

The Wychwood Project

The Wychwood Tapestry 2007

Children from Finstock, Stonesfield, Chadlington, Leaffield and the Wychwood School were invited to join us to create *The Wychwood Tapestry 2007*, which is probably the largest continuous piece of children's

artwork in the country. This exciting and innovative project was more than just an exercise in drawing. Local landscape historian Amanda Hopwood helped the

children to identify the special characteristics of each village and Jane Bowley, Project Officer from the Wychwood Project, talked to the children about key wildlife species and habitats in their local area. Then local artists Sally Howkins and Tom Ralphs Laman worked with the children for two days to create the artwork.

Hard Work!

The drawings for the tapestry were produced by the children, working together in groups, on large panels of paper. The panels were then photographed and printed onto vinyl to create the finished tapestry.

In addition to the artwork, children at Finstock helped to plant a small copse of trees for a local landowner and at Leaffield and Chadlington we took the children out into local woods to make sketches to incorporate into their panels

of drawings. Staff at all the schools commented on what a great opportunity this project provided for the children to use their negotiation and planning skills in working together over the two days and to

improve their artistic skills operating on this unusually large scale. The children were surprised at what hard work it was, one boy said: "I thought it would be really easy just

drawing for two days but I am so tired with thinking all the time and my hand hurts from all that drawing".

A Modern Bayeux

The 30 metre-long tapestry was unveiled to great acclaim at the Wychwood Forest Fair on the 2nd September. Fantastically vibrant drawings reflected the children's enthusiasm for wildlife and their local environment.

Can you help us to find other places to exhibit this work? Please call Jane Bowley at the Wychwood Project Office on: 01993 814131 with any suggestions. The project team thank the pupils and staff of the schools for their enthusiasm and hard work and the following for their financial support: *The Friends of Wychwood, the Helen Roll Charitable Trust, the Martin Wills Charitable Trust and the CHK Charitable Trust.*

Jane Bowley

