

## Event report

**Event title:** Uley Dragon Art Project  
**Date:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008  
**Time:** 8am-5pm  
**Location:** Raglan Way Playground, Uley  
**Staff:** Viv Jones  
**Partners:** Uley School, Prema, David Bowers, Uley Parish Council

**Aim of event:** A family learning project to offer families and the wider community the chance to work together on an art project, mosaicing a concrete dragon sculpture (approx 8m x 4m)

**Preparation:** Where do I start? Planning for this project started about 18 months ago with an initial meeting between Raglan Way residents, Prema and TLC. Funding applications put in to various organisations but, unfortunately it seemed the project was destined to be a worthy project with no backers. Finally, extended services money was secured for the material costs along with money from TLC, Friends of Prema, The Wakeham Trust, Uley Brewery, SDC, Hydegate Pet resort, Uley School and an awful lot of good will from the mosaic artist!

Physical preparation to the sculpture needed to be carried out, taking a tyre out, making the surface smooth enough to mosaic and tidying up the edge of the surrounding grass.

Following this, mosaicing started at 8am with families dropping in throughout the day and also with children after school.

**Publicity:** The Gazette were given a press release the week before the workshops started but failed to include this. Posters were put up all around Uley, outside Prema, at School, at the local shop. A story writing competition poster with details of the workshop was sent out to all school families in bookbags. An invitation to the unveiling was sent to the school and all funders and interested parties. The unveiling was featured in the Citizen and the Gazette and the story has also been added to the website. The winning story from the competition is displayed on the TLC notice board and will be added to the website. A copy will also be sent to the school and the winner.

**Format:** Families and local residents could participate in the workshops on a drop basis throughout the week from when we arrived, usually 8am to 5pm.

**Evaluation:** The project has been a labour of love to say the least! I was always aware that this had the potential to be a stunning and engaging project for all involved but the long hard slog to get the funding almost broke me!

However, given the evaluation forms I have received back and the atmosphere during the project all of the back breaking prep work disappears in a flash. The residents, young, old and in the middle all, without fail said the project had given them a real sense of achievement and community. Meeting new people and having the chance to work on something as a collective seem to also be a recurring theme.

Given the amount of time spent on this project it would be irresponsible not to add a cautionary tale for future project of this type and especially scale (excuse the pun!). Undoubtedly, as a project we

will not have recovered our cost in terms of my time (many hours of personal time also put in). Given that TLC's remit is now very defined and outcomes are reasonably substantial it is probable that, unless this can be reformatted as a health project, TLC time could not be used to replicate such a project.

Despite the blood, sweat and tears though I would say that the impact this project has had on a local community far outweighs anything else.

**Outcome:** Finished family learning art project which will stand as its own testament for many years to come. The impact on local community spirit has been fantastic also.

**Follow up actions:** Evaluation to be shared with partner organisations.