

## Learning: Networks

### Science Links in Museum Education (SLIME) Network

#### Background

SLIME is a network of museums and related organisations in the South East of England who support and promote the study of science through a range of collections and to a range of audiences.

The network has:

- Run training events, produced free resources available for SLIME members to borrow such as the Minibeasts and Forces Roadshows and Museum Detectives.
- Developed sub groups for museums with similar collections to meet and share ideas; Rock Band, Tractors Trains Boats and Planes, Castle Club and Medical Matters
- Held the Ruth Borthwick Award for excellence in science education in museums. Won by the Mary Rose Museum in 2008 and by Fort Nelson in 2010.
- Developed a publication “Inspiring Science; museums can do it!” which network members have distributed to teachers and trainees at events and conferences.
- Set up a group on Yahoo to share information and ideas  
The Yahoo group can be accessed via  
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/SLIMENetwork/>

SLIME also has a new Twitter and Facebook page

<http://twitter.com/SLIMENetwork>

[https://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_184452211608978](https://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_184452211608978)

#### Where are the SLIME resources?

1. All the resources are available on the Yahoo group under the Files section. Members have also been offered a memory stick containing the resources.
2. SLIME Case Studies, a PDF of the Inspiring Science publication and reports relating to phase 1 of Green SLIME are on this page of the ABC of Working with Schools <http://abcofworkingwithschools.org.uk/inside-schools/the-curriculum/what-subjects-are-taught/how-museums-support-science/>
3. The Green SLIME Phase 2 Toolkit - Museums for the Future: a Toolkit for sustainability is on this page <http://abcofworkingwithschools.org.uk/widening-access/museums-for-the-future/>

4. Print copies of the Inspiring Science publication are held at various locations including Oxford University Museums, Surrey Museums Consultative Committee and Rochester Guildhall Museum. SLIME paper bags are also held by these people. And 2 SLIME banners are held by the Oxford University Museums.
5. The 5 Minibeast Roadshows and 5 Forces Roadshows are looked after by coordinators in the SE region
6. A page for teachers has been added to the ABC to highlight SLIME resources <http://abcofworkingwithschools.org.uk/for-teachers/>

### **Who will be looking after the SLIME Network in the future?**

- Oxford University Museums (OUM) will “adopt” the SLIME Network after the closure of the Renaissance South East central team, but there will be no additional funding for this.
- Joy Todd who works across the four University Museums and has a science background will take the lead supported by Janet Stott, from the OU Museum of Natural History and Chris Parkin from the OU Museum of the History of Science.
- Sharon Bristow will continue to act as volunteer moderator for the SLIME Network on Yahoo groups. Angela Ryde- Weller from INTECH and Jo Graham, a consultant have agreed to assist with horizon scanning to feed into the group. SB hopes to encourage more people to do this as this is an important element of the Yahoo group.

Contacts for the above:

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| • E: <a href="mailto:Joy.todd@oum.ox.ac.uk">Joy.todd@oum.ox.ac.uk</a>                   | T: 01865 282456 |
| • E: <a href="mailto:Janet.stott@oum.ox.ac.uk">Janet.stott@oum.ox.ac.uk</a>             | T: 01865 282451 |
| • E: <a href="mailto:Chris.parkin@mhs.ox.ac.uk">Chris.parkin@mhs.ox.ac.uk</a>           | T: 01865 277297 |
| • E: <a href="mailto:Sharon.bristow@virginmedia.com">Sharon.bristow@virginmedia.com</a> | T: 01932 846084 |
| • E: <a href="mailto:angelarydeweller@intech-uk.com">angelarydeweller@intech-uk.com</a> |                 |
| • E: <a href="mailto:jo@learning-unlimited.co.uk">jo@learning-unlimited.co.uk</a>       |                 |

### **Other plans for the SLIME Network?**

Three of the SLIME Network sub-groups are putting together funding bids for partnership projects.

For more details on any of the above contact Sharon Bristow or Joy Todd

### **Museums Art and Design Network (MADNet)**

MADNet aimed to support and promote the study of Art and Design in Museums to a range of audiences using a range of collections.

- MADNet has run four conferences - notes and presentations from the conferences are available on this page of the ABC of Working with Schools <http://abcofworkingwithschools.org.uk/inside-schools/the-curriculum/what-subjects-are-taught/how-museums-support-art-and-design/>
- Renaissance has part funded the printing of the Pitt Rivers Museum Art Handbook available from this page of the Pitt Rivers website <http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/secondary.html>
- Renaissance has funded a website Artefact which is an artist's resource inspired by the university Museum collections <http://www.museums.ox.ac.uk/artefact/>
- MADNet has a group on Google to share information and ideas. This group is no longer moderated, but if a volunteer/s could be found this group could continue. <http://groups.google.com/group/madnet>
- MADNet members are drawn from across the UK.
- Oxford University Museums have set up a new local network for Artists and Art Educators in Oxfordshire, ArtRreach- a network for art education in the Oxfordshire region. A new website [www.oxfordartreach.co.uk](http://www.oxfordartreach.co.uk) has information about aims and the steering group. For more information contact [adrian.brooks@prm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:adrian.brooks@prm.ox.ac.uk).

