



TFN Donor Report Feb 2013

The money TFN members kindly donated to Bold Vision's New Cross Learning (NXL) last March (£5400) has been a great boost to getting the operation established and recognised in the area through three major activities

- Community Big Lunch / street party (a first?)
- Completed participatory artwork on the frontage
- Lewisham's first cinema (this century)
- Extreme Reading

Street Party

Thanks to the generosity of the members of The Funding Network we were able to bring diverse elements of the community together by staging a street party to celebrate the Jubilee. A wide range of local residents gathered together to share food, see the fire engine, watch the performances and even meet the Queen (well a version of her).



In preparation, groups of volunteers got busy knitting squares to produce the knitted Union flag you see here as backdrop for a performance by New Crossover streetdance group who rehearse at NXL.



We made this a day to remember and worked in partnership with the local primary school, pub and church under the collective name of Hatcham Village – a new identity for an area which suffers from a lack of unification. These relationships have endured and NXL will now work with the primary school to provide a free breakfast club before school – helping all the children to face the day well-nourished.

As NXL is just over the road from where the street party was held we used the Bold Vision (our umbrella charity) quarterly Mixer publication to communicate to all the local residents who came to the party that we are open as a community library – this has given us an increase in the numbers of users after the event. We consistently have 4000-6000 users per month through New Cross Learning ably served by our volunteer team who clocked up over 9000 hours between them in the last 12 months. We are also delighted that for several volunteers their time at NXL has been a gateway to employment as they have had a chance to build skills, relevant experience and most important of all, confidence during their volunteering experience.

Landmark Frontage

As we explained at the TFN event, we had some start-up funding from the RSA to create a participatory artwork for the front of the library but not enough to finish it. Thanks to TFN donations the whole frontage is now done and we are very proud of the input gained from the all the



people who helped with suggested titles and authors to “stack on the shelves”. This input was then used by local creative interventionists Artmongers to create an artwork that was printed on vinyl and covered the institutional white tiles that were previously there, making NXL one of the - if not *the* - most noticeable frontage on New Cross Road.

Lewisham’s first cinema?

The whole borough of Lewisham (270k people) does not have one public cinema. So after consultation with users and local organisations we have allocated the rest of the funding to go towards the purchase of a projector that will enable us to show films. It is intended to open NXL to show films for family viewing on weekends and for adults on a week night. In order to create more space at these times to accommodate audiences we require wheels to be attached to our bookshelves for easy movement and are seeking funds elsewhere for this – though we hope that some of you might consider “buying a wheel” by going to boldvision.org.uk/wheel to make a donation.

Extreme Reading

For World Book Night we will use some of the money for an exhibition we are running with local primary school to promote reading. It is going to be called

“Extreme Reading” and we want to exhibit photos of people reading in the most unusual places to make reading look ‘cool’...

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all members who contributed to our organisation and say how this has enabled us to develop and offer even more to our community.

For up-to-date information see our recently redesigned website <http://newxlearning.wordpress.com/>, follow us on twitter @newxlearning and @boldvisionuk

Katherine Dunbar and Gill Hart

Co-Chairs of NXL

Catherine Shovlin

Director, Bold Vision,
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