

# Talk about... **ART & TIDES OF CHANGE**

**a visual arts project looking at art  
inspired by the River Thames and its  
impact on our everyday lives.**

## **Objectives**

Talk About Art & Tides of Change (TAATC) was devised as an enrichment programme for children who come from deprived areas and disadvantaged backgrounds, looked after children (LAC), homeless and asylum seekers qualifying for Pupil Premium Grants (PPG).

The objectives of the project were to;

- ◆ To engage up to 20 children with art and artists inspired by the River Thames
- ◆ To inform these participants about the influence the River Thames has had on work, trade, social interaction, entertainment and cultural mix
- ◆ To encourage creative responses to the information delivered to form part of a public exhibition
- ◆ To encourage verbal analysis and critique and record this on film to form part of a public exhibition
- ◆ To produce a piece of installation art for the local community
- ◆ Through this to encourage the children to see themselves as valued members of the local community
- ◆ To encourage the local community to see these children as valuable contributors to the local community
- ◆ To expose other local school children and family groups to the project by delivering free workshops as part of the public exhibition
- ◆ To expand Talk About Art's reach into the Royal Borough of Greenwich

in partnership



St Alfege with St Peter's  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



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*“St Alfege Church was delighted to be involved in the Talk About...ART & TIDES OF CHANGE project and host the exhibition for two weeks during the summer. The exhibition drew a great cross section of people within the community and provided a brilliant spring board for people to explore and express their own connections to the River Thames. It was also great to see local school children and families sitting in the pews with artists and developing their own artistic responses.”*

Rebecca Parrant  
Heritage Engagement & Interpretation Manager | St  
Alfege Church

*“The Tides of Change project gave the children the opportunity to learn from professional artists, developing their skills using a range of materials, and have their work displayed in a public exhibition.*

*This project provided the children with opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have had access to and enhanced their self-esteem.”*

*Emily Harris  
Head Teacher, St Alfege with St Peters Primary*



Two of the exhibition stands in situ at St Alfege, with one of the monitors showing the films made by participants assisted by TAA film maker Simon Purins

## Project format

- ◆ TAA identified the project partners as St Alfege Church and St Alfege with St Peter's School.
- ◆ 13 pupils were identified by the school as being most likely to benefit from participating in the project.
- ◆ Ten sessions were run with the pupils as a one hour after school club. This allowed us to work with the school without impacting on the school day.
- ◆ Sessions were run by TAA senior associate artists Simon Purins and Associate artists Salina Jane
- ◆ Discussions were held with St Alfege Church regarding the dates and positioning of the exhibition. We were at this stage able to identify the stained glass window as the installation piece.
- ◆ Once the after school club sessions had taken place, we were to have the vinyl window panels produced (this way we were able to create the stained glass window effect without and impact on the church infrastructure), finalise the exhibition, edit the films and produce the exhibition guide which include every piece of work produced during the sessions.
- ◆ The exhibition opened 13th July 2019 and ran for two weeks.
- ◆ During that time six free workshops were delivered. Three to whole class school groups and three to family groups.



Some of the pieces created during the ten week after school club run by TAA associate artists Simon Purins and Salina Jane

## Outcomes

- ◆ 764 Greenwich residents engaged with the exhibition and window installation in St Alfege Church.
- ◆ 118 Greenwich children benefited from the free exhibition workshops
- ◆ TAA have successfully delivered from 13th - 26th July 2019 their first project to the Royal Borough of Greenwich
- ◆ St Alfege with St Peter's School have stated that the project increased the confidence of the participants and was generally a beneficial experience.
- ◆ The window is still on display in St Alfege Church four months after the end of the exhibition
- ◆ St Alfege Church has expressed interest in working as partners again in 2021.

*The photos from the exhibition look wonderful. Well done for continuing to host brilliant exhibitions which involve all ages, the stained glass window is fantastic!*

*Georgia Duffee MAAT  
Treasurer,  
The Arts Society Greater London Area*

## Collated data from feedback forms given out at workshops:

Two forms were given out one for teaching staff/parents rated on a scale of 1-5 where 1 was very poor and 5 was very good and one for pupils with an emoji scale of 😊 😐 😞

How well did Talk about...ART & TIDES OF CHANGE meet with your expectations?

