

CHILDREN
OWN THE
CITY

WE ARE WORKING WITH KINDNESS

For Hinterlands in 2023 Cathy Wade worked with Assistant headteacher Iveta Bejaoui at Raynham Primary School to develop creative learning that could explore the childrens relationship with the River Lee Navigation and their local environment.

The children responded as reporters who could utilise Raynham School and the River Lee Navigation waterway as places to publish their activities. Work by the reporters drew attention to environmental issues and explored locality engaging conversations about why we should care about our local environment.

The Raynham Reporter

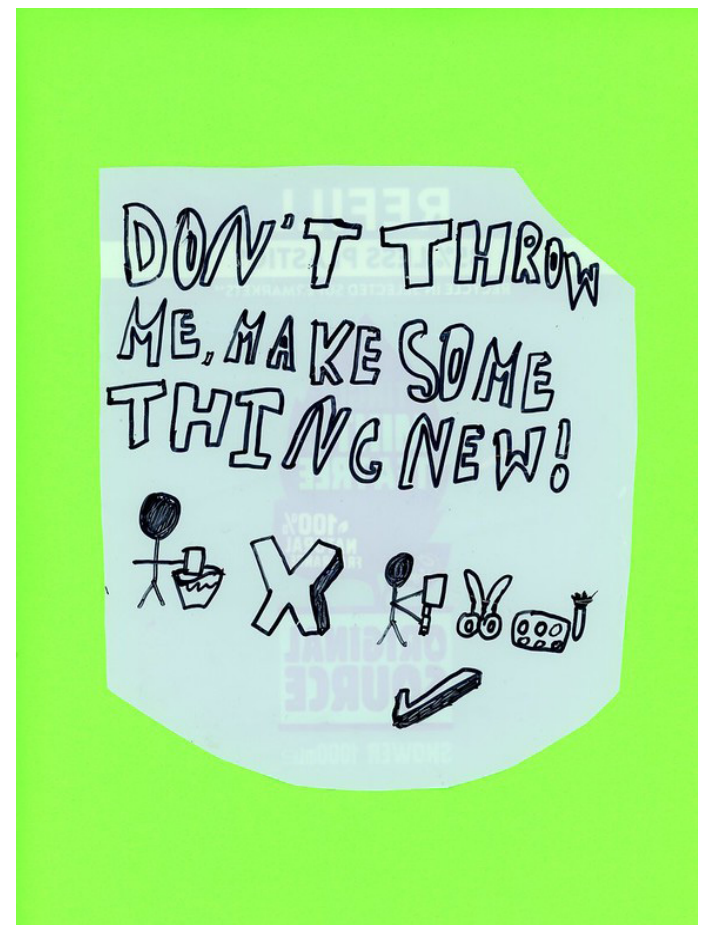


**HOW TO
MAKE THE
BIG STEP**

**Issue 2: June - July 2023
Let's Take Action - Exploring Space,
Publishing together & making a
big splash!**

The Raynham Reporter Issue 2 July 2023.

The project's first iteration was made as The Raynham Reporter a partnership between pupils at Raynham Primary School, Assistant Head Teacher Iveta Bejaoui and artist Cathy Wade. The project explored creative problem solving with a group of Year 4 & 5 children over ten practical workshops in April - July in 2023.



