



ALL IMAGES FROM ELLINGHAM EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

10 GHARWEG

GHARWEG is a registered charity set up by a group of African political exiles in August 1985 to meet the social and economic needs of members in accessing training, employment, housing and welfare benefits. We currently run multi-tasks projects including ESF projects targeted at refugees, asylum seekers and unemployed people from black and ethnic minority communities.

Over the past 10 years, we have run several ESF-funded projects. Our latest ESF was through the London Central LSC for the IT Training and Access to Education Project, costing £197,000. This project ended on 31st December 2006. Top-up funding of £105,000 was secured to 31st March 2008.

In partnership with Tamil Relief Centre (TRC), we're running an ESOL Entry 3 Project funded to 30th June 2008, which is on course to deliver the 90 training places for ESOL training with progression into further education and training. We're also supporting people with no previous access to training to use the Project as a first point of support to progress.

LUZMILA: "I am very happy with this course and with the teachers because I was treated well."
KIDEST: "I have very much enjoyed the training and I know how I can use Microsoft Access. I feel the skills will help me to use the computer for my future."

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11 Organisation of Blind Africans and Caribbeans

OBAC was established in 1988 and became a registered charity in 1994. Our mission is to ensure blind and partially-sighted African and Caribbean people access relevant services, influence decision-, and policy-makers and enable them to overcome barriers and to become active members of the community.

For the past seven years, OBAC has been running a number of ESF funded projects for visually impaired people. With the help and support received from LVSTC, we accessed our first ESF funding through the Government Office for London, in 2000, to run the Worklinks Project. Subsequently in 2003, OBAC successfully secured further ESF to run the Worklinks 1 Project. These projects assisted over 100 disabled people into work and further education.

With Co-Financing, we received ESF funding from London Councils for the Worklinks Follow Through Project, and from London Central LSC for the Employment Through Learning Project. The Stepping Ahead Project was our latest ESF project completed in June 2007. This Project was funded by the LDA and has assisted 50 visually impaired unemployed people to gain NVQ qualifications in OCR, City and Guilds at Entry levels 1-3 and Levels 1 and 2.

According to ET, a beneficiary of the Stepping Ahead Project, "This course has empowered me to do what I want to do. And because I regained my confidence I have been able to talk to people and engage myself in other things." ET secured full time employment with the Home Office as an Administrative Assistant.

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12 Sahara Communities Abroad

SACOMA is a registered charity established in 2000. We received our first ESF contract in 2003 with London West LSC for the Volunteer-to-Employee Workforce Development Project. In 2004, we won further ESF grants through London East LSC and LDA for the Refugee Induction Programme and Moving up the Ladder Projects, respectively and additional ESF funding was received through London West LSC for E-women and Young Peoples Skills for Life Projects. In 2006, we received further ESF funding from London West LSC for the Empower to Progress Project.

EMILDA: "The programme was a very effective stepping-stone for me, and because it was geared primarily towards women, I found that the programme was more conducive to our needs. I anticipate that this will be the key to a more successful future for the business. CACS is now looking forward, thanks in part to the support that I have been receiving from the team at SACOMA. I continue to work with the team and their dedication in the success of the clients has been a major boost in helping us all realise our true potential."

MARY: "As it has been complicated and difficult to find my feet and achieve my goals, I felt that the session was very useful. Unfortunately, I have always lacked the necessary support to overcome social barriers that hamper my business ambitions. The NVQ programme was very useful in developing my ideas as well as giving me the confidence to be where I am today, with my idea almost in fruition."

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"My name is LH. In 2004 I was sentenced to three years imprisonment served in HMP Wormwood Scrubs. Whilst in prison I attended the Pathways from Re-offending course in graphic design. What this course did for me was to give me the skills and confidence to attempt to get into regular work and in so doing change my way of life. Instead of getting caught up in the 'revolving door' the Pathways course has enabled me to get into full time employment. And my life has changed."

