



## Contributors Feedback & Comments

Not all contributors provided feedback – but many sent comments and suggestions by email as well as more comprehensive notes where their role had been major – much of which we are working with to continue the projects next year.

### Musicians

**MIRIAM ROTHSCHILD PROJECT** Waddesdon Manor, **Thomas Hickman Primary School**, Aylesbury  
**Mardyah Tucker – Workshop Leader**

I thought the kids were very responsive. It's hard teaching online I think. Thank you for sharing the video with me. It's amazing! Anyway, it was lovely to meet you online and work with you. This project is truly inspiring.

**Rebecca Sackman – Workshop Leader**

Thanks for sharing - looks lovely! Well done for putting it together. I remember the songs now! There are some lovely strong voices in there.

**Karen Wimhurst** – Composer & Workshop Leader for **MARY ANNING PROJECT** Primary Schools in Devon **Sidmouth CofE**, **Payhembury**, **Awliscombe** & **Newton Poppleford**:

Great to see such a glorious outcome on top of the really fantastic education process all the kids were engaged in! Congratulations.....everyone must be thrilled.

**Kira Ramchaitar-Husbands** - Composer/Artist – Commissioned to write 'Subsurface' **BEATRIX POTTER PROJECT**

I composed a musical piece and accompanying visual alongside mentoring school **Hawkshead Primary School**, Cumbria: with the creation of their 'Megasong'.

I faced challenges relating to software and hardware limitations in producing the final project and had to scale back my ideas to accommodate for this.

I felt genuinely supported by everyone, specifically Marianne, Frances and Lynne throughout this project.

Covid/social distancing measures meant that the events, rehearsals and meetings had to be held on zoom but we adapted well to this and pulled off a great series of workshops and final performance. The communication and support from Frances and the rest of the team worked best for me. I don't feel like anything didn't work well! The project exceeded my expectations for an online/virtual event and I really enjoyed being a part of it.

It was a great experience and I am so proud of the final show and the way we managed to keep the children engaged whilst also educating them in the areas of science and arts.





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### SCIENCE HISTORIANS

**Dr Patricia Fara - Emeritus Fellow, Clare College, Cambridge**

[MARY ANNING PROJECT](#) & [MIRIAM ROTHSCHILD PROJECT](#)

From September 2021 to April 2022, I participated in numerous on-line planning events, carried out research into Mary Anning and Miriam Rothschild, liaised with other contributors, prepared and presented powerpoint scripts and visual presentations, participated in podcast recordings, and attended other events.

Over the year, I became more proficient at preparing visual material and more confident about the techniques & technology of Zoom presentations with multiple contributors. Since I normally teach adults and university students, I had to learn how to make the material suitable for young children. I felt very supported - Frances & Herbie are marvelous people to work with. They taught me a great deal, but tactfully & unobtrusively

I had Covid myself for several weeks, and felt guilty that I could not contribute then as fully as I would have liked. More generally, although on-line presentations are wonderful and also environmentally friendly, they are not a substitute for meeting and interacting with young audiences in person, which is a far more rewarding experience

I loved the creative experience of transforming academic books into entertaining visual education. Meeting wonderful collaborators

Occasional moving of the goal posts as we went along was difficult, but I guess that's pretty much inevitable.

It's been a marvellous experience and I can't wait to get started on the next one.

**Catherine Booth - Retired Science Curator (National Library of Scotland)**

[BEATRIX POTTER PROJECT](#) & [Mary Somerville Project](#)

I identified and researched scientific women from the past; produced factual notes relating to life and work of female scientists who were to be included in projects, some of whom were suggested by me; sometimes participated in online podcasts and events by engaging in conversations about the scientist(s); contributed entries for Minerva Scientifica website.

Challenges: - producing suitable script to fit with aims and scope of each project; using computer equipment to optimum effect in presenting and recording contributions; trying to avoid gaffes working in unfamiliar settings. I was supported very well by electric voice theatre - could not have done it otherwise. Learned a lot, and gained in confidence

I had to learn to present my contribution in a very different way. In the past I have been able to be physically present for selected workshops and events in schools and other locations, but that was not possible during the heights of the Covid pandemic. Frances Lynch and Herbie Clarke from electric voice theatre were incredibly creative and imaginative in thinking of new ways to promote women of science and music, and made it possible for me to participate as best as I was able

The fact I felt very much part of a team, who did their best to make me feel comfortable and who expressed their appreciation of my role was important. I also enjoyed the projects very much!

