

## **Bursledon Windmill – School Service Review, September 2012**

### **Introduction – Background and Context**

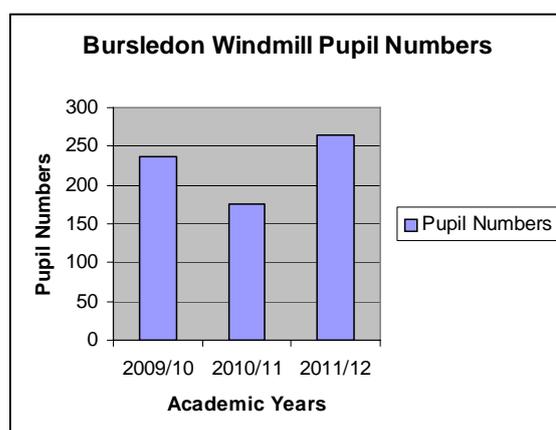
With the implementation of Hampshire County Council Arts and Museums Service's Phase 1 and 2 Restructures from June 2011, the scope and range of the Community Engagement and Learning Team (CEL) has broadened out considerably. At the peak of Renaissance funding in 2009/10 these roles were targeted towards schools programmes, and benefitted from Renaissance funding to support delivery of school services. During the subsequent transition years other priority audiences have been successfully targeted as well as schools, with the aim of delivering a more balanced programme for local communities. The offer to schools has itself evolved over the last two years as our relationship with local schools has matured and resulted in a new emphasis on closer working partnerships and depth of engagement.

This review aims to look at the use made of the Windmill by its local and other schools at the height of Renaissance funding (2009/10) and during the transition years, and to suggest an action plan to ensure that we continue to offer a valued service to recent visitors, re-engage any who have not visited recently, and increase visits from non-visiting schools. There are great opportunities to be gained from Museums and Arts now working together and it is timely to open a new dialogue with schools as the new National Curriculum is developed over the next two years and as the Windmill restoration project gets underway.

### **Section 1 – Summary of Schools' Use of the Windmill (last three academic years)**

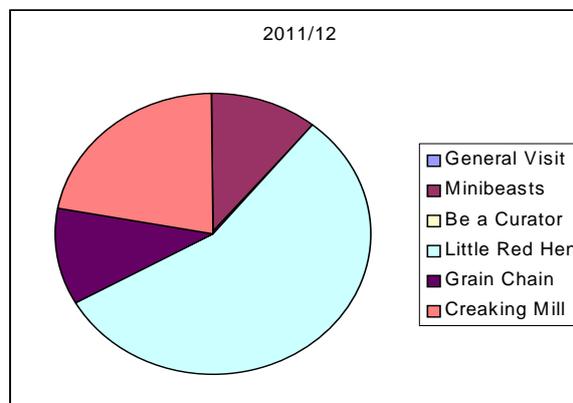
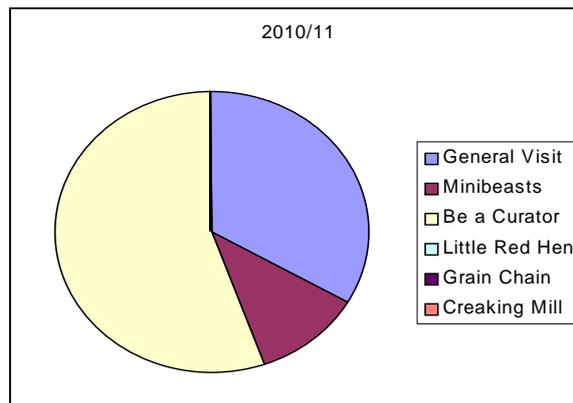
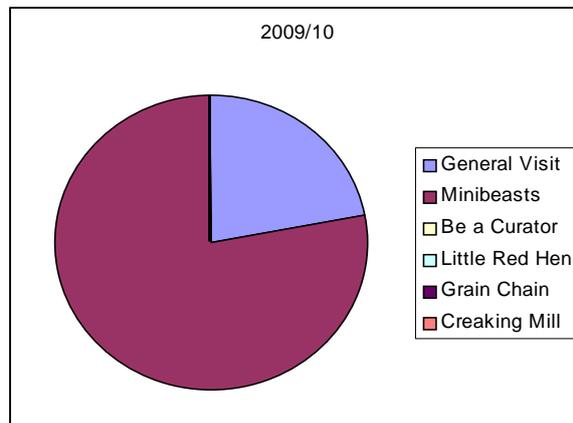
#### **1.1 Number of School Sessions Run and Number of Participating Pupils**

