

# Little Ouse Headwaters Project

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## Wild about . . .

**Hopton CEVC Primary School  
whole school project with  
Rosemary Humphries  
Autumn term 2013**

**SAINSBURY  
CENTRE**  
for Visual Arts

**In collaboration with  
Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts**

# Art Partnership

This school project took place within the framework of a creative partnership between the LOHP and the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts.

At the end of the project some of the children's art was displayed within exhibitions in the village halls in Thelnetham, and Blo'Norton and the Lophams, alongside the work of other local artists.





## Staff visit

In the summer the LOHP Chair, Jo Pitt led a walk round the Fens for the school staff for them to find out what was there, and plan what the children could do.

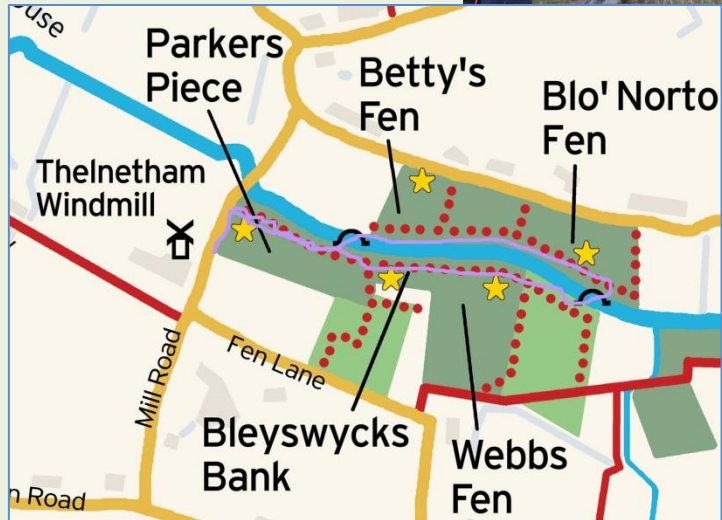
There was a magic moment when a water vole swam by.



## School visit September 2013

As a school we visited the Little Ouse Fens at the start of our topic.

We had a tour of Thelnetham windmill and then explored the Little Ouse, and the Fens along it.







## Journey Sticks

All classes, except Reception, made journey sticks to record and remember the Fen Walk. Finds included wool, feathers, leaves of all sorts, acorns, and reeds which were a beautiful crimson and brown. This collecting activity sparked off lots of discussion and questions.



## Map

We used the journey sticks to help us make a map of the Fens – we knew where things were (sheep's wool / oak trees / reeds) because of the order of things on our sticks.

We made a map on the whiteboard as a class before the children made their own pictorial maps, using symbols and a key.

# Class Learning following trip to Little Ouse Fens

## Years 3 & 4

- Link to Rivers topic – measuring Little Ouse at various stages and following its course to the sea.
- Creating pictorial maps from journey sticks, using symbols and a key.
- Comparing and contrasting Fens (Market Weston and Knettishall Heath).
- Link to Bread topic – how flour is made, creating a harvest loaf.

## Years 1 & 2

- Large pictorial map of Fen.
- Learning how to create a map and features of maps. Painting pictures from journey sticks and turning into symbols for their own maps.
- Land Art.
- Treasure hunt.
- Mini beasts.
- Insect Life cycles.
- Windmill – how flour is ground.

## Year 5

- Creating maps following visit using journey sticks.
- Link to Rivers topic.
- Understanding geographical terms: meanders, source, river bank, erosion etc),
- Using drainpipes to recreate a river.
- Composting.

All classes link to Wind in Willows Literacy topic.





