

Picture by Katie





Picture by Lydia

Words from our Director

How the years fly! The past year has been one of both growth and consolidation in all areas of our operation. We continue to offer a full curriculum to the young people we teach; with Prince's Trust and Trinity College Arts Award remaining key elements of the qualifications we aim for our students to achieve. We have now introduced Functional Skills English, Maths and ICT and are aiming to become an Examining Centre for these qualifications. As we work hard to coordinate these different areas of the curriculum, we must be careful not to lose the importance of fun and creativity in learning. With this in mind, we have started a youth club at The Community Hub in Waddington and another in Gainsborough. We are also mindful of the need for trips and outings, both educational and recreational. Fortunately, our young people seem to thrive on challenge and achievement and continue to amaze me! College places have increased once again this year.

Adult Training and Personal Development remain the focus of our work with adults; with preparation for employment the underlying aim. The last year has also seen huge strides in our work on Health, with the variety of activities and experiences of our Well Woman Groups being nothing short of breath-taking. We have also begun to tackle home safety on the sites we visit.

One of our aims going forward is to ensure that our work is as evenly distributed around the county as possible.

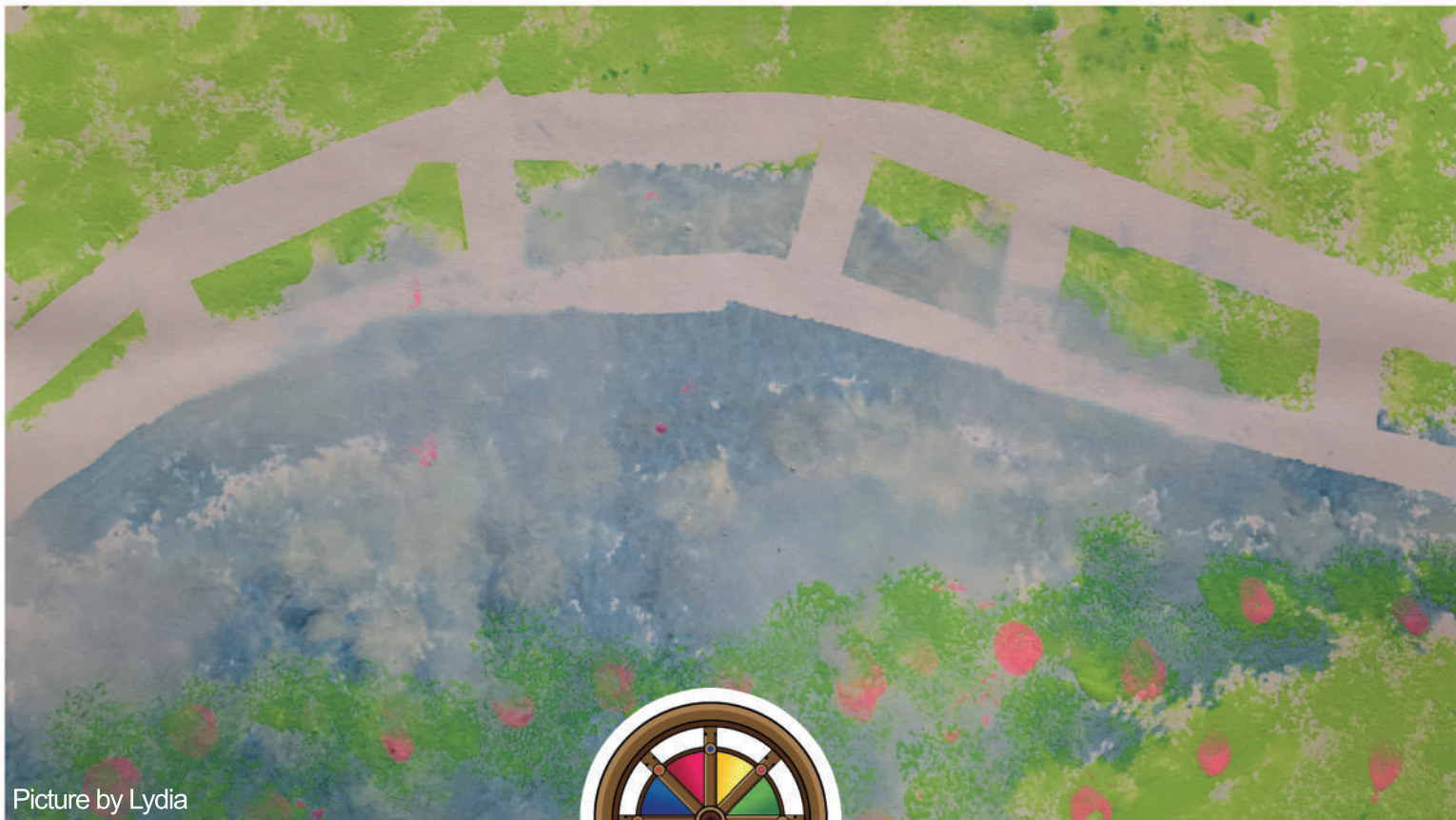
As always, I am aware that none of what we achieve would happen without the dedication and hard work of the trustees, staff, volunteers, partner organisations and, of course, the superb response of the communities we serve.

