

Pride of place produces artistic vision for town

■ BY MARIJKE COX

CHILDREN from the Step Up School of Dance and Drama have joined forces with a Dover artist to help spruce up the town.

Edda Venusia Jones, one of two artists working on Dover Pride's Dover Visuals project, met members at St Richard's School to produce the first of her innovative slogans.

Dover Visuals is part of the town's regeneration agenda and aims to improve the appearance of key sites and unused properties.

Ms Jones said: "Nine children aged between four and 12 from Step Up, led by their teacher Jenny Parks, joined me for an afternoon of fun in creating the first Dover Visuals slogan: Get Dover It."

"We met at St Richard's School, where we sat in a circle and had a brainstorming session.

"We kicked off with a few questions, such as: 'If Dover was an animal, what would it be?'

"I was extremely impressed with the responses and had lots of fun making and photographing the hand-modelled letters.

"Another element was the spontaneous drawing session that followed. This involved children writing down the answers to our questions on a huge sheet of paper, then drawing and illustrating them. It really is a lovely visual documentation of their ideas and thoughts which I also hope to display."

As part of the Dover Visuals project, Ms Jones, who lives in the town, and Jonathan Wright, the other artist involved, must take a



BRIGHT IDEAS: Step Up School of Dance and Drama children had a brainstorming session with Edda Venusia Jones

creative approach in interacting with the community through their artwork.

They will also be liaising with the team at Dover Pride, who will be responsible for the production and installation of the finished pieces and their unveiling in May.

Anne Knight, Dover Pride's programme director, said she was delighted to see the progress being made.

"This work will help improve the appearance of key regeneration sites as they develop

and engage the community in the process."

Ms Jones said: "It's fascinating meeting different groups and people, and involving them in discussions about Dover, art and the community in general."

If you own an unused property in the town and would like to get involved, call Sarah Lang on 01304 872162. Alternatively, email sarah@doverpride.org.uk.

To see more on Ms Jones's Dover Visuals project, visit www.eddajones.com/dover.

Dancers help put over Dover message

DOVER-based artist Edda Venusia Jones has met with members of a dance and drama group to produce some innovative art work to brighten up the town centre.

Edda is one of two artists working on the Dover Visuals project for the Dover Pride Regeneration Partnership.

She went along to the Step Up School of Dance and Drama at St Richard's School on Saturday to produce the first of her Dover-based slogans.

"It was brilliant," she said. "Nine children aged from four to 12 years, led by their lovely and enthusiastic teacher Jenny Parks, joined me for an afternoon of fun in creating the first Dover Visuals slogan 'get DOVER it'.

"We sat in a circle and had an imaginative brainstorm.

"We kicked off with a few questions, like 'If Dover was an animal, what would it be?

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and 'What really is art?'

"I was extremely impressed with the responses and had lots of fun making and photographing the 'hand-modelled' letters.

Brainstorm

"Another element was the spontaneous drawing session that followed.

"This involved the children writing down the answers to our brainstorm questions on a huge sheet of paper, then drawing and illustrating them.

"It really is a lovely visual documentation of their ideas and thoughts which I also hope to display at some point."

Anne Knight, Dover Pride's programme

director said: "It is exciting to see the early progress Edda is making with the Dover Visuals project.

"This work will help to improve the appearance of key regeneration sites as they develop and engage the community in the process."

Edda will be meeting and working with different groups of people, and individuals, and involving them in discussions about Dover, art and the community in general.

■ To see more on Edda's Dover Visuals project, visit www.eddajones.com/dover

■ Anyone who owns an unused property in Dover town and would like to get involved and hear more about how they can benefit from this project should contact Sarah Lang on 01304 872162 or email sarah@doverpride.org.uk

High street vision

WELCOME to the second Dover Pride Regeneration Partnership column. This week, I want to give you an update on our exciting and creative Dover Visuals' project.

Dover Visuals' is an initiative within the ambitious regeneration agenda which aims to improve the town centre's appearance, making it a more vibrant and attractive place for people to live, work and enjoy.