13 The Citizens Trust

The Citizens Trust (formerly Disability Times Trust) ran the Pathways from Re-Offending project from January 2005 to September 2007. Funded by Jobcentre Plus and ESF, the project was delivered in partnership with Jobcentre Plus, HMP Wormwood Scrubs, HMP Holloway and the London College of Communication.

Project beneficiaries were 160 serving offenders, engaged prior to release and supported through the transition into the community

Designed to provide targeted intervention to break the cycle of re-offending through a combination of personal development and graphic design vocational training, the support we offered enabled beneficiaries to enter various employment avenues. In assisting beneficiaries to visualise their future and providing the stepping stones to attain that target, the project proved extremely successful.

The project surpassed its contractual targets, achieving 108 OCN qualifications up to Level 3 against a target of 96, and 68 full time jobs against a target of 64.

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14 Disability Hackney

We are a charitable company limited by guarantee created by the London Borough of Hackney (LBH) and the Hackney Council for Voluntary Services (HCVS), in 1999, in response to the lack of an effective body to co-ordinate disability issues across the borough. We are an organisation for disabled people, managed mainly by people with disabilities.

In 2003, we became involved in the training of disabled people to access training and employment. The help and support received from LVSTC enabled the organisation to break into the ESF market. We successfully secured our first ESF contract with Job Centre Plus for the Hackney Access Action Project, enabling 47 beneficiaries to gain accredited qualifications to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent, five beneficiaries to get jobs and one to progress into training.

In 2005, we led a partnership consortium of four organisations to secure further ESF contracts worth £710k for two projects over two years for the Newpud Projects funded by Job Centre Plus and LSC London East with the latter achieving:

- 26 beneficiaries with accredited ESOL and basic skills qualifications up to NVQ level 3 or equivalent
- Five beneficiaries into further training
- Nine beneficiaries into employment.

CAROLYN: "Training was excellent and very flexible in terms of having my needs as a disabled individual met. Quality was good as was one-to-one support."

DANA: "The training taught me new skills, consolidated my current knowledge and skills and boosted my confidence."

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15 Ellingham Employment Services

We are a charitable company limited by guarantee, established in 1985. We are specialists in preparing and placing people with learning disabilities into a range of employment opportunities throughout North East and Central London.

Our Oasis Project, in partnership with Capel Manor College, was funded by ESF and London East LSC from 2005-2008. Oasis was designed to provide an individually tailored accredited horticulture training programme for 40 people with learning and/or associated disabilities who are long term unemployed and for whom statutory provision is unsuitable.

Over a one year course, beneficiaries gained entry level and NVQ1 qualifications. Six beneficiaries also had the opportunity to do a six month paid work experience placement with Weedbusters, Ellingham's contract gardening social enterprise. To date, 11 beneficiaries progressed into paid employment of over 16 hours per week, six are permanently employed with Weedbusters full time.

DAMIEN: "I've been unemployed, but since I came to Ellingham, they've offered me a job on Weedbusters. It's very important for me to have this job, not only am I getting paid, but I meet new people every day. Plus now with the wages, I'm living independently, very well, supporting myself and my fiancée. I love it here. There is not one bit I don't like about this job. It's definitely off the hook!"

PAUL: "I'm currently homeless. Working for Weedbusters has got me out of the hostel. It helps me with my depression because I'm doing something every day, it's a life line for me. It helps me to focus my life on something positive, so it's a proper job for me."

JOHN: "It's saved my life."

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16 Fairbridge

As a registered charity, Fairbridge has been running projects ESF-funded projects for many years. From 1st June 2005 to 31st May 2007, in partnership with Raleigh International and Point Blank, and with funding from the Learning and Skills Council and ESF we ran the Supporting Disadvantaged Young People into Education, Employment and Training Project.

Our beneficiaries were 16 to 24-year-olds from Southwark who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) or at risk of becoming NEET.

Young people were primarily supported to improve their personal, social and life skills, as well as developing their literacy, numeracy and IT skills. We offered a flexible programme of activities to engage and develop young people, involving either an initial residential 'Access Course' or a 'Raleigh Outdoor Adventure Residential', a series of follow on workshops and courses, and consistent one to one guidance from a dedicated caseworker.

