

1] Commencement

The London Villages Project began on March 1st 2011 & will run until February 29th 2012.

Sign up for the Project began on 1st February & closed on 31st August (six months into the Project).

2] Membership

Membership was open to all LIP members. Two hundred & twelve LIP members are signatories. This does not mean that all the signatories are fully active within the Project in terms of creating a personal project. Members could, if they so wished, sign-up for the Project, participate in the various meetings but decide not to present a personal project at the end.

I am currently mailing all members to ascertain the numbers who are actively involved in project building & those who intend to participate in any proposed end-of-Project activities.

3] The Project Team

The Project Team remains as last year with the replacement of Jenny Johnson-Burrows (for birth of twins) as Web Officer by Tina Rowe. The Team is as follows:

Quentin Ball	The Voice of the Project
Tina Rowe	Online Officer
Anita Chandra	Offline Officer
Susie Harrison	Publicity & Communications
John Levett	Organizer
Tony Othen	Finance & Sponsorship
Rosemary Williams	Exhibition Officer

4] Focus Meetings

There have been two Focus Meetings to discuss issues, content & direction of the Project; one at the beginning of March & another in June.

The first meeting was boisterous, challenging & uplifting. The central issues arising were: i) the centrality of the London Boroughs as a framework for organising both activity within the Project & for selecting images that might represent the Project on completion & ii) the proposal that the monthly meetings be used as selection meetings for images & that these images be submitted as prints.

Both proposals were forcefully opposed & the assembly won the day.

Alternative models for final presentations have been proposed & the format of the monthly meetings has been modified in accordance with expressed wishes of the membership.

The second Focus meeting in June was a gentle affair & concentrated upon interpretations of the Villages theme.

5] Monthly Meetings

A monthly meeting has been held for each month of the Project to date; the venues alternating between The Grafton Hotel, Linear House in Greenwich & Willesden Green Library Centre. Thanks are expressed to Quentin Ball, Tony Othen & Pete Webster for arranging & making available spaces free of charge to the Project.

The content of the meetings reflects the spirit of our satellite group formats & have, apart from keeping us in touch with the development of personal projects, provided us with pertinent issues surrounding the matter of public photography.

6] Finance

We have been unable to raise sponsorship for the Project.

The applications that we have made have been comprehensive & detailed & have concentrated, in the first instance, upon the running of the Project &, in the second, upon proposals for the post-Project presentation of work.

The current climate of squeezed budgets, falling revenues & increased demands have placed charities & awarding bodies in the position, rightly, of supporting the most needy & most vulnerable applicants. It is also the case that we are unable to demonstrate that our activities benefit the broad reach of Londoners. Fund holders have been encouraging & receptive but have ultimately rejected our applications.

Formal feedback has not been forthcoming.

7] Contact & correspondence

A Monthly Newsletter has been mailed to all members each month since the beginning of the Project.

Interim mailings have been sent on extraordinary business matters (reports on the Focus Meetings, matters relating to Monthly Meetings, advertising the current workshops).

Members asking for feedback & evaluation on portfolios have been responded to & linking members working in the same localities or using similar approaches has, when requested, been enabled.

8] Workshops

Workshops entitled 'Editing your personal project' have begun; the first taking place on the last Saturday of October. The all-day workshops are scheduled for November, January, February &, if there is sufficient demand, March.

9] Final presentations

A Project Team Meeting will be held next week to make proposals for final presentation(s) of the Project.

The idea of locally-curated exhibitions has been floated & the proposal to have a travelling 'banner' exhibition is still an aspiration. Informally-arranged support for this (in terms of materials & printing) is possible.

A publication (print-on-demand) will be produced.

The Project will be archived on the LIP site.

The pursuit of the idea of having a physical archive in a London location to be added to annually remains on the agenda.

John Levett

7th November 2011