

CURRICULUM/ ART ZONE

Education
ACTIONzone

Memories are made of this **Air Raid Archie Drama and Reminiscence Project**



The Homefront Recall Fund has funded Air Raid Archie and the project itself has many aspects as it involves local pensioners who are bridging the generation gap and sharing memories with EAZ teachers, pupils and their families.

The starting point for the play began with a reminiscence project inspired by groups of St Helens senior citizens who meet at Age Concern in Mansion House and they provided the Artzone team with reflections and recollections of rationing, doodle bugs, dance halls, evacuation and the day to day life in war time St. Helens.

The play was launched at the Citadel Arts Centre, which is a superb venue for the performances, and each area has been transformed into an authentic location such as a 1940's house, air raid shelter, village hall and dance hall.

Twelve schools in total have attended the performances and pupils created their own scenes in a drama workshop and produced writing for the book that will be published as a celebration of the work. The Air Raid Archie book will contain stories and poems about WW2 and this will be distributed to all the communities involved in the project to keep as a legacy of what happened in St Helens during this time.

Tales of the Oak Wood

Pupils from Education Action Zone schools have begun researching the folklore of The Oak Wood in Taylor Park. Under the title 'Tales of the Oak Wood' this project, which is funded by Local Heritage Initiative and The Countryside Agency aims to show how Victorian landscapers specialised both in formal garden planning and in 'woodland gardens'.

"The Oak Wood is an excellent example of woodland gardening and this area has been nurtured by park rangers and volunteers who are aiding its return to the beautiful ideal of the mid nineteenth century." Karen Jaundrill- Scott- EAZ Arts Consultant.



There are a great variety of trees, shrubs and flowers within the Oak Wood and a feast of folklore attached to each one.

The children, including the two pupils from Thatto Heath Primary in our picture have been hearing of this folklore and taking the opportunity to interpret their findings for others. They have also been finding out that many of these plants really do possess lifesaving properties. This work will form the basis for a 'storytelling drama' during September.

While Taylor Park is seeing a great deal of work going into its restoration, the Oak Wood is receiving its own share of attention. Already a popular spot for sharing a picnic with the wildlife it is hoped that it will become a centre for the telling of folk tales.

During August, children will be working on the production of storytelling furniture, which in turn will be used to provide a celebration of Victorian heritage in the wood.