This year we have again gone for something slightly different and have decided to showcase some of the Arts Award achievements of the young people we teach. We hope that you enjoy them.

Thank you.

Paul Boucher. April 2020





Picture by Lydia





Picture by Missy



Arts Award

Lincolnshire Traveller Initiative's long association with London's Trinity College and their renowned Arts Award, has, over the years, culminated in more than thirty students from Gypsy and Traveller communities completing their Bronze Arts Award - all receiving positive feedback from the college for their impressive portfolios.

Now, in 2020, three students will be the first to start their journey on the Silver Award.

Sereana will be producing, designing and project managing an original written and illustrated chapter for a Japanese manga-style novel.

Kelise, who is a passionate singer, will be recording and designing a cover songs album and this will include her taking singing lessons for the first time and recording music in a professional studio.

Samantha's first love is acting, and her driving ambition is to attend Trinity College to follow that career path. She will be exploring new skills in dramatic arts – creating monologues, script writing, directing and producing.

LTI and the Trinity Arts Award is giving young people in the Traveller community the opportunity to expand their imaginations and fulfil previously unthought-of potential, hopefully, to be professionally developed, over years to come.

Picture by Lydia



Youth Clubs

In the last couple of years, we have had quite a few events where we have brought young people together from different sites around the county. These events have included recording songs at Bishop Grosseteste University, visiting Lincoln College, the Escape Rooms and taking the plunge at the Water Park at Whisby near Lincoln. Friendships have been forged and there is a lot of activity on social media keeping the friendships going. We now find the young people often asking if friends from other sites will be at the various activities they attend.

We have picked up on the wishes of the young people to expand their friendship circles and have started two youth clubs, one at our base at The Hub in Waddington and one on Summergangs Lane site in Gainsborough.

The first sessions at The Hub have been a Halloween party and a Christmas party and were attended by young people from Grantham, Stragglethorpe and Beckingham. Activities have included cocktail making, apple bobbing, dancing, basketball, pool, arts and crafts and party games. The club at Gainsborough is more of a local affair, meeting weekly in a much smaller space on site and with a focus on film nights, art activities and board games throughout the winter nights with a view to branching out in the spring.

Other sessions are planned, and we envisage bringing the two clubs together on occasions in the future.





Picture by Shannon



Picture by Jason



Traveller Health

At the end of January 2020, at LTI's Mental Wellbeing Day, the launch of a brand-new website, www.ltihealth.co.uk was announced, along with an accompanying comprehensive set of health leaflets which will be carried on the LTI Bus and available in LTI's office.

