars and people; more wildlife sounds than at Beacon Hill; different landscapes; more litter at the city park.

The group felt a sense of ownership towards Braunstone Park with four of the programme participants volunteering on a 'Clean Braunstone Park' litter pick day; an issue that affects some children and young people.

The leaf/tree ID made a positive impact with the group wanting to spend longer at the park to explore other areas and more trees. Some took rubbings of the tree bark and the leaf with a note of the type of tree for future reference. This type of informal outdoor learning was very beneficial to the children and young people from Braunstone.

Afternoon art workshop:

- Inspired from both trips to Beacon Hill and Braunstone Park, the group produced a large mural painting on muslin material with the aid of photographs, print making, and drawings from their sketchbooks and expert help from the creative practitioner.
- Nature sun prints. Natural and



found materials were placed on paper to leave a print behind once the paper was exposed to sunlight.

The mural allowed the group to transfer their findings into a visual format; another outcome towards the final celebration.

The nature sun prints were something new for the group to experiment with, while in keeping with the Braunstone's Beacon programme. The group found it 'magical' and 'want to do it again'.

The inter-disciplinary of art activities are another form of comparison for the group to make, yet allowing for a basic understanding of the concept of photography, through the nature sun prints.

Wildflower ID and Art session  
26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Attended: 7-10  
Duration: 8 hours total



Flower ID; visual; interactive play; mosaic material



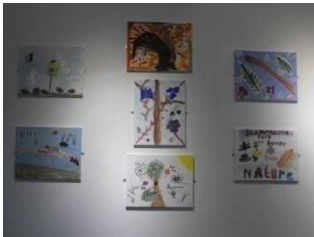





Following the positive interest generated from the leaf/tree ID at Braunstone Park, the group were eager to learn about local plants found on church grounds.

Interactive play was adopted for this activity: a coloured card was held up; the group would run to a flower of that colour and match them using their ID chart. Findings were recorded in sketch books in the form of nature diaries.

The art activity of making mosaics allowed the group to visualise all their findings to date with the mosaic images filled with recycled paper, fabric, bottle tops, found tiles and other scrap materials.

This was an activity that enlightened the group to discover new methods of making mosaics and artwork.

Both the flower ID and the mosaic tied in well with one another as each activity fed into the other. The group made references to their sketch books to transfer some flower ID drawings to the mosaic. Thought was given to textures, patterns and colour with

		direction from the creative practitioner and guidance from the youth worker. Both outcomes were for the final celebration.
<p>Mosaic 6<sup>th</sup> June 2009</p> <p>Attended: 7 Duration: 4 hours</p>		The mosaics were completed during this session.
<p>Art session 13<sup>th</sup> June 2009</p> <p>Attended: 5 Duration: 4 hours</p> 	<p>Visual art</p>  	<p>Taken from sketch books, the group transcribed their findings into drawings onto a canvas. They chose imagery that most interested and inspired them. They were encouraged by the creative practitioner to look at other artist styles, approaches and techniques like Matisse for example. The drawings were then transformed to paintings. The group found 'learning about other painters was good', as it gave them 'ideas for their own painting'. Exposing the group to art history on an introductory level triggered their imagination more and were motivated to take their time in producing their own art pieces. The paintings produced were an outcome towards the final celebration.</p>
<p>Art session 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009</p> <p>Attended: 9 Duration: 4 hours</p> 	<p>T-shirts</p>  	<p>An outdoor activity involving using natural materials like leaves, stones, and twigs etc. as stencils for spray painting onto the t-shirts; producing their own customised t-shirts. This simple activity held a lot of creativity and freedom of expression amongst the group. Being able to have that level of experimentation allowed for the children and young people to produce some high quality techniques and points of interest on the medium; created for the final celebration.</p>

## 4. WHO WAS INVOLVED?

The Braunstone's Beacon programme delivered activities based on the consultation held before the beginning of the programme. Insights gained during from the questionnaire revealed that children and young people had mixed feelings towards country and city parks set in rural and urban environments:

- Most young people had never visited a country park before and felt negative, uncomfortable and unsafe in urban environments, in particular, Braunstone Park. The programme envisaged to remove this negative feeling.
- Many were unaware of different types of wildlife around them. This programme focused on highlighting local and rural wildlife, sites and issues that connected them to realising what was available on their doorstep.
- It was established that many used their local park to play sport in, therefore Braunstone's beacon concentrated on creativity and informal learning.