9 led school sessions took place in 2009/10 for 236 children. 9 sessions took place in 2010/11 for 175 children. In the 2011/12 academic year (first year for the new CEL Team) 9 sessions have taken place again, for 264 children. 6 sessions have already been booked for the Autumn Term so projections for 2012/13 should exceed previous years. Children are also being regularly engaged through visits with community groups like Cubs and Brownies.



## 1.2 Types of Session Delivered

Up until the last academic year (2011/12), the schools offer was mainly planned and delivered by Windmill site staff, with the education team offering special projects as an additional service. With the implementation of the Phase 1 & 2 Arts and Museums Service restructure, the CEL Team took over schools services at the Windmill and developed and trialled new school sessions over 2011/12 which are now being promoted for 2012/13.



The Minibeasts sessions in 2009/10 were a Renaissance project by the CEL team. The Curator sessions were a special project with one school in 2010/11.

The 'General Visits' those years were ones booked in by Windmill site staff when the mill was open on weekdays. In 2011/12 general visits stopped as the windmill has to be opened and staffed especially for school groups on week days, so all sessions can now be themed to the school's requirements and led by the CEL team.

### **1.3 Schools Using Bursledon Windmill in the last 3 academic years**

Bursledon Windmill aims to work with schools within Eastleigh Borough, nearby schools in bordering authorities, and schools from further afield.

Of the 31 mainstream local authority primary schools in the borough, the Windmill has worked with 5 over the last 3 years (16%) and another school has booked 3 sessions for the Autumn Term (so now 19%). Of the 25 non-visiting local schools, 17 have visited other HCCMAS museums including Eastleigh Museum. 8 out of the 31 schools are not using HCCMAS museum services at all but may be engaging with our Arts services (research not yet done). 1 of the 7 secondary schools in the borough has visited the Windmill. Wildern School has participated in two in-depth projects with the CEL Team, but using SEARCH at Gosport. Hamble College contributed to the Inspire! Exhibition at Eastleigh Museum. Lakeside Special School has not used our services in the last 3 years.

Outside of Eastleigh Borough there are 5 nearby Southampton primary phase schools of which only one has visited the Windmill, and 2 nearby Fareham schools which have not visited.

From further afield 3 Southampton primaries have visited, 1 independent school from Fareham, 1 Winchester primary, 1 Gosport primary, 1 Havant primary, 1 New Forest primary and an independent school from Andover.

## **Section 2 – Planned Campaign to Increase Schools' Use of Bursledon Windmill**

In the current economic climate, and with changes to the National Curriculum approaching, the challenge is to maintain the visits of the schools that have been using the mill, re-engage ones who used to visit and have lapsed, and to attract visits from non-users.

### **2.1 Actions for Autumn Term 2012 and the rest of the Academic Year**

- Promote the new curriculum based sessions to all primary schools within easy travelling distance, communicating the cross-curricular strengths and the geography and local history strands as well as the 'Flour Power' and 'Little Red Hen' grain chain sessions.
- Ensure web pages are current and are updated and use is made of teachers' web pages and bulletin boards.
- Concentrate initial action on the Primary Phase schools as our core audience, aiming to work with secondary schools on an individual project basis.

- Explore and develop cross-service opportunities for schools by working in partnership with Arts colleagues (e.g. bid to Clore Duffield for funding for a writer in residence to work with schools in 2013), and develop seasonal themes such as Harvest Festival and the possibility of engaging the most local schools in the restoration project and re-launch in the future.

## **2.2 Targets**

Targets will be set for 2013/14 as part of the service planning process.

Janet Wildman, September 2012