The website, wholly focused on Traveller health, reflects LTI's determination to do all it can to improve health outcomes for Traveller communities. The site is designed to operate as closely as possible along the lines of a smart phone with a drop-down menu of topics with tabs which open up to give additional information. The site currently has twenty topics, each having the main points of prevention, advice and treatment simply and clearly explained plus sources of further information.

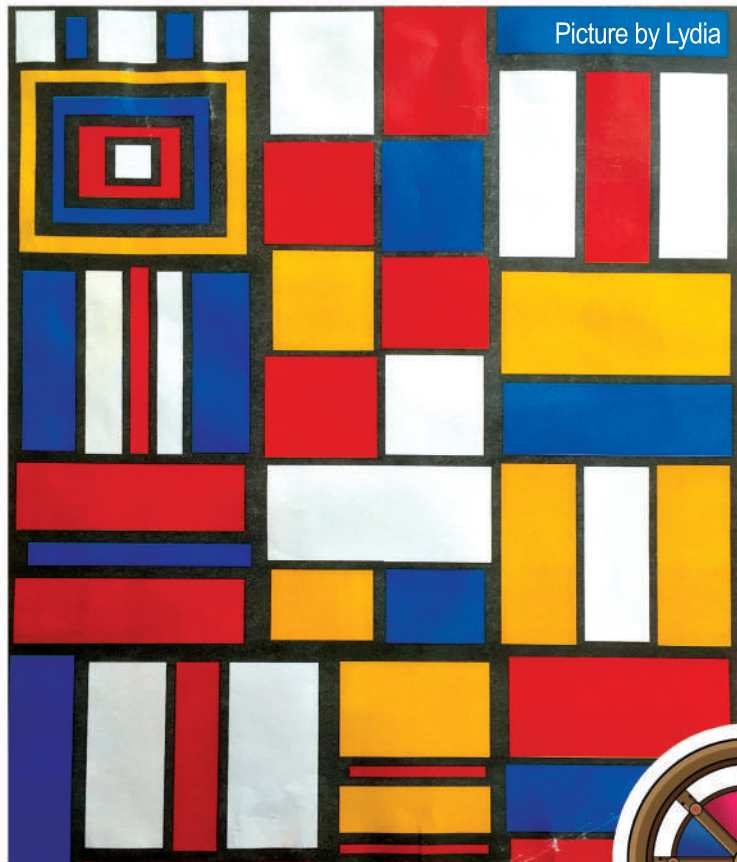
Paul Boucher explained at the launch, "we want Travellers to know that this website exists as a first port of call for a wide range of health matters. Young Travellers are used to using their phones and the internet for information and we are sure they will access this site for their families. We have had Travellers and Lincolnshire Healthwatch advise us on the site content and the site has been built so that we can easily update or add to the content at any time. This website gives Travellers, not only information, but the choice to make direct contact with the relevant health professional or to contact LTI who will be happy to make the contact on their behalf and assist in any ensuing action. Needless to say, absolute confidentiality is guaranteed."

Furthermore, we are identifying 'Health Champions' on each site who will be given training and act as official promoters of 'Healthy Lifestyles' as well as providing liaison between LTI and the residents. They will promote further training for all - first aid, healthy cooking, visits by health professional and health focused visits to events and activities.



Picture by Sereana





Picture by Lydia

Modern Technology

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) might not initially seem like a course that would easily fit the LTI blueprint, but with so many more of our students considering the exciting and life changing possibilities of college and higher education, it is a course that will create added confidence and enhance their abilities in an increasingly digital world.

We had already imagined that our learners would have an innate understanding and possess natural skills by being smart phone wizards, and so the course has been a seamless progression for most of the students. This, combined with the already timetabled Maths and English, will hopefully give our learners a far broader and stronger foundation in anticipation of new future challenges. The ICT course links and supports the two key functional skills subjects, but it also has the flexibility to include adult learners who may feel that this is also their time to expand, upskill and try new things – potentially opening up their future employability.