Delivering this programme within the area of Braunstone and taking into consideration the above points, the target group as outlined in the original funding application was the children and young people of Braunstone and its surrounding facility. Monitoring this was carried out through registration of participants and their addresses. It was evaluated that all, apart from one, were very local to St. Peter's Church and Hall.

Although the programme was open to the wider community, and despite the single response we received, it deemed to be a problem. Undetermined by the exact cause of this factor, the main challenge was the difference in areas; in particular, issues of 'not belonging to the same area as other members'.

The activities covered a broad range of skills that were adaptable to suit children as young as three to young people aged sixteen. A total of twenty two children and young people took part in this programme. The decrease in figures towards the end of the programme was due to changes in family circumstances and other undefined commitments.

The programme was initially structured, with the core group of attendees. However, as the activities were delivered and the core group decreased in numbers, some new members joined towards the end of the programme. On reflection, the system of open access seemed to work well within the area of Braunstone; mainly due to changing family circumstances in relation to fluctuating numbers. It was noted that on some days, some participants had to leave early.

Braunstone's Beacon was aimed at the children and young people of Braunstone. It was aimed at making them more aware of their natural connections through creativity and culture. As this was the core group that was targeted, parents/carers were not said to be engaged by the programme. Indirectly, however, parents/carers have had an impact from the children and young people becoming involved in campaigns like 'Clean up Braunstone Park'. The participants have taken a great interest in wildlife on their doorstep. Some have gone on to enter photograph exhibitions in conjunction with the 'Love Parks Week' (Braunstone Park) and the Leicestershire County Council wildlife competition.

#### **4.1. Contribution towards the 'Every Child Matters Outcomes'**

The programme set out to put the children and young people at the forefront of its delivery of activities. By addressing issues faced by most children and young people (as found in the consultation) in Braunstone and integrating them into the delivery of the programme the programme has made connections with the 'Every Child Matters' outcomes:

- Be healthy: culture as a preventative tool for promoting healthier lifestyles for healthier communities.
- Stay safe: culture value in terms of social inclusion; value of parks, open spaces and the urban environments.
- Enjoy and achieve: having fun whilst contributing to culture and learning to raising educational levels.
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

## 5. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The programme would deliver a comprehensive range of creativity, urban and rural wildlife knowledge and skills and offer the Arts Award. This would provide the children and young people with opportunities and information to take forward what they have learnt from the activities.

Mentioned in the initial bid, the group would take part in updating the St. Peter's Church website with regular blogs; despite encouragement, this was not something the group were keen to do. Therefore this criteria remains unmet.

However, the maintenance of the Facebook profile page has remained open for participants to update with photographs etc. when required.

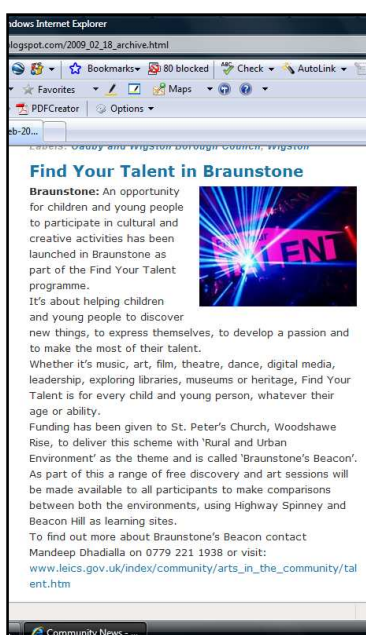
## 6. SPOTLIGHT ON BRAUNSTONE'S BEACON

Braunstone's Beacon gained much interest through the publicity generated from the beginning of the programme. It was decided amongst the Braunstone's Beacon team that with each activity, a press release would be issued to at least one of the local media.

Articles were published in the Leicester Mercury, local community newsletters: the Braunstone Life and the Braunstone Alert.