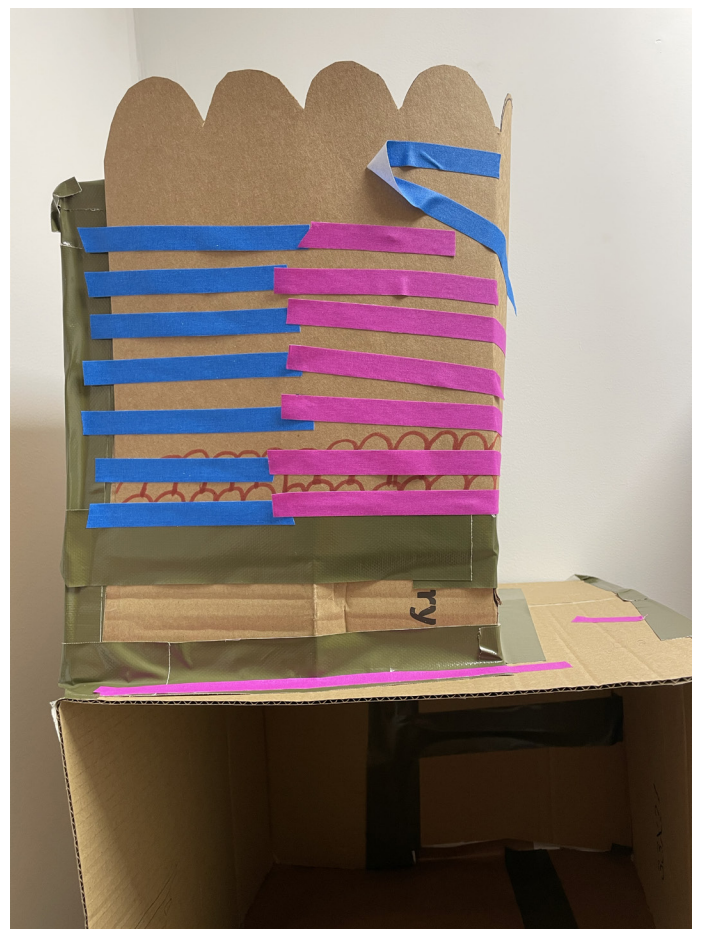
15th May, What can we do with what we have found? Workshop.

The reporters considered what they (and we) can do as citizens to improve our locality and think about what the future could hold for the area they live in and the waterways they live by.

LEARNING FROM LOCALITY

In the second phase of Cathy Wade's Hinterlands residency programming with Rayhman Primary School opened up to explore the skills and knowledge that are active within the area. Over eight sessions, pupils engaged with professionals working with the waterways, regeneration and housing.

Tolu Faleti Client Commissioning Project officer at Enfield (& former Meridian Water Regeneration Manager) explored urban lexicons with the children to explore locality through storytelling. Sandy Rompotiyoke, regenerative advocacy lead at Periscope explored place-shaping and narrative.



16th Oct, Build a canal with Mike Wakeford.

13 Nov Agency, Public Realm & Model Making with Zahra Haider & Amy O'Shaughnessy

Mike Wakeford, Learning & Skills Co-ordinator of Canal and Rivers Trust, introduced the children to the construction of the canals and their role in the Industrial Revolution. Zahra Haider, regeneration & development architect at Enfield Council & Amy O'Shaughnessy, architectural officer at Enfield Council, built birdhides with the children to explore the site and scale.

These activities were accompanied by a visit to the River Lee Navigation where Mike Wakefield and Cathy Wade joined the children. The site visit in the autumn raised many questions and discoveries that showed the Reporters the value that the Lee Navigation has as a site for nature within the city.

PLANNING FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

Cathy Wade is proposing five sessions of activity in which the children will be able to explore what will be present in their built environment in 2048, the premise of this work is that they, as children, will own the city of the future.



16th November, How do we get here? Canal visit.

The workshops ask what the forthcoming city will look like and how they want to live by the waterway. The children will explore how the built environment can be shared with others and how this can environment speak to the Raynham Primary School's motto of kindness, responsibility and courage. The work developed in these workshops will become part of the "Festival of the Lee" in July 2024.

For Children Own the City, Cathy Wade will work with Iveta Bejaoui to design workshops that will develop the children's creativity, confidence and understanding of the role that they can play in the shaping of their local area and the future of the River Lee Navigation.

The Plan for sessions will be structured as follows:

Session 1:

River Lea Visit led by Sophie Thompson-Semple 2/3 hour trip to experience living on water on board barges facilitated by Bob Chase. Cathy present to interview the children via sound recording.

Sessions 2, 3 & 4.

Led by Cathy Wade and a CRT volunteer (with DBS) these sessions will introduce the children to how they can construct a built environment that is built with kindness, courage and responsibility through modelmaking and discussions facilitated by Iveta and Cathy with the group. The models made by the children will be reworked by Cathy and Bloqs to be scaled up and presented on the River Lee Navigation for the "Festival of the Lee" .

Session 5:

River Lea Visit led by Sophie Thompson-Semple and Cathy Wade. In this session, the children will gain an understanding of how their work will be manufactured at Bloqs for the festival and work with Cathy to look at how they can share the ideas around what they have made with visitors and what activities they can imagine taking place around the work in July.