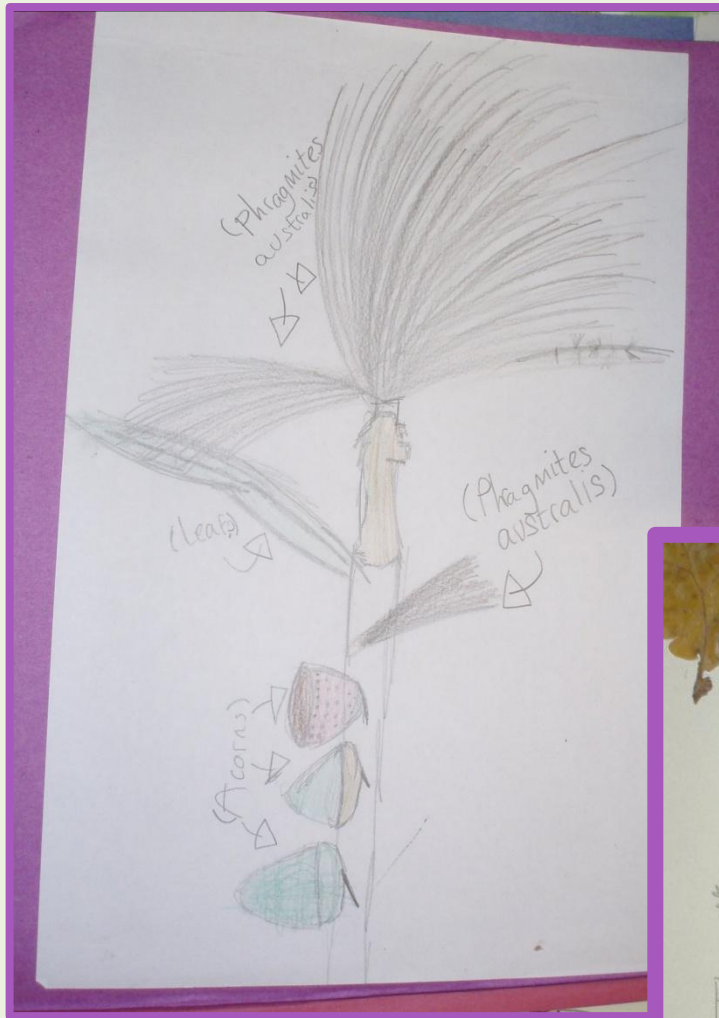
## Little Ouse River

We used the River whose source is at the Fens as part of our Rivers topic, following it using google maps, measuring the depth at Betty's Fen and then comparing when we were at Knettishall Heath – describing the River at both locations.



## Sketching

We sketched our journey stick – researching what some of the items were to help us with our map, and also to allow us to compare with another habitat (Market Weston Fen).





## Further work downstream . . .

At Knettishall Heath we used things we found to build rafts for the characters from Wind in the Willows – testing them in the Little Ouse to see if they were safe enough.

Finally we created pictures in Andy Goldsworthy's style using the resources we could find.











## Art scrapbooks

We made our own Art books for the project – using material and paper to design a scrapbook to display our Art relating to the Fen. These took a few weeks to design – using a collage of resources on the front cover.





## Art workshops: trees on warm and cold backgrounds

The younger children used tissue paper backgrounds in cold colours and warm colours to make tree pictures.





## Art workshops

Artist Rosemary Humphries came into school and shared ideas and techniques with the older children. She showed them how to simplify the task of drawing a tree by concentrating on one space between the branches and then working outwards.

She asked them to make pictures using just three colours from the colour wheel. No 'mud' here! In the afternoon they had fun using ink and a twig as a drawing tool.



*I enjoyed using ink on a sharp stick – I had fun doing art portraits of trees.*  
Gracie Year 4

*"I liked experimenting with drawing with a stick. I liked Rosemary's demonstration of her art work.* Caitlin Year 4.

*I enjoyed using the twig because it made a great outline* Greta Year 5

*I loved having three different unusual colours making trees look colourful. I loved how my tree came out* Charlotte Year 4