Over the life of the programme the team has:

- Issued five press releases including two online Leicester Mercury Community Newsletter blogs.
- Assisted with enquiries made about the programme from the wider community via the programmes own email address.
- Had a promotional information stand about Find Your Talent's Braunstone's Beacon at the Brite Centre, in Braunstone, as part of the Creative Braunstone Networking event.
- Attending the Creative Braunstone Partnership AGM benefitted the promotion as the board members were from various backgrounds and gained an interest and insight into both Find Your Talent and Braunstone's Beacon.
- Fliers, letters and posters have always been distributed around Braunstone to remind the local children and young people of the free programme of activities available to them.
- Regular updates were made on the Facebook website on the Braunstone Find Your Talent profile page.
- A dedicated webpage on the St. Peter's Church website providing brief summaries of activities undertaken during the programme.



Whilst every endeavour has been made to endorse the Find Your Talent logo on promotional and marketing material, it was beyond our control to see it through with the invitations for the final celebration.

A very recent achievement has been the design of a website for the Braunstone's Beacon programme: [www.braunstonesbeacon@moonfruit.com](mailto:www.braunstonesbeacon@moonfruit.com) It includes information about the Find Your Talent, the programme itself, photographs and latest news about the community wildlife spotted and art

created, locally. Links have been made for users to be directed to homepages such as Find Your Talent, Arts Award, Love Parks Week and many such like. One of the main future opportunities with this is to introduce downloadable games to play outdoors; e.g. Wildflower ID, word searches etc.

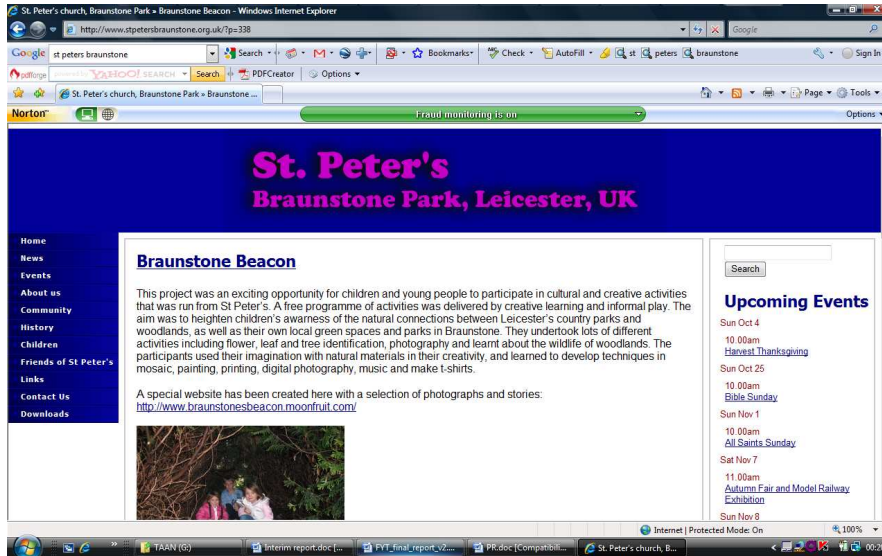
**Find Your Talent is in Braunstone**

An exciting opportunity for children and young people to participate in cultural and creative activities has been launched in Braunstone as part of Find Your Talent. It's about helping children and young people to discover new things, to express themselves, to develop a passion and to make the most of their talent. Whether it's music, art, film, theatre, dance, digital media, leadership, exploring libraries, museums or heritage, Find Your Talent is for every child and young person, whatever their age or ability.