The winning artists, Edda Venusia Jones and Jonathan Wright, were amongst 60 who answered a request in the Artist's Newsletter for ideas and proposals to produce a range of creative image or text-based works to be displayed on hoardings and shop windows throughout Dover town.

Both of the proposals selected are creative, stimulating and inspiring. Edda's 'Matter over Mind' and Jonathan's 'Desire and Aspire' artworks will adopt a creative approach to interacting with Dover's community in the

Dover Pride



with director Anne Knight

production of these eye-catching pieces.

Dover-based artist, Edda's artwork will consist of a series of slogans relating to, including and depicting the word Dover. The words will be written and presented in a range of unusual and imaginative formats and will be created by Dover residents, young people, older members of the community and workers at Dover Docks.

Jonathan, an award-winning artist who studied in London in the early 1980s and graduated from the Royal College of Art in 1987, is working on a text-based range of pieces.

When talking about his new graphic text commission, Jonathan said that he is really enthusiastic about being part of

the Dover Visuals project and feels that it is really important to maintain a sense of pride throughout the town centre and reinvent shopping in Dover.

Jonathan is currently developing a questionnaire and asking residents exactly what types of shops they would like to see in their Town Centre.

He wants to bring their desires to life through graphic and textual quotes which will be displayed in empty shop windows, prompting aspirations which could turn into reality.

The artistic process for both unique proposals is underway and we are looking forward to seeing the results of their endeavours when they are unveiled later this spring.

If you own a currently unused property in Dover town and would like to get involved and hear more about how you can benefit from this exciting project, please contact Sarah Lang on telephone: 01304 872 162 or via email: sarah@doverpride.org.uk for details on how to sign-up.

Jonathan and Edda step up to revamp the town

TWO artists have won the honour of putting art at the forefront of Dover's regeneration agenda.

Edda Venusia Jones and Jonathan Wright were chosen from 60 entrants to Dover Visuals competition.

The Dover Pride-led initiative aims to improve the look of the town centre by using artwork to smarten up vacant buildings.

Entrants were required to submit ideas on a range of images or text-based works to be reproduced and displayed on hoardings and shop windows.

Edda's submission was called minD over matter and Jonathan's Desire and Aspire.

Their creations will be unveiled in May.

Dover Pride chaired the selection panel with entries ranging from photographic art to graffiti, embroidery, paintings and text-based work.

Dover Pride director Anne Knight said: "We are looking forward to working with Edda, Jonathan and the community to develop vibrant and innovative images which will be displayed throughout the town."



Artistic flair: Edda Venusia Jones is one of two artists to have been selected by Dover Pride to come up with creative concepts to smarten up Dover's vacant buildings.

● If you own a currently unused property in Dover and want to help out with this project call Sarah Lang on 01304 872162 or email her at sarah@doverpride.org.uk

Pair set to bring 'inspiration' to town

TWO artists have been chosen to undertake the Dover Visuals project helping with the regeneration of the town.

Their selection follows an international search and a tough selection process, carried out by the Dover Pride Regeneration Partnership.

Dover Visuals is one of the initiatives being undertaken by the partnership of key public sector organisations, local businesses

and the community.

The successful artists, Edda Venusia Jones and Jonathan Wright, were among 60 people who responded to a request for submissions of ideas and proposals to produce a range of creative image or text-based works which will be reproduced and displayed on hoardings and shop windows throughout the town.

Both of their proposals were described as "creative, stimulat-

ing and inspiring".

Edda's submission was entitled 'minD OVER matter', and Jonathan's 'Desire and Aspire'.

Submissions ranged from photographic art, through to graffiti, embroidery and painting.

Edda and Jonathan will adopt a creative approach to interacting with Dover's community in the production of their eye-catching pieces.

In addition, they will be liais-

ing closely with the Dover Pride team who will be responsible for the production and installation of the finished pieces and their unveiling during May 2009.

■ **Anyone who owns an unused property in Dover town and who would like to become involved and hear how they can benefit from this project should call Ms Lang on 01304 872162 or send an email to sarah@doverpride.org.uk**