Fifty young people engaged with the project. 28 gained a Fairbridge certificate. Nineteen young people received an ASDAN credit towards Level Up and 22 earned John Muir certificates. Six Level 1 and two Level 2 qualifications were earned in Literacy or IT. Twelve young people took part in Point Blank's music production course, earning a LOKN qualification. Fourteen moved on into further or higher education, while six moved into employment.

"I had recently moved to London and I was struggling to find my place - I didn't have a job - and I was feeling really down because of my epilepsy. Fairbridge built my confidence and pushed me in the right direction. I'm now studying Social Care at London Training College. I wouldn't have known where to start without Fairbridge."

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"I had recently moved to London and I was struggling to find my place - I didn't have a job - and I was feeling really down because of my epilepsy. Fairbridge built my confidence and pushed me in the right direction. I'm now studying Social Care at London Training College. I wouldn't have known where to start without Fairbridge."

17 St Christopher's Training Group

Funded by ESF, our 24-week Offering Permanent Engagement 4 NEETS Project runs until 25th July 2008. The Project is being delivered in partnership with Connexions, Jobwise, JL Training and EYS.

Our beneficiaries are 16 to 19-year-olds classified as not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Our aim is to support young people by providing training and work experience in Construction, Business Administration and Customer Care, leading on to further training, mainstream education or employment. The young people (14% are women) receive Information, Advice and Guidance and Individual Action Plans.

Forty-nine per cent of the 42 beneficiaries have already achieved an NVQ qualification, 19% of whom have progressed into further training and 7% into jobs. A further 7% are still working towards their NVQ with a further 26% still in scope to be claimed as a positive outcome. 50% are receiving training leading to the award of a CSCS card. All trainees, where appropriate, have the opportunity to access work placements or tasters.

DANNY: "I could not get on a college course of my choice, so many applicants for so few places that only come up in September, and I could not afford to fund myself through the programme. Getting on to the OPEAN project run by St Christopher's was great. I had support from a named member of staff who visited me at least once a week to check on my progress and make sure I had no problems, they paid me a training allowance which really helped, reimbursed my travel costs, provided me with personal protective equipment and gave me a tool kit to help me progress. Without that help and support I would never have been able to see the programme through to the end."

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IMAGE FROM ST CHRISTOPHER'S TRAINING GROUP

Key to Project funding

- Projects funded by the ESF Objective 3 Programme
- Projects funded by the Fast Forward Global Grants Programme
- Projects funded by the London Objective 2 Programme



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Project Profiles

The 17 project profiles which are shown in this poster have been funded (or in the case of Objective 2, part-funded) from one of the following sources: ESF Objective 3; ESF Fast Forward Global Grants; ESF Objective 2; ERDF Objective 2. All Funds were allocated during the 2000-2006 period.