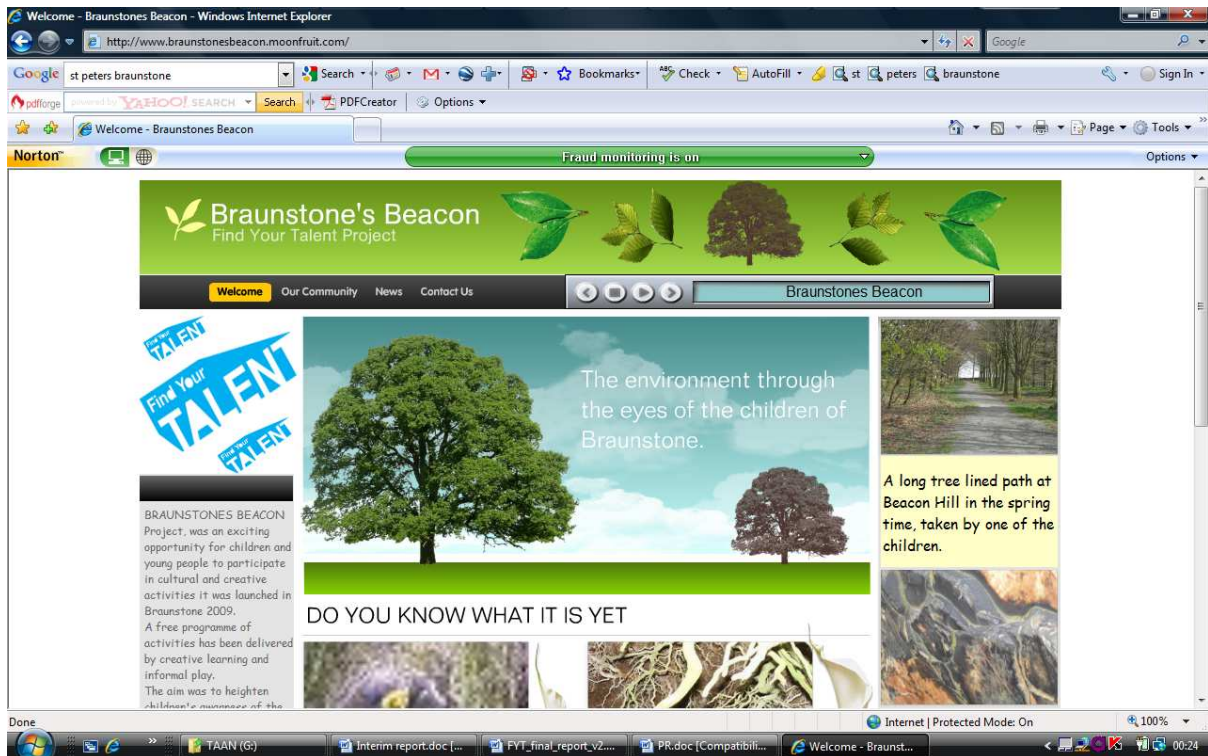
Funding has been given to St. Peter's Church, Woodshave Rise, to deliver this scheme with Rural and Urban Environment as the theme and is called Braunstone's Beacon. As part of this a range of free discovery and art sessions will be made available to all participants to make comparisons between both the environments, using Highway Spinney and Beacon Hill as learning sites. The programme of activities will be delivered through creative play and informal learning, as well as tutoring by local experts, local artists and youth workers over the spring and summer season. It aims to make children and young people aware of their natural connections between the county's historical country parks and woodlands, as well as their own local green spaces in their neighbourhood.

During the school Easter holidays we hope to encounter visits to both the city and country parks, creating experiences for the children and young people through arts and heritage workshops. This will be for three days between Monday 6th and Friday 17th April.

If you would like to find out more about Braunstone's Beacon please contact Mandeep Dhadijala on 0779 2211 938 or email [fyt\\_braunstone@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fyt_braunstone@yahoo.co.uk). To find out more about Find Your Talent check out [www.leics.gov.uk/talent](http://www.leics.gov.uk/talent).



Left and below: Extracts from St. Peter's Church website and the recently launched Braunstone's Beacon website.



## 7. THE FINAL CELEBRATION – THE CITY GALLERY EXHIBITION

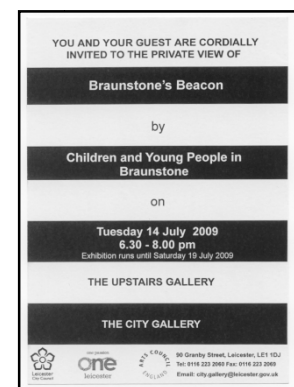
The celebration of Braunstone's Beacon took place at The City Gallery in Leicester on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

The exhibition was a celebration of the journey the children and young people made in taking part in the programme, their creative achievements and new found talents. On exhibition was the mural, mosaics, canvas', photography, nature sun prints, batik eggs and the t-shirt tree sculpture. All of these were the final outcomes of the activities undertaken to pull comparisons and achieve the aims of the programme.