## The Literacy Network (LitNet)

LitNet is a new network group which met for the first time on 27<sup>th</sup> October at HMS Warrior with Talk for Writing supported by the National Literacy Trust.

- Notes from the October event are available on this page of the ABC of Working with Schools <http://abcofworkingwithschools.org.uk/inside-schools/the-curriculum/what-subjects-are-taught/how-museums-support-english-and-literacy/>
- There is a Google group for others interested in literacy across the country <http://groups.google.com/group/museumarchive-literacy-partnership>

## Learning: Online learning resources

The Learning team developed two online resources:

### ABC of Working with Schools

<http://abcofworkingwithschools.org.uk/>

This is a comprehensive guide to working with school age children which will be moving to the care of the Group for Education in Museums and looked after by a volunteer team organised initially by Sharon Bristow.

The guide was developed through consultation and in collaboration with museums across the South East, and was originally sited on the Renaissance South East website.

It was evaluated in 2008 by Martin Bazley and Jocelyn Goddard and found to be much used but in need of:

- a separate URL to make it easier to locate
- slimming down
- regular review and revision

The ABC has now been revised with help from Jo Graham, Learning Unlimited and is now sited on a WordPress site for which charges have been paid until June 2013 to exclude advertisements from the site.

## **Schools Database Project**

The South East Museum Hub and the former Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) South East worked together to develop a database that stores details of all schools in the South East, both state and independent, detailing how they have used museum services since 2002.

Hampshire County Museums Service currently own the Database. For more information contact [Jo.bailey@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Jo.bailey@hants.gov.uk) The Database is hosted by TGSi contact Jonathan Crawford  
<http://www.wiredsussex.com/directory/company.asp?c=TGSi+Ltd>

Schools4Museums is a password-protected online database available to all museums in the region who have submitted their schools' data. The information it provides enables museums to better understand how schools are using museums and to identify schools that might respond to specific marketing. <http://www.schools4museums.org/>

Comprehensive Reports on the 6 phases of the Database Project are available on the site above and also on this page of the ABC of Working with Schools. <http://abcofworkingwithschools.org.uk/widening-access/marketing/>

In 2011 Renaissance South East commissioned Bournemouth University to research the key factors which enable in depth participation by schools with museums. This report is also available on the ABC page above.

## **Training**

Training has been developed by the Learning team after conducting a needs analysis undertaken earlier this year which identified 6 key areas for training. PDFs of the course materials will be available on:

<http://abcofworkingwithschools.org.uk/widening-access/working-with-other-audiences-3/>

Courses included:

- Using New Media to Engage with Audiences, June 2010
- Supporting Creative Curriculum Approaches in Primary Schools, July 2010
- Supporting Learning: a guide to thinking creatively about funding for learning services and projects, Sept 2010
- Under 5s and families in museums, Nov 2010
- Engaging with adult audiences, Dec 2010
- Engaging with hard to reach adults, Dec 2010
- Working with young people, Jan 2011
- “Museums, Learning and Sustainability”, Feb 2011 disseminated learning from the Green SLIME projects funded through MLA’s Strategic Commissioning Education Programme. A toolkit Museums for the Future has a dedicated page on the ABC of Working with Schools  
<http://abcofworkingwithschools.org.uk/widening-access/museums-for-the-future/>

## Community Engagement

The RSE Programme Manager for Learning and Community Engagement has supported a number of community engagement projects in the South East. These included ‘Mental health and heritage working in partnership’, ‘Kentish delights’, East Sussex Archaeology Project – ‘Young People’s Heritage Programme’ working with young NEETS (not in education, employment or training) and ‘Workskills and Volunteer Development’ as well as various reminiscence projects. Case studies for these can be found on the MLA/RSE website and in the Widening Access section of the ABC of Working with Schools.

<http://abcofworkingwithschools.org.uk/widening-access/working-with-other-audiences-3/>

[http://www.mla.gov.uk/what/programmes/renaissance/regions/south\\_east/impact/case\\_studies](http://www.mla.gov.uk/what/programmes/renaissance/regions/south_east/impact/case_studies)

## Learning: Advice and support to museums on learning and community engagement

The Learning Team offered advice and support to museums on learning and community engagement and aims to share best practice and ideas gained from Renaissance projects.

Case Studies from Renaissance Hub Learning Teams dating back to 2006 are available on this page of the ABC of Working with Schools <http://abcofworkingwithschools.org.uk/widening-access/working-with-other-audiences-3/>

The Learning Team has supported Learning Networks across the region most of which are supported by volunteers from local museums.

## **Renaissance South East Learning Team**

Renaissance South East central team will be disbanded after 30 June 2011, contact details below for any queries on the above.

**Ruth Taylor, Learning and Community Engagement Programme Manager** (January 2010 - June 2011)  
Email: [ruth.peewit@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.peewit@gmail.com)

**Sharon Bristow, Learning Manager** (Sept 2004 – June 2011)  
Email: [Sharon.bristow@virginmedia.com](mailto:Sharon.bristow@virginmedia.com)