5 – 71%, 4- 9.6%, 3 – 9.6%, 2 9.6%

Did you feel welcomed? 5 – 86%, 4- 14%

Do you feel session was run efficiently? 5 – 79%, 4- 14%, 3 – 7%

Do you feel the children enjoyed the activities 5 – 100%

Do you feel the activities were age and ability appropriate? 5 – 100%

Would you bring a class to another Talk About Art exhibition workshop ? 5 – 100%

Comments:

“Really enjoyed the workshop and it has encouraged us to get the art stuff out over the summer”

“Amazing workshop. Simon and Salina were incredibly friendly and supportive. Would highly recommend”

“The children really enjoyed their time and were fully engaged. Loved the freedom they were given”

“The session was both informative and fun for both myself and child. Provides a calm and enjoyable space and opportunity to express freely and think about our homes. My child wanted to revisit after coming with school. Thank you”

Have you enjoyed “Mapping The River”? 😊 82% 😐 18% 😞 0%

**Talk About... ART & TIDES OF CHANGE**

Welcome to **Talk About... ART & TIDES OF CHANGE** an exhibition looking at how the River Thames has influenced our cultural mix, trade and leisure and the many artists who have been inspired by it.

Talk About Art are delighted to present this new exhibition in partnership with schools across Greenwich.

The project is aimed specifically at pupil premium entitled children and takes place over ten weeks in an after-school club. During this time participants are introduced to a variety of artists including Turner, Whistler, Monet, Tissot and Greaves and shown how some of their greatest works were inspired by the river.

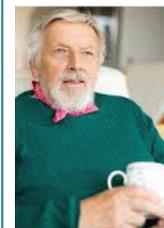
Participants are encouraged to form opinions of these artists' work and share their opinions verbally and dramatically (as can be seen in the films that form part of this exhibition), and create their own art inspired by their experience of living near the river.

[www.talkaboutart.co.uk](http://www.talkaboutart.co.uk)

@talkaboutart1

[@talkaboutart1](https://www.facebook.com/talkaboutart1)

talk about... ART



Talk About Art were honoured to have the support of Greenwich artist Peter Kent who produced the illustration shown below on the opening exhibition panel

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### Royal Borough of Greenwich

Aidan Smith, Maureen O'Mara, Mehboob Khan, Mike McAdam, Tim Barnes

### St Alfege with St Peter's Primary School

Emily Harris - Head of School, Betina Andersen - TA, David Baker - Premises Manager, Sheridan Jones-Palmer - School Office

### St Alfege Church

Rebecca Parrant - Heritage Engagement & Interpretation Manager

### TAA Senior Associate Artist & Filmmaker

Simon Purinš

### TAA Associate Artist

Salina Gani

### Window panels

Rob saville, The Creative Place

### Exhibition stands

Kerry Benton, XL Displays

### Talk About...ART

Ian Mills (President), Howard Shields (Chair), Jennifer Viles (Vice Chair), Margaret Glenn (Treasurer), Melanie Jones (CEO), Kim Ropek (Education Consultant), John Bartram, Kevin Bonavia, Kris Hibbert, Rev. Charles Pickstone, Antonio Rizzo, Sue Roberts

### Funders

Greenwich neighbourhood Growth Fund  
The Arts Society (funders of the educational workshops)  
Peter and Teresa Harris Trust

## The Tides of Change Window

Created by St Alfege with St Peter's Primary School pupils  
Below is a guide to the window and what each pane represents.

### Archiving Panes **Thames Inspired**

Rebecca - pastel

Ike - pastel

Reem - acrylic, marker pen

### Central Pane **Water of the Thames**

Wax resist, Acrylic

### Above the Thames into the sky

Elroy - pastel

Poppy - acrylic, marker

Temi - acrylic, sand, pastel

### Thames Boats

Ike - pastel

Luke - pastel

John - pastel

### The flow of the Thames

John - pastel

Maria - acrylic, sand

Ryan - acrylic, sand, pastel

### Under the Thames

Kamara - acrylic

Heidi - marker pens

Rosayah - acrylic



## Going Forward

In order to maximise the legacy of this well received first stage of the project and utilising the quality exhibition fabric already produced the vision for stage two is as follows. We aim to expand engagement in West Greenwich by working with a further three schools and focussing on pupils either entitled to the PPG or dealing with other significant challenges. We will run the three, ten week after school clubs over a period of six months during which time the groups will contribute to an installation piece using ceramic tiles and weaving created by the children and reflecting various aspect of the River Thames.

The installation will again form part of the public exhibition but will also have the facility to be dismantled and reassembled in other locations for example the participating schools or other community venues who perhaps do not have the capacity to host to whole exhibition.

A combined exhibition incorporating the work of all three schools will run for three weeks and offer nine free workshops either to other local school groups or families.

We believe this project will not only give young people in the Royal Borough of Greenwich the opportunity to find their creative voices, but launch them as the architects, engineers, designers, artists and creative thinkers of the future.

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