Private view invitations were sent to a represented audience made up of:

- Head of Arts and Heritage, Leicestershire County Council
- Find Your Talent team
- National partners
- Braunstone's Beacon children and young people participants
- Key local community colleagues
- St. Peter's Church members



This brought the number of attendees to at least half the expected number: 20. Cancellations and non-attendance were generally due to other commitments.

Another of the final celebration outcomes was the production of a musical piece made up of sounds collected on the Dictaphone during visits to Beacon Hill Country Park and Braunstone Park. This was played during the private view evening and now forms part of the official 'branding' of the Braunstone's Beacon website, playing upon immediate logging in.

The presentation ceremony was led by the Church Community Worker with Certificates of Participation given out to the children and young people by the Find Your Talent team. A short talk about Find Your Talent was delivered followed by a cake-cutting to begin the celebrations.

The evening had a write up in the local community newsletter, Braunstone Alert:

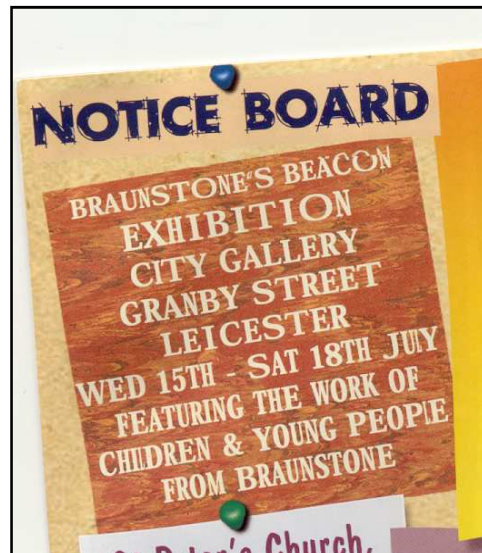
**B**udding young artists are also getting a chance of fame thanks to Braunstone's Beacon Project. Artist Mandeep Dhadialla tells us, "Finding out about the city and the countryside through art and creative play has been a huge success. It's making the children and young people more aware of the beauty on their doorstep."

The project helped the children create mosaics, canvas paintings, photographs, nature mobiles and much more.

Mandeep says "All the work was inspired by our trips to Braunstone Park and Beacon Hill Country Park... and now it's going on exhibition at the City Art Gallery." (details on back page.)

The creative youngsters follow in the footsteps of others, including Artists in Residence, Ian Davies and James Fahey, whose work has been exhibited in the City Gallery.

Mandeep Dhadialla 07792 211 938  
mdhadialla@btinternet.com



The evening was very much a team effort, with many positive comments made upon the high standard of work produced from the children and young people of Braunstone:

"Stunning work, beautifully presented – well done all!"

**"The range of work you've presented is exceptional. Your use of different styles and textures, techniques and formats is fantastic. Your continued work is an absolute credit to the Find Your Talent pathfinder, not only locally but nationally too. Well done to all involved."** Find Your Talent team

"It has been fantastic to see museum collections working alongside 'the real thing' to inspire a closer look and understanding of our urban and rural environment. The artworks created are an inspiration and the development of the programme over the year a credit to all organisations and most importantly the young people involved." Natural Life Museums Senior Curator

**"Think the photos in particular are brilliant. Should be more interaction between schools and art projects – really good work and inspiration."**

"Fantastic piece of artwork, especially the sketch book work. Great ideas."

**"This is all amazing, so creative and inspiring. It was a real treat to come to a gallery and see something that everyone will enjoy. Well done! Keep up the good work."**

"A beautiful result of hard work and dedication. Very well presented."

**"A very interesting, thought provoking and enjoyable set of artwork, especially the mosaics which require much more than a quick glance to actually see all of the detail."**

"Very interesting and brilliant work from the children of Braunstone. Well done everyone."

Some quotes from the children and young people that attended the evening:

"I enjoyed making nature sun prints. Thank you very much."

"I really enjoyed doing the t-shirts because it gave me a chance to go wild with colour."

"I like when we went to Beacon Hill because we saw more plants."

## 8. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The financial management of the programme was undertaken by using the St. Peter's Church and Hall procedures and official treasurer. The budget was managed by the Project Manager for the programme, assisted by the Braunstone's Beacon team.