* Objective 2 Programme - Single Programming Document for London 2000-2006, p169

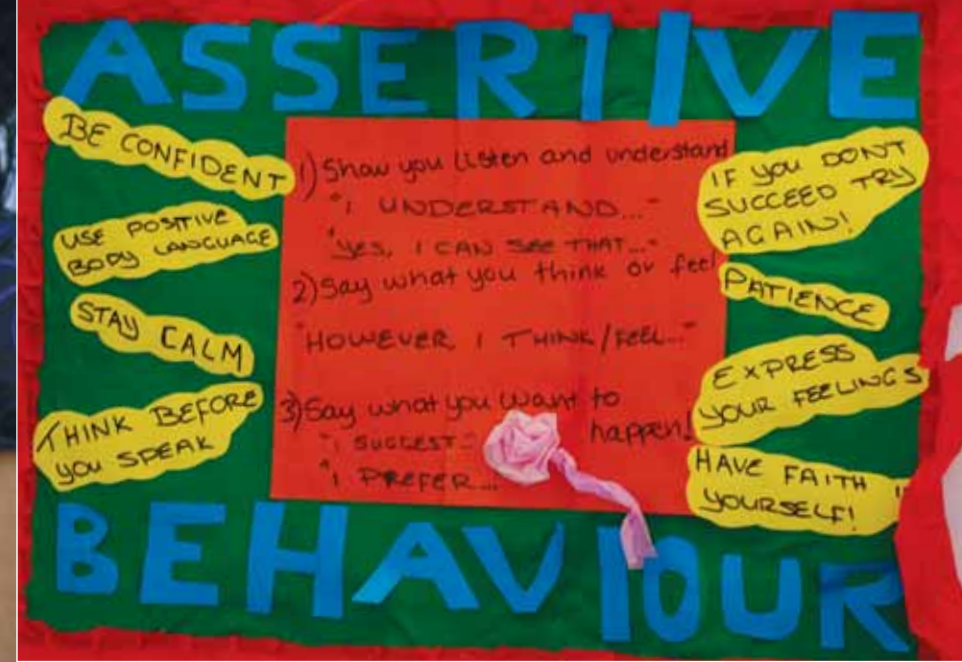
ESF supporting ERDF in Objective 2: "Objective 2 ESF will be used to fund human resource activities that are clearly related to ERDF funded activities in the Programme Area." * ERDF Project Profiles are included in this Report to demonstrate linkages between the two Funds.

PROJECT PROFILES

- 1 Third Age Foundation
- 2 Newham Asian Women's Project
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Design and print by Calverts • www.calverts.coop



ALL IMAGES FROM NEWHAM ASIAN WOMEN'S GROUP

01 Third Age Foundation

Our OOPS 50+ Project was funded by the London Development Agency and ESF and ran from 2nd January 2005 to 30th September 2007. Beneficiaries were residents from across London aged 50+.

The aim of the Project was to address skill gaps faced by older people in re-entering the workforce, including ICT and employability, and enable them to gain recognised qualifications.

The OOPS 50+ Project helped 303 older people follow a holistic programme of ICT (pre-entry, Level 1 and/or Level 2 with OCR certificated qualifications 85%) together with a Personal Development programme including confidence and motivation (NLP), CVs, APs, Interview Techniques, Application Forms, fighting ageism, new ways of working, employability skills – both in Hammersmith and outreach in six locations in West, East and South London.

Clients were mainly referred by Jobcentre Plus (76%), but also by word of mouth. They were female (60%) and male (40%) clients, BAME (25%), disabled (20%) and multi-disadvantaged. With up to 86% retention, 83% of clients would recommend the programme, 60% felt more confident, 55% more positive and 76% more employable. However, 50% felt barriers to work included lack of recent work experience and references. Nevertheless 18% got full time work, 19% part time work, 18% went into self-employment, 10% into volunteering and 18% into further education.

"It's a really good programme – I'm happy it is available."

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CERAMICS PRODUCED ON A CREDO COURSE

02 Newham Asian Women's Project

A Newham-based registered charity for the past 20 years, Newham Asian Women's Project (NAWP) focuses on providing support to, and legally defending, primarily Asian women who experience domestic violence and abuse.

Since September 2005, in partnership with Surestart, Connexions, local schools and Primary Health Care Trusts we have been running the Learning for Women Project, due to end in June 2008. The project has been funded by the Learning and Skills Council London East and ESF.

Our beneficiaries have been women – primarily Asian – from Newham, Haringey and Tower Hamlets.

The aim of the project has been to support women in accessing learning provision, to provide information, advice, guidance and pastoral support, and deliver a range of accredited and non-accredited courses. Accredited courses have included ESOL, NVQ in childcare, and Health and Social Care, at Level 2. Non-accredited courses have included dress making, waxing and threading. Learning for Women has also provided employment training to help learners identify personal work and career goals. Jobssearch activities, writing curriculum vitae and preparing for interviews.

The Project exceeded contractual requirements in almost all areas of provision. Most learners have progressed into jobs or further education. Learners have also benefited from a significant increase in self esteem and confidence.

