



**HEREFORDSHIRE  
A GREAT PLACE**

# **Gilpin 2020 – Schools Project**

This project is funded by *The Hidden Gems* grant scheme from *Herefordshire's a Great Place* funds projects that use the arts and creative digital technology to raise the profile of 'hidden' heritage.

It funds bold, innovative and collaborative projects that bring communities, artists and heritage experts together and embrace the creative use of digital technology.

A total of 9 Hidden Gems projects are being funded between 2018 and 2020. Each project should do Herefordshire proud and raise the profile of the county as a great place to live, work, and visit; they should stimulate pride in the places where we live; contribute to the social and economic development of the county; and perhaps challenge perceptions about creativity and culture in rural places. Community involvement is essential.

## **Overview of the project.**

2020 will see a good deal of community engagement amongst towns and villages along the lower Wye Valley as the 250th anniversary of the Wye Tour is celebrated and we want our schools to be a part of this.

We want to involve children across our schools in an exciting media, arts and community engagement project focussing on the Wye Tour. In so doing, we want to leave a lasting legacy in the form of a 360 degree drone flight of day 1 (Ross – Monmouth) of the Wye Tour. This will include 'stop offs' along the route at key locations featured in the original Tour. Each school will take responsibility for artistic outputs (encompassing a wide variety of different disciplines) focusing on one location or aspect of the tour, all of this will be shared digitally. This will include, but not be limited to: film-making, poetry, creative writing, art work in various media, photography and information for the community in various forms and outlets.

At the heart of the project will be the creation of a variety of digital outputs from each school that will all be accessed via a public facing online portal. Each of them will give some historical context to the Tour and how it relates to the people at the time; importantly it will also give a snapshot of tourism today.

The culmination of the project will be a public launch of the 'virtual tour' for the parents and wider communities. Provisionally booked for Friday 26th June, 7.30 in Ross Church. It is hoped that this could feature as part of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) website for an even wider reach.

We also want to reach out to and build links with our local communities to give something of a snapshot of tourism in the same places today.

We will work with experts in digital technology, artists from a variety of disciplines and teachers who will help us to create the media that will be digitally published.

We will use the work of artists from the time as inspiration (e.g. Turner, Wordsworth, etc) to work with local artists of today who will come into our schools and enable the children to create a modern day response to the tour. We want each of these responses to be turned



into a piece of community art displayed somewhere in each of the communities we work with. These will also feature as part of the 'virtual tour' stop offs.

This is a stand-alone project, but the timing of it feeds into wider celebrations of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gilpin's Wye Tour. We also hope to inspire schools in Gloucestershire and Wales to consider taking on day 2 of the Tour (Monmouth – Chepstow) and we will be willing to work with them to help that process.

**Project locations:**

Ross-on-Wye (Ashfield Park / Brampton Abbotts)  
Wilton Castle (Bridstow)  
Goodrich Castle (Goodrich)  
Coldwell Rocks (Symonds Yat East) Whitchurch / Weston)  
Symmonds Yat (West / New Weir) (Whitchurch / Weston)  
Monmouth (Ledbury)

**Planned start date:** September, 2019

**Planned end date:** July 2020

## **Why should more people know about the 'hidden gem' of heritage at the centre of our project.**

When William Gilpin took "The Tour" in 1770, the Wye Valley became an early UK tourist destination. In a European context (very relevant at present), this was partly as a result of the unavailability of the "Grand Tour" through Napoleon's actions on the Continent.

Ross claims to be "the birthplace of tourism" but few local residents have any clue as to why.

Artistically, The Tour was an important theatre for the *Picturesque Movement* with many significant artists (Turner) and writers (Wordsworth) playing their part.

The Lower Wye Valley has much to celebrate and the 2020 anniversary is going to provide a great opportunity. We are encouraged by conversations locally about possible links / exhibitions with national galleries in London with links to Herefordshire and we want our children to play their part in this.

## **Who will be involved in the project?**

Many organisations are working collaboratively towards the 250th anniversary and we see this as a tremendous opportunity not to be missed. Each school will be establishing particular and individual links with those who can help them with their particular aspect of the Tour. Ongoing discussions with these people are already well advanced. Some of them are:

- Good rich Castle (English Heritage)
- Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- Ross Civic Society
- Ross Tourism Association
- Wye Valley Society



Our schools have longstanding relationships with some of these, others will be new relationships all brought about through a large working group. Conversations with these people / organisations will be used as a starting point for learning and pupil outcomes both artistic and electronic.

In addition to these links with heritage organisations each school will be working with at least one artistic creative partner to develop a response to the local aspect of the tour. Many of these relationships are already established, some will be new.

## **How will the project use creative digital technology?**

Each school will make at least one film focussing on historical and contemporary aspects of the Tour for their community. Each will contain drone footage (captured professionally) so that the whole of the journey from Ross to Monmouth will be covered across all of the films. While each will be stand-alone, hosted on a dedicated website accessed on phone/tablet by QR codes at numerous locations along the river; we will also produce a DVD version of the whole journey and will screen this as part of the launch at local cinemas. To this end, each of the films will have a common look and feel to them.

At a few key locations, we will also use 360-degree photography with [Google Tour Creator](#) and Street View to create interactive immersive environments that will provide a further showcase for children's work and background to the Tour.

## **What Herefordshire communities and community groups will be directly involved in the project?**

Each school is a community in its own right that also looks out and links to their immediate and wider communities through parents and friends' associations.

This project will also establish or strengthen links with providers of local tourist attractions.

The impact will be both educational (via curriculum work dedicated to the project). But our primary ambition is to instil a real sense of place and understand/pride in children's /families' local area and community and at the same time to give a wider understanding of their local history and a greater significance the tour played in shaping modern tourism.



## Key milestones

Project milestones:	Timeline (when will it be completed by):	Any other information about this milestone?:
1. Contract suppliers (digital/artistic)	End of September 2019	
2. Book workshops / events with providers for Spring Term 2020	End of December 2019	
3. 50% of field-trips / workshops to have taken place in schools	Easter 2020	
4. All workshops to have been completed	May 2020	
5. All digital media to have been submitted	End of May 2020	
6. Launch Events	From end of June 2020	

## Monitoring the project

A project coordinator will coordinate the project. Heads of schools meet once every 6 weeks and will include updates and actions for the project in each meeting. The project coordinator will attend these meetings. Each class taking part in this project will take on a topic relating to The Wye Tour as part of their curriculum planning for the duration of the project; as such this will be monitored as part of the ongoing scrutiny of curriculum delivery in each school.

*Check out [www.the-shire.co.uk](http://www.the-shire.co.uk) is Herefordshire's new culture website created and funded by Herefordshire's a Great Place to promote the bold, brilliant & creative things you do.*