

BROADWAY **Ham & High**

Hornsey schoolgirls have history of River Moselle stitched up



by Alistair Kleebauer
Monday, July 22, 2013
5:30 PM

Year 7 students at Hornsey School for Girls: Gabriella Scipioni, Natasha Khan-Rowley and Phoebe Hinshelwood. Picture: Nigel Sutton

Hornsey schoolgirls have taken a hands-on approach to learning about the hidden history of the River Moselle – by creating striking artworks using dye, wax and sewing machines.



Year 7 pupils at Hornsey School for Girls spent the last week taking part in the borough-wide project A River Runs Through It.

The project aims to uncover how the waterway has influenced the landscape, farming and industry in the last 300 years.

The river spans the whole of Haringey – from Highgate through Hornsey and into Wood Green and Tottenham.

Year 7 students at Hornsey School for Girls: Bernice Akwaboa, Yasmine Samiee and Eunice Akwaboa.

But many may not realise the river's importance, especially since much of it is now hidden underground.



Hornsey School girls with artist Angela Baker, Phoebe Hinshelwood, Gabriella Scipioni, Natasha Khan-Rowley, Bernice and Eunice Akwaboa and Yasmine Samiee. Picture: Nigel Sutton

Artist Angela Baker, of project organisers the Twisted Stocking Theatre Company in West Green, said: "People don't know enough about it. Tottenham's Bruce Castle Museum has informed and educated me."

Ms Baker imparted her new-found knowledge to the 25-strong class at the Inderwick Road school. The girls also carried out their own research into how the river fed potteries, gardening and agriculture, in particular at Broadwater Farm in Tottenham.

Pupils created paintings of the river and decorated cloth with dye. They then used sewing machines to turn the fabrics into pillows.

Art teacher Mona Ascott said: "It's the most creative history lesson they've ever had."

Pupil Natasha Khan-Rowley said: "It was a really good way to learn about the river because if you're having fun, you don't realise you are learning."

They found out about the Cole and Samuel South & Son potteries in Tottenham which benefited from the river's rich deposits of clay.

The Moselle's story also taught them about "strong female characters", such as 18th century reformist Priscilla Wakefield.

A Quaker, born in Tottenham, she set up girls' schools, wrote 17 books, on subjects including feminism and natural science, and founded a maternity hospital.

Some of the fabrics created by the girls will be added to a large quilt destined to hang in the Bruce Castle Museum.

The project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and other groups.

To learn more about the project, visit www.ariver-runsthroughit.org.uk.