DULARI: *"I have benefited from this a lot as this has given me reason to get out of the house and meet new women and make new friends, it has encouraged me to learn new skills and has tremendously motivated me and helped me in my life, I have really enjoyed doing the courses."*

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03 Cameroon Asylum Support Association UK

In 2002, CASA UK ran a project set up around the monthly production of a newsletter. The Project was funded by an ESF Fast Forward (small) Grant for 2003-2004, 2005-2006 and 2007-2008.

14 asylum seekers from the Lambeth area were involved in the writing, design, and editing of a local monthly community newsletter for a year. This project aimed to provide a wide range of benefits to the beneficiaries: office skills, computer training, research ability, organisational skills, and ESOL and further ICT training.

The results of this project were felt both by CASA UK as they benefited from a much greater organisational awareness in the community due to the successful dissemination of the newsletter, and also by the beneficiaries. Capitalising on the skills they had picked up, eleven of them moved into full-time employment and one moved into full-time training at the local college.

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04 CREDO

Based in Bromley, we received an ESF Fast Forward (small) Grant, in 2005, to help with a Project for people with mental illnesses. The Scheme aimed to raise self-esteem and personal confidence in order to move beneficiaries closer to the labour market; whether through voluntary work, training and education or actual employment.

The Project was set up to run two five week taster courses in African Ceramic techniques, with the specific intentions of building up individual confidence and also unlocking creative talents. Whilst learning about African ceramic production and decoration, tutors and speakers also gave guidance on how best to go about returning to work or entering training programmes.

Of the 18 beneficiaries, who all gained much confidence in completing the courses, one moved into full time employment, five are now in part time employment, one works as a volunteer and one is in full time training.

"The project has given me something to look forward to, and helped me be more creative."

Jan Lovett, CREDO
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05 Hillingdon Somali Women's Group

In late 2003, we received an ESF Fast Forward (small) Grant to work in partnership with the local Uxbridge College. The Project was set up to work with Somali women, and other refugees, by enhancing and improving the availability and accessibility of learning opportunities.

The partnership with Uxbridge College provided a tutor who taught a variety of subjects, ESOL, ICT skills and job search skills. Sessions were held on different days and lasted from September through until March. Significantly, travel and childcare expenses were provided for beneficiaries in order to remove some of the barriers that had previously prevented them from accessing training.

In total, 26 beneficiaries were recruited onto the training. All 26 finished the training, gaining confidence from accessing mainstream training and also receiving nationally recognised qualifications from Uxbridge College.

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06 Tower Foundation

In 2004, we ran a project aimed at helping BAME women to obtain Level 2 NVQ in Health and Social Care. The Project was funded by an ESF Fast Forward (small) Grant.

In total, nine women from BAME communities participated in the training which focused on the NVQ and on other areas: the European Community Driving License Course and general job search skills to ensure that the participants gained as much as they could in order to be able to move closer to employment.

The Project successfully managed to take seven beneficiaries through to successful completion of the level 2 NVQ, which in turn had significant impact on their employability. Five moved into full-time employment in the health and social care sector, and two have secured part-time employment.

"I enjoyed the NVQ training which has helped me build more confidence and I have now got a job as a carer. I thank the funders who have made this possible."

Theresa Walters, Tower Foundation
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07 Free Form Arts Trust

Our Hothouse Project involved capital refurbishment and was funded under ERDF by the LDA/English Partnerships money, L.B. Hackney SRB/Renaiss/Section 106 funds, EDF Energy and funds designated by Free Form.

Award-winning Hothouse is our specialist centre for regeneration through the arts and creative industries, spearheading the new generation of Creative Clusters. Based on London Fields in Hackney, Hothouse was officially opened on the 8th May 2003 by the Rt Hon Paul Boateng MP Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

The imaginative new building has transformed a derelict and contaminated brown-field site and adjacent railway arches into a vibrant new 'creative cluster' of artists and design professionals. The building is fully accessible with green credentials including passive ventilation and solar panelled roof studios. With the help of extra money from ERDF in 2005, we have doubled the SME workspace.

