



Our partners helping us to deliver the Festival of Blossom 2024.

at

Peckover House and Gardens



Blossom Project - ambitions and aims.

As part of the Festival of Blossom, working with Octavia Hill Birthplace House Museum and Wisbech Community Hub CIC, Peckover House will provide blossom related art activities for pupils attending the Cambian Specialist Education School. The aim of this project is to build our relationship with Octavia Hill Museum and forge new work with Wisbech Community Hub and Cambian school - two organisations we haven't worked with before. Pupils from Cambian will be able to enjoy the garden at Peckover feeling welcome, comfortable and connected to beauty and nature. Thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery, we were able to fund the project and offer the art activities to the school. A lasting record of the event is the planting of a blossom tree also funded by the People's Postcode Lottery, we hope that the school will help look after the tree and have a connection to it into the future.



On the activity days the pupils visited the Peckover Gardens for inspiration for the blossom related art activities. They were asked to comment on favourite flower colours and what they liked best in the garden, some of the comments...

Favourite colours – red, green, yellow and the white apricot blossom.

What they liked best in the garden – frogs in the pond, everything! The orange trees and the monkey puzzle tree.

Only one or two pupils had visited the garden before, most have never been or knew of it.

The Art Activities.

The pupils from Cambian School have been busy creating artwork under the guidance of local artists from Wisbech Community Hub CIC. Rolling out modelling clay and imprinting it with leaves, flowers and items from the Peckover garden they produced individual clay shapes using cutters. These were left to air dry and will be kiln fired by the artist and given to the pupils.



Using recycled paper and chopped egg boxes mixed with water the pupils made paper, this was created on a mesh screen and turned out. Blossom flowers and petals were pressed into the wet paper providing a unique design and left to dry.



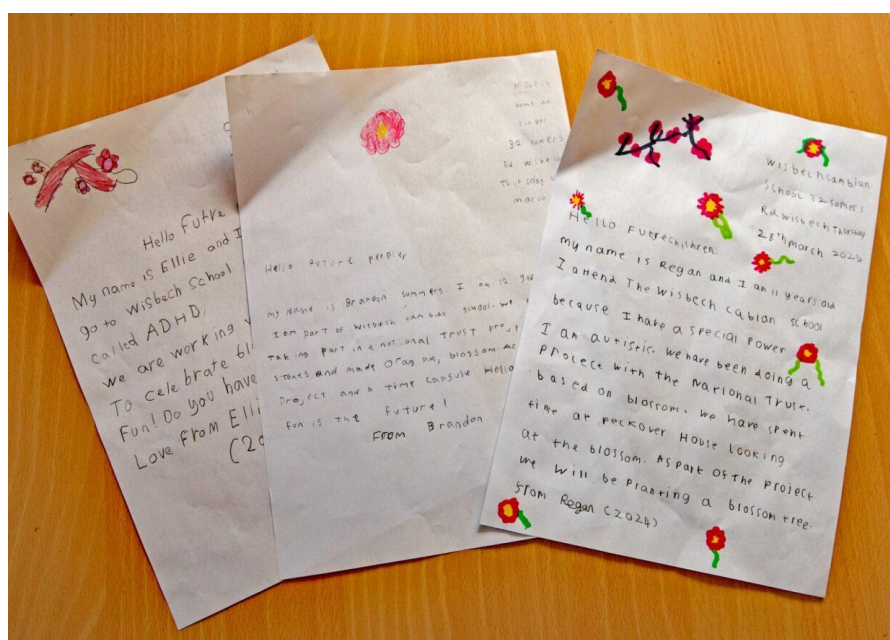
The paper was then used to form a cover for a notebook, the paper being sewn into the cover. A new experience for the pupils who all enjoyed it.

Other activities.

Using the origami instruction sheets the pupils made blossom flowers during lessons.



The pupils also painted pebbles to go into the time capsule that will be planted with the tree. Messages to the future were also written by the pupils along with a message as to what went on during the Blossom activities.

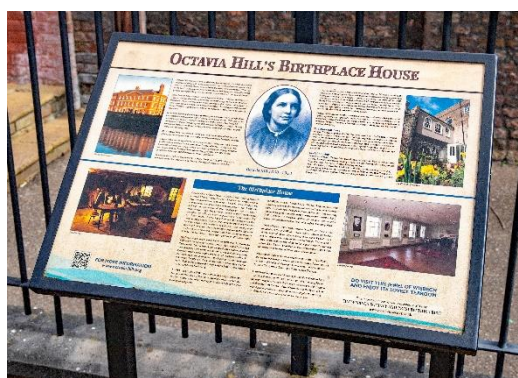


What happened next?

The following week a group of pupils from the school along with a teacher and assistant visited to have an outside lesson in the Peckover garden. They enjoyed the sun and the beautiful surroundings; this was the first time they had done this all due to the Blossom project. They also brought handmade cards thanking us for involving them with the project. We hope that they will continue to come and visit through the year.



We are agreeing a planting place for the blossom tree with Octavia Hill Birthplace Museum. Once planted we have invited the school to be involved in watering to get it established, hopefully engaging the pupils with the project for a longer period of time.





Results.

We have enjoyed working with the Cambian School it has been great seeing the pupils engage with the art activities. During the time with us we feel they have a better understanding of Peckover House and its garden, especially a blossom awareness. It has also been great working with Octavia Hill Birthplace House and Wisbech Hub CIC getting a better understanding of their visitor operations and how we might work together in the future. The local artists have also provided a very positive experience for the pupils and catered well with the needs of the children.

March to April 2024.