

Peter Rumney/Nettie Scriven

Joint Artistic Directors

Dragon Breath Theatre

A Crack in Time 2015 – Abstract

A Crack in Time 2015 was a collaboration between Papplewick Pumping Station, Nottinghamshire <http://www.papplewickpumpingstation.org.uk/>, and Dragon Breath Theatre www.dragonbreaththeatre.com. It was the culmination of 4 years' action research and interpretation development at Papplewick.

A 6 hour, immersive performance event for children, it explored Papplewick's varied sites, including its abandoned underground reservoir. The performances were supported by follow-up workshops in schools, and publication of extensive Online Education Resources <http://www.papplewickpumpingstation.org.uk/a-crack-in-time/>

(The project drew on participation in the University of Nottingham Get WET water curriculum research (2011-13) <http://www.getwet.org.uk/>. It was developed through an ACE-funded pilot performance project, winner of the Nottinghamshire Heritage Award for a Special Project, 2014 http://www.dragonbreaththeatre.com/crack_in_time.htm#promo.)

The project explored how museum/heritage interpretation can benefit from narrative performance to engage new, younger audiences. It offered schools and family audiences an unusual cultural experience, and unique learning opportunities. It investigated how site-specific theatre can be the stimulus and springboard for interdisciplinary learning about a site, its history, and important associated local/global issues.

Over seven weeks, the company performed to - and worked in depth with - 1100 children from 20 schools, targeting young people who may not normally have opportunities to experience cultural events of this kind.

The project was funded by ACE, HLF, Garfield Weston & East Midlands Museum Development Fund.

We will present the work through:

- *Introduction to the project (10 minutes)*

- *20 minute documentary film*
- *Summary of findings on effectiveness of interpretation engaging children through interactive drama; empathy with characters; live music; and hands on participation (5).*
- *An opportunity for audience feedback on similar projects and Q&A (15)*