LTI has already identified new technology as a vital factor in educational engagement and achievement by using iPads on the Learning Bus. This course is just the next step - incorporating laptops and relevant devices to support the delivery of ICT, giving greater knowledge, scope and options for the future for Learners.



Picture by Azaria



The Hub

Waddington Community Hub, High Street, Waddington. LN5 9RF, our new home. Well not exactly, because we've been there for a year and eight months! But it continues to feel like a new home as we increasingly enjoy and develop the fantastic opportunities this great venue offers.

We love our office, it's light and spacious and a great place to meet and work. We love the main hall, where we have held lots of training and where two of our staff and two Travellers were trained and gained a Level 3 Teaching Certificate.

We love the kitchen where a mix of adult and young Travellers have healthy cooking classes with Ruth, a generous volunteer and an amazing cook.

We love the sports hall where members of our Youth Club play netball if they're not playing pool or dancing in the main hall.

We love Lincolnshire Council for Voluntary Youth Service, our neighbours in the building, who have facilitated training for us and supported our Well Woman Groups and Youth Clubs. And, of course, we love Andrea and Cheryl in the office, who are so welcoming to our guests and so supportive of all we do.

We thank Waddington Parish Council for providing such a wonderful home for us – we love it!





Picture by Elizabeth



Picture by Roseanne



Well Woman Groups

This is just one of many testimonials to the effectiveness and value of the two Well Woman Groups LTI has developed in Gainsborough:

"Well Woman Group has had a huge impact on my life. When I first started, I was hooked up to a breathing machine every night and used my inhalers a lot during a day. I would not be able to walk far before becoming breathless. I was very much overweight. The support and encouragement I received from the group was amazing.

I started with changing my diet, with guidance from cooking courses and the healthy lifestyles course. I changed my weekly shopping list and removed all the junk food from my home. I began to lose the weight. I built up my exercise with a fitness coach and walked every morning at 6am with group members. As time went on my distance increased. I was shocked when I attended my hospital appointment and they said I did not need to be hooked up at night anymore and my appointments could go yearly instead of every 3 to 6 months. My biggest achievement was completing the Pretty Muddy 5k and losing 3 stone in weight. I am a single parent to 7 children and everything I have learnt through the Well Woman Group has also improved the lives of my children".
Member - Gainsborough Well Woman Group.

LTI plans to continue developing Women's Groups wherever we find a demand.



Picture by Amy



Afterword

Our Learning Bus remains at the heart of all we do. Without it we wouldn't be able to cover our large county. We teach 11 to 16 year olds from Brigg in the North to Bourne in the South; Boston in the East to Gainsborough in the West, and all points in between. We take toddlers to pantos and the seaside, teenagers to youth club, water parks and arts centres and adults to centres for training and centres for shopping! Our bus enables us to engage with all ages in all manner of activities – education, health and recreation.

Each year more young Travellers are broadening horizons, gaining qualifications, going to college and doing amazingly well:

"The bus has helped me realise my dream of going to college. It was hard at first, but it got easier and I made some friends and have learnt many things." Emily. Year 1 Boston College.

"At first, I was very nervous, but even more excited. I completed my Level 1 course at Gainsborough... I now go to Lincoln College 4 days a week and have a work placement on Fridays." Sherry. Year 2 Lincoln College

Adults are learning new skills and gaining qualifications. LTI now employs 2 Travellers in educational roles. In the last three years we have seen a huge spurt in activity in all spheres of our work and with it comes a sense of more and more possibilities.

As stated, - Our Learning Bus remains at the heart of all we do. Each day we certainly know where the bus is going, but do we know where LTI itself is going, or more importantly the Travellers LTI work for? All we really know is that we seem to have an ever more exciting future, to which we all need to respond, adapt and learn.

Where are we going? Let's get behind that wheel and keep moving forward!