We were sometimes time-limited in what we could include! I tend to want to tell everything I know, but of course realistically that is not possible - and we must avoid boring our audiences. I have a lot to learn on getting that balance right.

It is so important these days to promote women in science and music, not only for younger generations, but also for society as a whole. People just do not recognise how much women have contributed to these areas in the past, and names of these women are generally almost completely unknown. There are many wonderful stories about their lives and work which deserve to be told. Projects run by electric voice theatre have a novel and exciting way of doing this, and I hope very much that they can find the means and support to be able to continue.





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### ARTISTS

#### Hannah Fox [BEATRIX POTTER PROJECT](#)

I am a female artist based in South Cumbria.

My role as an artist was to run a workshop in Hawkshead Esthwaite Primary school with years 3 and 4 and to create an animation to accompany the megasong incorporating the childrens' drawings.

I ran a drawing workshop in school where the children closely studied fungi and drew their forms. I then animated these drawings to create the film.

The main challenge faced was Covid. We only met on zoom with the project team and the first planned workshop in school was postponed because the school had Covid 19. The workshop was rescheduled. We found ways to overcome the problem of Covid 19 and in the end the children had a fulfilling in person experience.

I felt very well supported by electric voice theatre throughout the project.

I feel that the drawing workshop was extremely successful because I planned the materials and approaches carefully knowing what methods are exciting and interesting. I took a large tray of bought 'wild mushrooms' for the children to study form which created a scientific approach.

The project was over a fairly long period of time so it was difficult for me to maintain momentum and contact within a busy schedule of other work.

I would happily work with electric voice theatre again and I think there is scope to undertake further drawing elements on this project.

#### Jack Sewell - Plymouth, Devon [MARY ANNING PROJECT](#)

I developed and delivered school-based art workshops, creating whole-class artworks using air-dry clay to recreate fossils of marine animals. These were assembled and finished at home and returned to the schools for display.

I collected photographs and video footage during workshops and created simple animations showing the development of the artworks. Then produced films for all schools, combining footage from the events and animation with the school 'megasongs'

The initial Challenge was how to run an art workshop, themed around Mary Anning, in which a whole class could contribute and which could be easily completed in a short session.

There were initial problems with video editing and computer being too slow to process videos effectively in the time available – upgraded personal computer to one capable of handling the task.

It would obviously have been lovely to see Herbie and Frances in-person during the event, but I think everyone coped well operating remotely and the carbon footprint and cost of this part of the project was undoubtedly reduced.

Frances was very organised and helpful and the whole team were friendly, helpful, supportive and fun to work with.

I have probably invested a lot more time than I had originally anticipated, particularly putting the films together, but have been becoming more efficient at this and see it all as a learning process! Great project, great people and some lovely schools.

It was genuinely very enjoyable to play my part. Coming together at the fossil festival to meet the team in person was a real highlight!





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### SCIENTISTS

[Dr Érika Pinheiro-de-Castro](#) - Chemical Ecologist and Entomologist, Marie Curie Fellow, University of Cambridge (Zoology Department) and Research Associate at Better Origin

[MIRIAM ROTHSCHILD PROJECT](#) Waddesdon Manor, [Thomas Hickman Primary School](#), Aylesbury  
The children learned that there is a huge diversity of insects, and they play different important roles in the ecosystem (herbivores, carnivore, decomposers). They also learned that insects have ecological relationships with other animals and plants around them. They made very creative and poetical histories about these relationships - It was fabulous!

[Professor Lynne Boddy](#) - Fungal ecologist [BEATRIX POTTER PROJECT](#)

I have been involved in the project from the very beginning working with the director and composer– Frances M Lynch and advising composer Kira Ramchaitar-Husbands, along with my artist colleague Marianna Heilmann. I have also worked with the children from Hawkshead Primary school - who have learnt a lot about fungi...and written their own music and stories about it.. Absolutely splendid!

**Emma Bernard** - Curator of Fossil Fish, Natural History Museum [MARY ANNING PROJECT](#)

I have had the privilege of being involved with this project from the beginning working with the brilliant director and composer Frances M Lynch and the extremely talented children from Sidmouth Church of England Primary School who have learnt a lot about fossils, palaeontology and Mary Anning from myself, Jack Sewell, Karen Wimhurst and Patricia Fara. They have written their own musical story about an ichthyosaur.

