

## Heart of Teesdale Project Report - 2015

### Bug Hunt (4<sup>th</sup> August 2015) 2 sessions (10.00-12.30 or 1.30-4.00)

- At the start of the workshop the participants explored the grounds of the Museum with nature expert Bruce Ferguson. He showed the children and parents different methods to find mini-beasts before splitting them into groups which were given a bug hunting kit and enabled to find as many bugs as possible!
- Once back inside the Museum, the adults and children worked together to build and decorate a 'ladybird' home. Each child built the wooden box using tools such as hammers and screwdrivers with support from their adult. The children were then able to personalise their ladybird box by painting a design before taking it home to hang in the garden.

Number of participants: 33 children and 20 adults

#### Participant quotes:

*Massive learning experience in such a short period of time. Excellent combination of natural science, craft making and art. Challenging but very well managed and my daughter found it exciting!* Parent

*I enjoyed the bug hunt and finding the different minibeads outside.* Child

*The bug hunt outside was very different and educational both for the children and the adults.* Parent

*Very informative and, more importantly, great fun! Thank you.* Parent

*I have learnt lots about bugs and where they live.* Child

*Building the bug boxes was fab - my five year old loved it. I think it's very important he understands about the world he lives in and how to look after it. This was a great introduction.* Parent

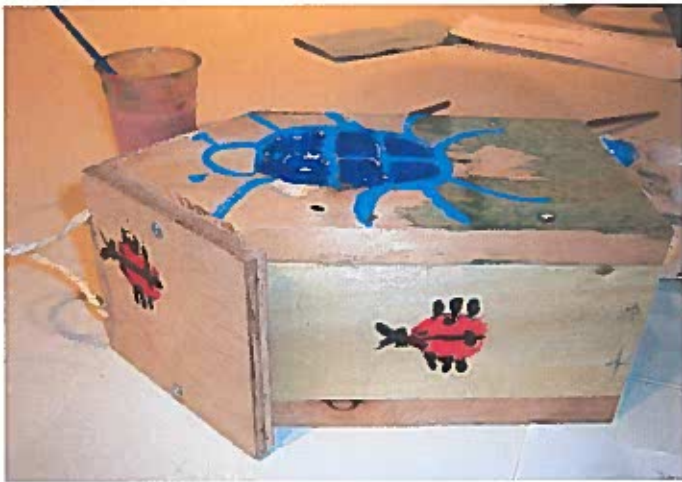
*I thought that it was very good. I enjoyed catching the bugs! It was a lot of fun and good for young learning.* Child



Bruce Ferguson, nature expert, showing the group different methods to catch mini-beasts.



The children used special tools to find the mini-beasts in the grounds of The Bowes Museum. They really enjoyed decorating the ladybird houses they had built!



### Colourful Landscapes (13<sup>th</sup> August 2015) (10.30-3.00)

- The participants explored the grounds of The Bowes Museum with Bruce Ferguson to learn about different types of trees. They also created leaf and bark rubbings.
- Using collage materials and the bark rubbings they gathered in the grounds of the Museum, the young people made tree pictures. The children were able to cut different shaped leaves for their tree inspired by the leaves they had seen whilst exploring outdoors.
- The young people had the opportunity to explore trees further by:

1. **Blindfolded Activity** - the young people wore blindfolds and sat in a small circle. They handled natural objects such as an acorn and had to describe how the item felt before guessing what they were holding.

2. **Leaf Slide** - the children put a leaf between two pieces of card with a hole cut in the centre. They held the card up to the light and could see the different colours and patterns in the leaf.

3. **Poetry** - the group looked at a large tree in the grounds of the Museum. The young people had to think of one word each to describe the tree. Ideas included: tall and scrunchy. After this the parents gathered together to write a simple poem including all the children's words. The poem was read out to the group in front of the tree (see poem below).

**Number of participants:** 14 children and 11 adults

**Participant quotes:**

*Good for engaging children with nature and arts and crafts, and leaving the Xbox behind!* Adult

*Absolutely fantastic. Very well organised and very informative.* Adult

*I liked the day especially the bark and leaf rubbings.* Child

*We have learnt about different surfaces of trees and leaves which was very good. Also enjoyed building and painting our tree picture.* Adult

*A very enjoyable day, accessible to all age ranges. Interesting nature learning and good demonstration of art activities throughout.* Adult

*I really liked the day and learnt lots of new things.* Child

Poem created during the session by adults using the children's descriptive words:

The bold tree is strong and mighty  
Its large roots, well established, are scrambling in the dark  
The pointy branches are leafy  
The tall trunk is smooth, bald and bare  
A squirrel sits there softly eating bark.



The young people collected bark rubbings and tree leaf rubbings in the grounds of the Museum. Bruce took us on a guided tour explaining the different types of trees.



We did lots of activities:  
1. Blindfold Activity  
2. Leaf Slides  
3. Poetry

**Squirrel Hunt (26<sup>th</sup> August 2015) (10.00-11.30, 12.00-1.30 and 2.30-4.00)**

- The participants explored the grounds of The Bowes Museum with Bruce Ferguson to learn about different animal habitats. They also collected natural objects to use in the group story.
- Once inside the Museum the children listened to Bruce tell a story about the day in the life of a squirrel. The children used the items they had collected to make sound effects such as scrunching leaves.
- Finally the children created a squirrel mask!

**Number of participants: 28 children and 19 adults**

**Participant quotes:**

*Enjoyable workshop; lots to do with different activities; informative and fun. Thank you.* Adult

*We really enjoyed the squirrel day. It's a wonderful relaxed atmosphere that encourages learning in an interesting and interactive manner.* Adult

*Fantastic session - lovely for learning about nature and having great fun. Perfect for an inquisitive 3.5 year old!!* Adult

*Very engaging and educational - good work! And the kids enjoyed it too ☺* Adult



The families enjoyed a nature walk in the Museum grounds looking for different animal habitats.

Whilst outdoors the families collected natural objects to include in the group story.



Bruce read the children a story about a squirrel, the children used their natural objects as sound effects.



The children enjoyed making a squirrel mask to take home!

### Outdoor Artist (19<sup>th</sup> September 2015) (10.00-12.00)

- The participants explored the grounds of The Bowes Museum with Bruce Ferguson to learn about different animal habitats. They also collected natural objects to sketch and gathered colour swatches of leaves etc.
- The young people learnt bug hunting skills and worked in pairs to find different mini-beasts.
- Once inside the Museum the young people used watercolour paints to try and mix the paints to match the colour swatches of leaves collected in the Museum grounds.

Number of participants: 6 young people (aged 12-16)

#### Participant quotes:

*This workshop was good. I enjoyed drawing and painting the natural objects.*

*Today I really enjoyed looking at all the different animals and bugs. I thought it was interesting looking at the different coloured leaves.*

*Today I really enjoyed walking around the Museum grounds and finding different things in the landscape.*



#### Project Achievements:

- Participants have learnt new skills and developed their knowledge of the local environment
- Relationships have been built between the Museum, participants and local freelance artists
- Museum education staff developed a greater understanding of how to use the local landscape in workshops and this knowledge will be used in the future to plan learning opportunities in the Museum grounds

Total audience participation: 81 children and 50 adults