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**Arts Coordinator – Storyteller
Member Society for Storytelling**

Storytelling and making removes the difficulties some people have around literacy and frees the creativity within. Because of the varied work I do I am asked to work with people of all ages and backgrounds, pre-school to adults, children and adults with special needs, children at risk of offending, prisoners through to prison governors.



Freelance Storytelling

1996 – present.

Storytelling in, schools, special needs schools, art galleries, festivals, Mencap, day centres, clubs. Telling a creating stories with the different groups.

Through Arts Connection

Ceremony Park CP School LLay

Work with the 'nurture group' to create and perform a story at the ceremony

Sept–Oct 2012

Through Creative Partnerships

William Beamont Community School Warrington working with a year 9 group of students. Exploring the extreme environments Sahara/Arctic they created stories relating to the environments with facts resulting from research and imagination. The emphasis was on allowing the students to take ownership of their work, respecting themselves and each other. I worked alongside two other artists who designed and built an igloo and a teepee with the students.

I was asked to go back and train all of the staff at the school.

At the same time I worked on a project in **Eagley Infants School Bolton** with year one children to encourage outdoor learning and to inspire reluctant writers.

One child commented, "I liked telling stories that no-one had told me."

Kingfisher Community Special School, Chadderton. The aim was to encourage further creativity in staff, enabling the children to be given diverse options to personalise their own learning and to evaluate outcomes. I worked alongside other artists and staff and left a legacy of storytelling and making.

I worked with a colleague on a year long project with the **Lowry Art Gallery** and a pre-school group of children with social and behavioural problems. We made story sacks using permanent L.S. Lowry paintings for each of which we created a story and some games. These were left at the gallery for parents and young children to use to familiarise their children with the experience of going into an art gallery.

I have worked with non-verbal children and adults who have responded to repetition and songs in stories and helped create stories using visual and aural aids.

I did a six month residency in Blackburn working with children in mainstream and special need schools, parents and staff to leave a legacy of storytelling and making. It culminated with a performance and presentation of the stories and books created by the children at the opening of a community centre.

WORKING WITH FAMILIES

- **Chester Heritage Centre**

Stories about Chester. Research in the centre provided a good base for ghost stories, and others on a carnival theme

- **Lymm Festival (2008-10)**

Workshops in primary schools and a family story walk

- **Libraries**

Storytelling sessions in various libraries

- **Shopping Centres**

Storytelling in supermarkets, shopping centres: The Arndale, (Manchester), Asda, Walkden, Trafford Centre, Selfridges



● **Pre-School Children**

Working with children and training teachers to tell and create oral stories in Liverpool, Manchester

● **Whitchurch Summer Playschemes**

Storytelling & workshops with primary/ junior aged children in local playschemes over the summer

● **Altrincham Primary Schools**

Storytelling in 3 schools from nursery to year two, with parents invited, to hone their skills

● **Llanfair Caereinion Junior School**

Working with each class individually exploring the world of stories

● **The Action Zone, Speke**

Workshops with children from upper juniors, in rotation with a drama worker and Terry Caffrey, poet in residence

● **Whitchurch High School**

Storytelling performances & workshops to teenagers at the high school during the day and to adults in the evening.

● **Aqueduct Junior School**

Passing on skills to staff and pupils

● **Enginuity**

Storytelling, part of long term project with this innovative museum

Pauline Bennett
Storyteller