The full approved expenditure budget for Braunstone's Beacon agreed with Find Your Talent was **£4960**. Headings that the budget managed against included:

• <b>Indoor activities:</b> Art and Activity Materials
• <b>Digital cameras</b>
• <b>Outdoor activities:</b> Local Experts
• <b>Travel</b>
• <b>Project Manager time:</b> Organisation; Consultation; Travel
• <b>Youth Worker:</b> Assisted Delivery of Project
• <b>Creative Practitioner:</b> Delivery of Art Activities; Prep for Art Activities
• <b>Contingency</b>

### 8.1. Budget Breakdown

#### a) Spend February to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009:

Project Manager Time	Organisation	£240
	Consultation	£240
Event prep for activities	Activity planning & materials resourcing	£120
Room hire	10 days room hire	£500
Materials	Materials purchased for all activities	£365.63
Digital Cameras	Digital Cameras	£300

	purchased	
Stationery	Printer ink	£31.85
	Spray mount	£5.38
Photocopying	Posters, fliers photocopying	£45.00
Refreshments	Consultation meeting lunch & refreshments provided	£31.00

**TOTAL spend to 31/03/09: £1878.86**

**b) Spend from April to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009:**

Project Manager Time	Organisation	£120
Creative Practitioner	Delivery of art activities	£208
Event prep for activities	Activity planning & materials resourcing	£420
Youth Worker	Assisted delivery of Project	£750
Gallery Hire	Final Celebration	£195
Refreshments	Buffet/Drinks	£73
Gallery materials	Artwork hanging materials	£55
Indoor materials	Art and activity materials	£157.94

**TOTAL spend to 31/03/09: £1978.94**

The remainder of the funding of c) **£992** will be allocated to the costing of the **Creative Practitioner: Delivery of Art Activities**.

**Total spend to date:**

a + b = **£3857.80**

**Total spend upon completion of Braunstone's Beacon programme:**

a + b + c = **£4849.80**

Total under spend of: **£110.20**

## 9. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE EVALUATION: PROJECT OUTCOMES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Braunstone's Beacon has explored a number of approaches on working with children and young people to deliver the programme of creative play, informal learning, and discovery sessions.

Within the Find Your Talent funding application form, the main aims would be assessed against outcomes. The outcomes achieved were discovered through a final project evaluation conducted with the children and young people that participated in Braunstone's Beacon.

The process involved developing an interactive questionnaire using visual aids and playing games. Each activity applied to both rural and urban parks visited during the programme.

### a) To find out about the different landscapes and wildlife:

- Card games: holding up pictures of birds, trees, insects, motorbikes etc, the group were to remember which park they saw them at.
- Visual drawing: drawing their favourite landscape scene from either of the parks, they would remember colour, space and surrounding area.



### b) To find out about the natural environments:

- 'My best bits' game: the Braunstone's Beacon team became pillars of art activities (e.g.: youth worker held an image of a camera) and when an activity was called out, the participants would run to their favourite.
- Dice rolling game: this was done twice to cover both the parks visited. Activities carried out at both parks were written on labels and stuck to the numbers of the dice. E.g.: Number 1 is leaf/tree ID. So which trees can they remember seeing at each of the parks?



### c) To find out about the art activities most enjoyed:

- Foot or Hand game: each art activity was named on individual flip chart paper with a symbol drawn to represent the activity. When asked if they enjoyed it or not they were to respond by drawing around their foot for 'no' or around their hand for 'yes'.



## 9.1. Activities Lessons Learnt:

### a) Of wildlife and landscape:

- All the group made connections with images shown, to the correct park associated with it
- 60% of the group prefer Beacon Hill Country Park for its landscape although it was commented that they now begin to like Braunstone Park as they have discovered new areas within the park

### b) Of the natural environment:

- The entire group could not decide on one main factor they enjoyed learning about the most, but majority enjoyed the leaf and tree ID activity, linked to Braunstone Park. 40% of the group could remember the names of trees when shown its corresponding leaf.