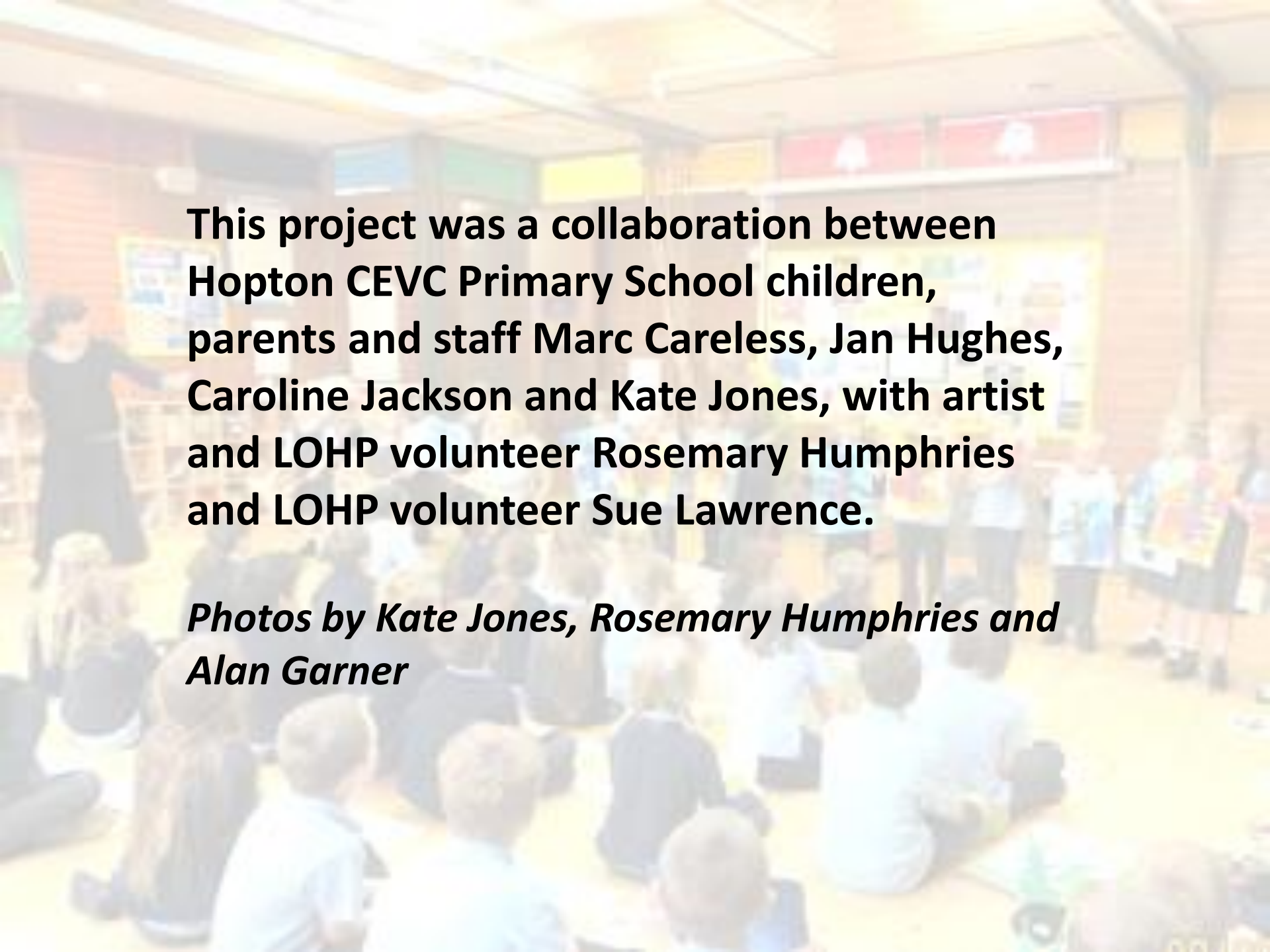
*I really enjoyed learning how to use warm and cold colours.* Alana Year 5

*I enjoyed painting with watery water colours* Ashley Year 5

*The best bit was sticking the backgrounds. All blue colours."* George aged 4

*"I liked making it all especially the sparkly sprinkles at the end."*  
Rachel aged 4.

*"The bit where I did the tree branch pointing down was best. It was starting to fall off in a storm."*  
Finley aged 5



**This project was a collaboration between Hopton CEVC Primary School children, parents and staff Marc Careless, Jan Hughes, Caroline Jackson and Kate Jones, with artist and LOHP volunteer Rosemary Humphries and LOHP volunteer Sue Lawrence.**

***Photos by Kate Jones, Rosemary Humphries and Alan Garner***