

Let's Get Creative - Case Study – July 2021

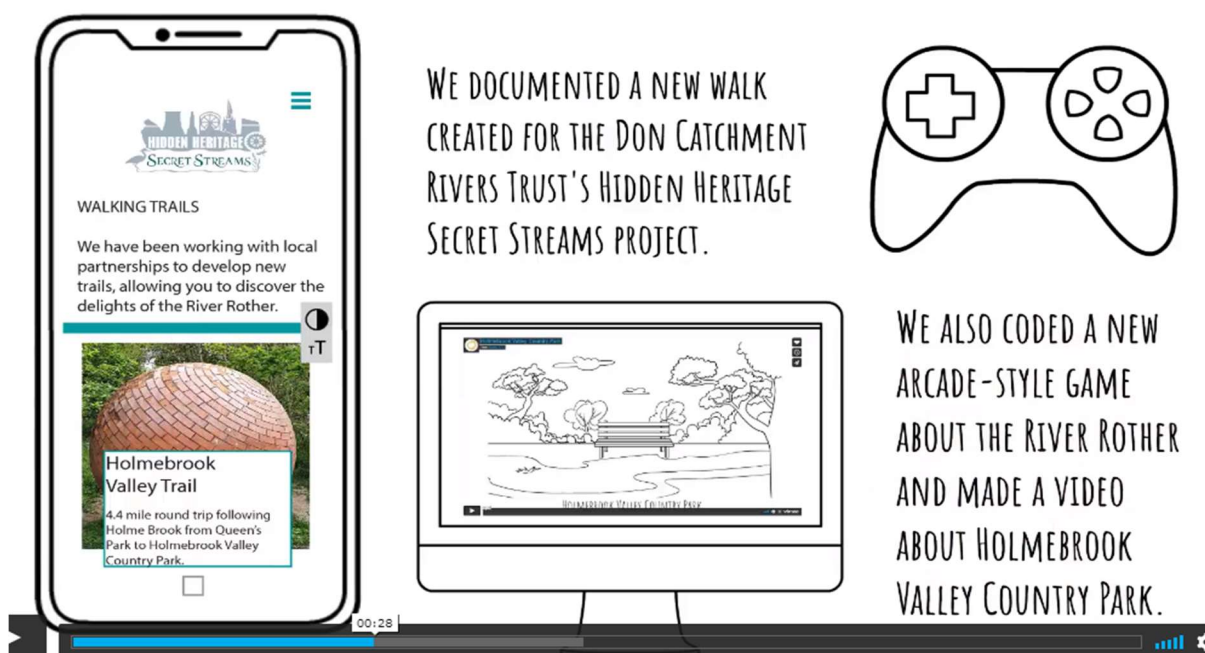


On Thursday 15th July 2021 a showcase and celebration event was held in Chesterfield to recognise the achievements of the 'Let's Get Creative' team; an exceptional group of young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, who over 15 weeks have developed their digital media skills and contributed towards an app for Don Catchment Rivers Trust that can be accessed and used by the public – encouraging more people to explore the local area.

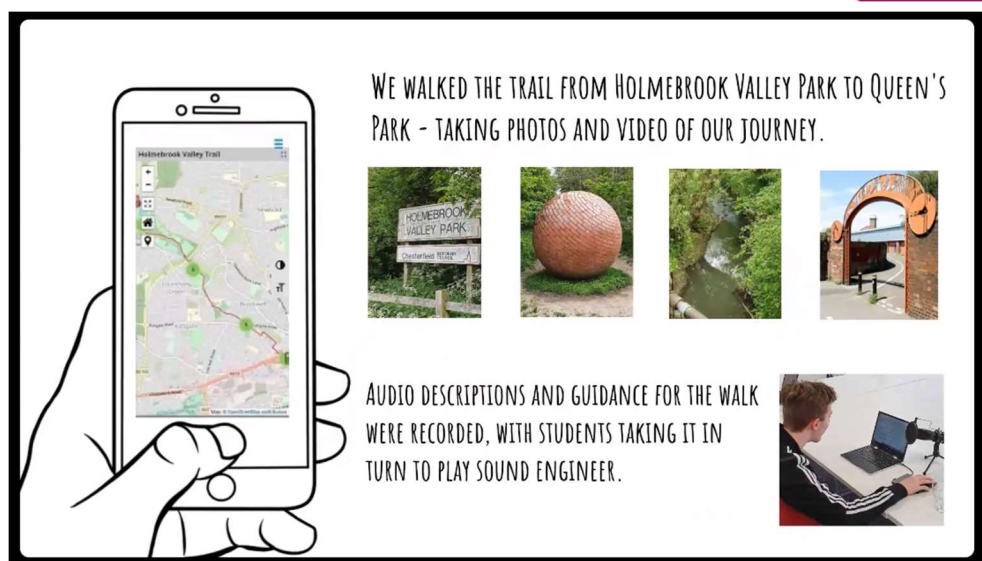
The group, facilitated by staff from Derbyshire Education Business Partnership (DEBP) in collaboration with Kakou CiC, and supported by Chesterfield College's Digital, Media & Graphics department, included individuals from Ashgate Croft and Stubbin Wood School, who came together every Thursday to give their time and talents to develop an app promoting local walks in the Chesterfield area, complete with routes, photos, soundscapes and narration and even a game!

Joining the celebration were partners from:

- Derbyshire Voluntary Action (DVA)
- Don Catchment Rivers Trust
- Chesterfield Borough Council



All those attending were lucky enough to see the work for themselves and hear from the participants about the work they had been doing and listen as parents/carers explained the impact and importance that such initiatives have.



Over the course of an hour the assembled group heard from Laura Wilkins - SEND Adviser for DEBP and lead facilitator on the initiative, Ann Fomukong-Boden - Principal Electronic Engineer and Director of Kakou CIC, and met the participants who showcased the end product and provided an insight to the work and skills involved.

Nathan, a participant, spoke about his involvement and what it had meant to him:

'It has been nice to meet people face to face again for the first time since the national lockdown in March 2020. I met some fantastic students who helped with some of the ideas for the app'.

'I want to say thank you to DVA for the funding this experience as it can help people decide if they want to work in digital media and also help other students with special educational needs to do more work experience'.



Parents were invited to explain the impact for them of their child being involved:

'Being involved has revolutionised the way I look at pathways for Robert.'

'He has come home and told me about what he has done and this is not at all usual – he tells me very little about what he has done as school, so to listen to him explain what he has been doing has been unexpected and a joy to hear.'

'Before this, we [parents], were very unsure about how he would cope with IT and access to the internet and we didn't let him use anything independently, however, having seen how he has coped and engaged and the interest level he has, we have actually purchased him his own desktop computer so that he can continue to develop his skills and use the software he has been introduced to. This level of independence is not something we would ever have considered without this opportunity and we can see he is more capable than we knew'

Identified by the partners who joined the celebration virtually was the amount of talent, enthusiasm and 'happiness' that was evident across the group and feedback recognised that *'over and above the social connections, there are multiple levels of connection you have created through the content of the programme – including nature and place – all of which contribute to feelings of 'belonging'.*

This was a 15 week programme, developed to provide the opportunity, space and a purpose of coming together for young people, whose usual isolation has been further compounded by the pandemic and in the end met this purpose, whilst additionally developing more connections than expected.

Clare Talati, Managing Director of DEBP, rounded off the event by handing out certificates of achievement to all participants before an informal end of programme party was held for the group and the inevitable nibbles came out!



HIDDEN HERITAGE SECRET STREAMS APP

To access the app please use the QR Code

To see more information on the project through video format please visit:

<https://vimeo.com/kakoucic>