### c) Of the art activities enjoyed the most:

- 100% of the group responded positively to making the t-shirts, painting on canvas, painting the large mural, taking photographs, nature sun prints and making the batik eggs
- 80% enjoyed the mosaics and learning about Wildflower ID/plant folklore
- 70% enjoyed the nature weavings

To find out about more about their personal outcomes and to help us evaluate the achievements of reaching the aims of Braunstone's Beacon, a range of questions were asked about what they have found out, what they would change etc. Responses included:

- When asked specifically about the comparisons made between rural and urban environments, the differences pointed out for Beacon Hill were "silent, bigger space, more animals, hilly, picnic area and rocks". For Braunstone Park they noticed "a play area, birds, more car noises, more bright colours of flowers, more flat land and more visible surrounding buildings." The similarities made were they both had animals, open spaces, wildlife and trees.
- The group have all started to notice things around their own local environments more. They have taken more of an interest in bird and mini-beast spotting, looking at leaves and not to disturb 'natures home'. Another positive response has been they all listen out more for sounds when walking in their local neighbourhood, In relation to responding to art activities, the group have all been encouraged to take more photographs and enter competitions, are drawing more at home and painting. All of which they would like to do again and learn more about; through physical and practical activities.

- The group had no complaints with the way the programme was delivered but would have like it to 'go on for longer to do more things'.

## **9.2. Braunstone's Beacon Team Programme Evaluation**

Upon completion of the delivery of the contact time of the programme, the team met to discuss the outcomes and evaluate any lessons learnt.

"I have enjoyed it all. It tied in with my play scheme course so I found it interesting to see the children and young people using a range of materials to stretch their imagination. They have really taken to this project, by beginning to notice what is around them more, visually and through sound. Being a Braunstone local myself, the children and young people that took part in this programme have all benefitted personally by being able to make new friends, communicate and use the skills learnt. On a personal level for me this programme has helped my personal development and I have also gained some knowledge."

**Youth Worker – Angelina Lang**

"At the beginning we struggled with teething problems by not being able to reach our target of thirty children and young people to take part but looking at the outcome now, I feel this project has been a huge success and raised a positive profile of Braunstone. I would have like to see the older young people aged fifteen and above to attend more often but maybe the issues that surround this will be unknown and can only be put down to personal circumstances that can't be helped. This inconsistency of attendance could be because children are more open to finding out more but harder to establish these connections with young people. Our children have to be challenged to get new ideas but through different activities, have got into it. This programme has been worked very much around them; which is what the pathfinder is about."

**Community Worker, St. Peter's Church -Chris Florance**

"Not having the personal knowledge of the children and young people that the other team members have, I have had to develop the children and young people's trust and break barriers with them. Overcoming this, the outcome achieved when looking at the creative work produced has been an interesting process to watch unfold. It is quite relevant that our group have taken pride in learning about their own local environment slightly more than at Beacon Hill. The interest levels at Beacon Hill during the activities were not as high as at Braunstone Park; even though goo work

was produced. I think we all feel that is because having not visited the park before they were more interested in exploring and running around than sitting in one place. In comparison, at Braunstone Park, because it is their local park, and have explored what they can, they seemed to have more interest in discovering about insects and trees. It's not to say that one visit was more beneficial than the other, as the aims of the programme were still achieved; they are different ways of learning: creative, informal and exploring. The children on our programme definitely seem to find outdoor interaction and practical activities more interesting. This was one of the reasons why I really wanted to introduce the Arts Award to the programme but is a shame it never took off; maybe a future opportunity. From a Creative Practitioner's point of view, the art activities were always tailored to suit the group even on the day, with 'plan B's' always up my sleeve! I always enjoy seeing children develop their new found skills at visual art to gain confidence and self esteem on a personal level, and actually wanting to do more!"

**Project Manager & Creative Practitioner – Mandeep Dhadialla**

Future opportunities would include continuous development of the Braunstone's Beacon website and updating of the Facebook profile. Open up the Arts Award to the core group of the programme.

## 10. FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

**"I enjoyed going to the parks, to be outside."**

**"I enjoyed making mosaics because I like doing art."**

**"Thank you very much! I liked everything a lot!"**

**"The art activities were fabulous!!! I'd like to do this again!! It was brilliant!!!!"**

**"I loved the picnic at Beacon Hill and trying new foods at the Church."**

**"I don't want it to end."**

**"It was all good".**

**"When do we do this again?"**

**"I would like to learn more about the insects I held in my hand".**



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