The 'Creative Cluster' combines all of Free Form's Public Art, 'Building Communities' (neighbourhood renewal) programmes, Design and Technical Services and ICT Design and UK Online Training Suite. Hothouse also provides affordable workspace for small and medium-sized enterprises working in the cultural and creative industries including in the adjacent converted railway arches, which were part of the Scheme.

The Project has proved an important launch pad for start-up creative enterprises and our successful training programmes have supported young people through learning partnerships with CIDA, The Learning Trust, Youth Justice Scheme, Space and others. London Fields users, especially young families using the playground, say they now feel more able to stay around as this corner of the park is no longer isolated and feels safer.

Hothouse has been shortlisted in the 2008 RIBA London Awards.

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08 John Grooms

Our Disabled People Go Green Project has successfully encapsulated John Groom's philosophy with the support of ESF from the London Objective 2 Programme. Funding for this horticultural training project for disabled people came from the ESF at £89,884, the North London Learning and Skills Council at £81,183, Haringey Council at £30,000 and John Grooms at £50,000.

Our Project took place between 2005 and 2006. Objectives were delivered within a fully operational garden nursery at the FAITH (Further Advancement in Training Haringey) Centre, available to the general public. The focus was on ensuring that disabled people, who are long-term unemployed and socially excluded, have access to accredited training and work placement opportunities.

67 students gained accredited qualifications. Graham North completed a National Proficiency Test Council (NPTC) course in basic horticulture in the summer 2006. He learned how to establish and maintain plants, how to work closely with others, and about various health and safety issues. He remembers how he lacked confidence before he took the course, but now has aspirations of completing and National Vocational Qualification and securing part time employment. He was one of the 43 students with physical or learning disabilities and was delighted to collect his certificate.

GRAHAM: *"I never thought I could do so much. I feel like I've won an Olympic medal! Coming here and working with plants has changed my life. I want to thank everyone at FAITH. The courses have really put my brain to the test but now I'm much more sure of myself and what I can do."*

John Chamberlain, Livability
(John Chambers has merged to become Livability)
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09 O-Regen

O-Regen is a Community Development Trust with roots in the community. Our Leyton Employment Access Project (LEAP) was funded through ESF under the London Objective 2 Programme, with match funding from the Learning and Skills Council. We drew 75 unemployed residents in the Leyton ward out of social and economic exclusion by enabling them to participate in learning and economic opportunities. This was achieved through a three-pronged, 'holistic' approach of community-based training: basic skills, ICT skills and employability.

The Project aimed to tackle the problem of labour market exclusion by providing a pathway to employment through an integrated programme of NVQ 2 equivalent qualifications in City and Guilds Literacy and Numeracy (40% of project duration) and BCS Level 2 Certificate for IT Users (50%), along with a comprehensive employability programme (10%) including work experience, online job search training and local labour scheme.

Outcomes achieved from beneficiaries include: 38 ECDL and adult literacy qualifications at Levels 1 and 2; 16 Job search workshops; and 25 Work placements and Jobs. These figures have been revised upwards reflecting the commitment of both our staff and beneficiaries in combating social and economic exclusion.

Our funding strategy includes obtaining support from the European Structural Funds, both ERDF and ESF, ensuring that there is a link between capital and revenue projects as well as our non-European funding contract. A substantial amount of LEAP's development work is undertaken at O-Regen's Score Centre in Leyton co-funded by ERDF funds.

O-Regen was recently recognised with the coveted 'net: gain Flagship Centre' award by the University for Industry (UFI Ltd). This award recognises O-Regen's work in assisting voluntary organisations to adopt strategic planning methods in their use of ICT. O-Regen's Click Centre was also named by the European Commission as one of the five best Local Learning Centres in Europe. The Centre has also maintained Grade 'A' ECDL centre rating by the British Computer Society (BCS).

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THREE IMAGES BELOW FROM JOHN GROOMS



IMAGES BELOW AND IMAGE IN THIRD COLUMN FROM FREEFORM ARTS TRUST